



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



FOUR YEARS SINCE THE FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE

KEY FACTS AND FINDINGS • FEBRUARY 2026

FOUR YEARS SINCE THE FULL-SCALE INVASION OF UKRAINE: KEY FACTS AND FINDINGS February 2026

This fact sheet summarizes the cumulative impact of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on human rights and civilian protection. It is based on the monitoring, documentation, and public reporting by the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).¹

I. HARM TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

Since the Russian Federation launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, four years of hostilities have killed more than 15,000 civilians and injured over 41,000, displaced millions, and damaged and destroyed civilian property and infrastructure. In 2025 and 2026, the harm to the civilian population demonstrably worsened: more civilians were killed and injured than in 2023 and 2024, and civilians across the country suffered the dire consequences of sustained and systematic attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

A. Civilian casualties since 2022

- Conflict-related violence has killed at least 15,172 civilians and injured 41,378 in Ukraine since 24 February 2022.² At least 766 children have been killed and 2,540 injured.
- Civilians have been killed and injured in 26 of Ukraine's 27 administrative regions. The vast majority of casualties (87 per cent) occurred in territory controlled by Ukrainian authorities.
- Mines and explosive remnants of war have killed 483 civilians and injured 1,196.

B. Civilian casualties in 2025

- In 2025, conflict-related violence killed at least 2,526 civilians and injured 12,162. The total number of killed and injured civilians in 2025 was 31 per cent higher than in 2024 (2,088 killed; 9,138 injured) and 70 per cent higher than in 2023 (1,974 killed; 6,651 injured).
- The use of long-range weapons (missiles and loitering munitions) significantly increased in 2025, causing 35 per cent of civilian casualties in Ukraine (686 killed and 4,451 injured), a 66 per cent increase in killed and injured compared with 2024 (531 killed and 2,569 injured).
- Sixty-three per cent (9,272) of all casualties in 2025 occurred in frontline areas. Civilian casualties caused by short-range drones in frontline areas increased by 121 per cent in 2025, resulting in 580 civilians killed and 3,295 injured, compared with 226 killed and 1,528 injured in 2024.

¹ Data is provided for the period 24 February 2022 – 31 January 2026, unless otherwise noted, and has been independently verified according to OHCHR's standard methodology. Reports about civilian casualties that have not been verified are not included. This includes reports by Russian authorities about civilian casualties in the Russian Federation, which HRMMU has not been able to verify due to a lack of access and limited publicly available information on the nature and circumstances of the incidents.

² The actual extent of civilian casualties is likely considerably higher as many reports of civilian harm, particularly from the period immediately after the full-scale armed attack of 24 February 2022, have not been possible to verify due to the large number of reports and the lack of access to relevant areas.

- Although people over 60 make up only 25 per cent of the general population, older persons accounted for nearly half of civilian deaths and more than a third of injuries in frontline communities in 2025.³

C. Attacks on energy infrastructure

- Russian armed forces have deliberately, repeatedly, and systematically attacked Ukraine's energy infrastructure, causing extensive damage. As of January 2026, Ukraine had lost – due to occupation and damage from attacks – more than half of the electricity generation capacity it had before the full-scale invasion, leaving it with only 11 GW of generation capacity, far short of the 18 GW needed during peak consumption in winter.
- The gap between generation capacity and consumption needs caused prolonged disruptions to electricity, particularly during the winter of 2025-2026, with civilians having electricity for only a few hours per day, or in some periods none at all for several days. Lack of electricity also deprived many people of access to heating and water.
- In addition, during the winter of 2025-2026, Russian armed forces systematically targeted infrastructure related to district heating systems as temperatures dropped in the coldest winter since the full-scale invasion. In Kyiv, more than 1,100 multi-story buildings housing tens of thousands of civilians were left without central heating for the rest of the winter season after attacks in January 2026.

For more information

- [Protection of civilians in armed conflict](#), monthly updates
- [Deadly drones: Civilians at risk from short-range drones in frontline areas of Ukraine, 24 February 2022 – 30 April 2025, 26 June 2025](#)
- [Attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure: Harm to the civilian population](#), 18 September 2024

II. SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Serious violations of international humanitarian law have been widespread, particularly by Russian authorities, with virtual impunity. Russian authorities have executed civilian detainees and captured Ukrainian military personnel, with an increase in reports of executions of captured military personnel in late 2025. Russian authorities have subjected POWs and civilian detainees to widespread and systematic torture and ill-treatment, including with the pervasive use of sexual violence. The Ukrainian authorities subjected Russian POWs to torture and ill-treatment, and conflict-related detainees reported mistreatment, particularly in 2022.

A. Treatment of prisoners-of-war held by the Russian Federation

- 697 (96 %) out of 725 released Ukrainian POWs interviewed (689 men, 36 women) provided accounts of torture or ill-treatment in Russian captivity throughout the stages of their captivity.
- Russian authorities have severely restricted POWs' communication with their families, as well as access for independent monitors to places of internment.
- At least 109 captured Ukrainian military personnel (all men) have been executed, including 70 (all men) in 2024 and 2025.
- At least 43 Ukrainian POWs (all men) have died in custody.

B. Treatment of civilian detainees held by the Russian Federation

- 321 of 380 (84%) released civilian detainees interviewed by OHCHR provided accounts of torture and ill-treatment.
- At least 182 civilians (148 men, 27 women, 5 boys, 2 girls) have been executed in areas controlled by Russian authorities, including in places of detention.

³ Based on records for which the age is known.

- At least 40 civilians (31 men and 9 women) have died in custody.

C. Treatment of POWs held by Ukraine

- 389 (54%, 388 men, 1 woman) out of 717 Russian POWs interviewed (716 men, 1 woman) provided accounts of torture and ill-treatment, mostly during the initial stages of captivity before they reached official places of internment.
- At least 30 captured Russian military personnel (all men) have been executed, the vast majority in 2022 and early 2023.
- At least 2 Russian POWs (all men) have died in custody.

D. Treatment of detainees in conflict-related criminal cases in Ukraine

- More than a third (34% or 205 individuals, including 157 men, 44 women, 4 boys) of 599 detainees in conflict-related criminal cases interviewed provided accounts of torture or ill-treatment, the majority of which occurred in 2022.

E. Sexual Violence in Conflict

- At least 701 people (546 men, 139 women, 14 girls and 2 boys) have been subjected to sexual violence by Russian officials, including 445 Ukrainian POWs (418 men and 27 women), 168 civilian detainees (121 men, 46 women and 1 boy), and 96 civilians in residential areas (11 men, 70 women, 14 girls and 1 boy). At least 3 children were born of rape.
- At least 83 people (71 men and 12 women) have been subjected to sexual violence by Ukrainian officials, including 50 Russian and third-country national POWs (all men) and 33 conflict-related detainees (21 men and 12 women).

F. Use of children in armed conflict

- Anonymous users online have solicited children to perform violent and dangerous tasks against Ukrainian military and infrastructure facilities, which have led to deaths and injuries of children involved as well as other civilians.

For more information

- [Ukraine: Alarming rise in executions of captured Ukrainian military personnel](#), 3 February 2025
- [Treatment of prisoners of war and Update on the human rights situation, 1 June to 31 August 2024](#), 1 October 2024.

III. HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Following the full-scale invasion, the occupying authorities dismantled Ukrainian systems of governance, administration, justice, and education, imposed Russian systems in their stead, silenced opposition and dissent, and suppressed expressions of Ukrainian culture and identity.

A. Violations of international humanitarian law related to occupation

- In violation of the laws of occupation, the occupying authorities of the Russian Federation have in the occupied territory of Ukraine:
- Imposed wholesale the systems of governance, law enforcement, judiciary, administration, and education of the Russian Federation.

- Forced residents to obtain Russian citizenship.
- Subjected residents to forced conscription and propaganda to enlist in the Russian armed forces.
- Confiscated private property.
- Deprived children of a Ukrainian education in Ukrainian language.
- Exposed children to Russian patriotic training, militarization, and propaganda for war.
- Forcibly transferred children within occupied territory or deported them to the Russian Federation.

B. Fundamental freedoms and civic space

- Russian authorities have restricted freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression and opinion, and freedom of assembly.
- At least 1,827 residents (925 women, 951 men) have been fined and 12 (10 women, two men) received criminal convictions for “discrediting the Russian armed forces” and “displaying Nazi symbols or showing disrespect for the Russian state” in many cases for legitimate expressions of their opinions, or for displaying symbols of Ukrainian identity.
- Journalists and media outlets have been convicted for legitimate acts that fall under the right to freedom of expression such as calling the Russian armed attack against Ukraine a “war”, calling for people to resist mobilization into the Russian Armed Forces, and publishing the UN Secretary General’s reports.
- Members of religious groups perceived to be opposing the Russian Federation and its armed attack against Ukraine have been harassed, detained and sentenced to prison terms or deported. Members of the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Hizb ut-Tahrir, which are prohibited in the Russian Federation but legal in Ukraine, have been particularly targeted.

For more information

- [Treatment of civilians deprived of their liberty in the context of the armed attack by the Russian Federation against Ukraine](#), 23 September 2025.
- [The impact of the armed conflict and occupation on children’s rights in Ukraine, 24 February 2022 — 31 December 2024](#), 21 March 2025.
- [Human rights situation during the Russian occupation of territory of Ukraine and its aftermath, 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2023](#), 20 March 2024.

IV. HUMAN RIGHTS IN TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE

In territory controlled by the Government of Ukraine, many convictions of people accused of collaboration with the Russian Federation have not been in line with international law. Legislation and verdicts affecting the protection of minorities and the freedom to manifest religious beliefs have in some cases not complied with international human rights standards.

A. Prosecutions for collaboration activities

- Twelve per cent of individuals (365) in more than 3,000 verdicts analyzed were convicted for “collaboration activities” by Ukrainian authorities for actions that, in principle, could be lawfully compelled by the occupying Power, in violation of international law. Of these 365 convictions, 148 resulted in imprisonment.
- In many of these convictions, Ukrainian authorities have given insufficient consideration to the duress experienced by people living under occupation.

B. Religion and national minorities

- Ukrainian courts have sentenced to prison members of Christian denominations who attempted to exercise their right of conscientious objection to mandatory military service. The Ukrainian Supreme Court has upheld

verdicts in such cases. International law does not allow any restrictions or derogation on the right to conscientious objection to military service.

- Legal amendments affecting religious organizations were introduced, citing national security, which is not a permissible ground for restricting freedom of religion under international human rights law. Following these amendments, the authorities determined that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church had a prohibited affiliation with the Russian Orthodox Church and filed a court case requesting the church's dissolution. The case remains under consideration by the court.
- Groups of people have forcefully entered church buildings of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, citing decisions from local authorities to register new religious communities of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine at the same addresses.
- Legislation affecting the protection of minorities included provisions that did not comply with international human rights standards.

V. METHODOLOGY

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine was deployed in March 2014 to monitor and publicly report on the human rights situation in the country. The findings since 24 February 2022 are based on:

- 11,992 interviews (5730 women and 6262 men).
- 1,136 field visits, mainly to high-risk areas, including front-line communities.
- 310 visits to places of detention.
- 258 trial hearings monitored.
- 14 assemblies monitored.
- Analysis of source material including official records, court documents, open-source materials, videos, photographs and medical records, to corroborate information gathered during interviews.

For other reports, including periodic reports on the human rights situation in Ukraine, visit <https://ukraine.ohchr.org/en>

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