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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine*, *****Summary*

In its third mandate report to the Human Rights Council, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine continued to document grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and corresponding crimes, in the context of the Russian Federation's armed aggression against Ukraine.

The Commission has concluded that Russian authorities committed enforced disappearances and torture as crimes against humanity. Both were perpetrated as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population and pursuant to a coordinated state policy.

In areas that came under their control, Russian authorities detained large numbers of civilians whom they perceived as a threat to their military objectives in Ukraine. They transferred many of them to multiple detention facilities in areas they occupied in Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation, where they subjected them to additional violations and crimes. Various Russian entities have systematically failed to communicate the fate or whereabouts of those detained, leaving families in agonizing anguish. Many disappearances have lasted for months and years; some of the victims died.

In detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, Russian authorities have systematically used torture against certain categories of detainees to extract information, coerce, and intimidate. The most brutal forms of torture were used during interrogations, which were often led by the Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. The evidence shows that when Federal Security Service personnel were present in detention facilities, they exercised the highest authority compared to all other services and forces, including heads of facilities, and gave orders.

Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture against male detainees. This report details additional cases of war crimes of rape and sexual violence, committed as a form of torture, against female detainees.

The Commission examined a growing number of incidents concerning the killing or wounding by Russian armed forces of Ukrainian soldiers who were captured or attempted to

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

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surrender, which constitutes a war crime. Testimonies of soldiers who deserted from the Russian armed forces show multiple situations where commanders gave orders not to take prisoners but kill them instead, which indicates that they have acted pursuant to a policy to kill surrendering or captured soldiers, in violation of international humanitarian law.

Further, both parties to the armed conflict committed a war crime by killing or wounding injured soldiers, who were thus hors de combat, using drones.

The report also describes some violations of human rights law committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons they accused of collaboration with Russian authorities.

After three years of armed conflict, the profound scars left on the victims are increasingly visible. Many have endured a combination of violations and crimes, in addition to other consequences of the armed conflict. They view the physical and psychological harm caused to them, their families and their communities, as irreparable. The redress, accountability, rehabilitation, reparation, and reintegration in society, to which they are entitled, is particularly complex. In this context, the Commission underscores again the need for justice to be done and to ensure that perpetrators of violations and crimes are held to account.

I. Introduction

1. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine submits its report to the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-eighth session, pursuant to resolution 55/23.¹ The present comprehensive report reflects the Commission's findings of its third mandate and is to be read in conjunction with its October 2024 report to the General Assembly.² The Commission is composed of Erik Møse (Chair), Pablo de Greiff, and Vrinda Grover.
2. The principles of independence, impartiality, objectivity, integrity, as well as a victim-centered approach guide all aspects of the Commission's work.³
3. Since its establishment, the Commission has interviewed 929 women and 851 men, examined documents, expert and forensic reports, photographs, and videos. During the current mandate, the liquidity crisis at the United Nations has severely affected the staffing of the secretariat of the Commission and its ability to travel. It has been able to continue its investigations relying on limited travel, as well as remote interviews, while maintaining its usual standard of proof.
4. The Commission extends its deep gratitude to victims and witnesses for sharing experiences, and to organizations, for the information provided.
5. It appreciates the cooperation of the Government of Ukraine. The Russian Federation continued not to recognise the Commission and 31 written requests for access, information, and meetings remained unanswered.

II. Violations of international law

6. Three years of armed conflict in Ukraine have led to over 12,654 civilians killed and over 29,392 injured as of 24 February 2024, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The actual number of casualties is likely considerably higher. The toll on civilian lives has been devastating. The Commission has continued to document a wide array of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as corresponding crimes, committed by Russian authorities in the framework of their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This report focuses on enforced disappearances, torture, rape and sexual violence, and the killing or wounding of soldiers hors de combat.
7. The Commission's most important findings during its third mandate are that Russian authorities have committed crimes against humanity of torture and enforced disappearances. Both crimes were perpetrated pursuant to a coordinated state policy, in a widespread and systematic manner, in all provinces of Ukraine where areas came under Russian control, and with the aim of furthering the Russian Federations' military objectives. In the commission of the crimes, Russian authorities have targeted categories of persons whom they perceived as a threat or who refused to cooperate with them.

A. Enforced disappearances

1. Overview

8. Large numbers of civilians and military personnel have disappeared since the outset of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.⁴ The Commission previously highlighted a pattern of widespread unlawful confinement in areas that came under the control of Russian authorities, often followed by deportations or transfers, with many reported missing.⁵ It has examined in detail and corroborated a sample amounting to

¹ See A/HRC/RES/55/23, para. 23.

² See A/79/549.

³ A/HRC/52/CRP.4, paras. 7-25.

⁴ According to the Government of Ukraine, 9,425 civilians and 40,447 military personnel had disappeared as of July 2024, see CED/C/UKR/RQ/1, 23 August 2024.

⁵ A/HRC/52/CRP.4 paras. 484, 519-520, 983-988 and 995(e).

almost 100 cases in which Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances, on a widespread scale, in all areas that came under their control in Ukraine (see map in annex 1). Many persons have been missing for months, or years. Some have died. The Commission has concluded that Russian authorities committed enforced disappearances as crimes against humanity.

9. As they took control of localities in Ukraine, Russian authorities detained numerous civilians, including local authorities, civil servants, journalists, and persons expressing pro-Ukrainian views, during comprehensive searches of houses and public spaces. Most victims were civilian men of fighting age. They held them for indefinite periods of time, and further transferred many of them to well-established, official detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine, or deported them to the Russian Federation. In most cases, the authorities carrying out the detentions and a wide range of Russian entities systematically refused to disclose the whereabouts of those missing when contacted by the families.

10. Consequently, many families remained without information on their loved ones. They described the anguish of seeing them being taken away and not receiving even basic information about them. Considerable efforts to locate those disappeared at the local level, as well as appeals to various institutions in the Russian Federation, involved risks to their personal safety and costs. Their searches mostly led to incomplete information received months or years after the initial detention, or no information at all.

11. The Commission has analyzed over 280 letters from various entities of the Russian Federation in response to inquiries by the families. The majority provided no information on the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared. Some response letters from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation acknowledged the detention of the victims, but failed to disclose information on their whereabouts, invoking confidentiality.

12. An enforced disappearance is a continuing violation, lasting as long as the fate and whereabouts of the victim remain undetermined. At the time of writing this report, many were still missing. The systematic refusal to disclose information about those who disappeared placed them outside of the protection of the law and exposed them to risks of additional violations and crimes.

13. Some victims have died during their enforced disappearance. Even then, Russian authorities failed to provide information to the families at the time of death. In a well-known case, 27-year-old Ukrainian journalist Viktoriia Roshchyna disappeared in August 2023, during a visit to Russian-occupied areas of Zaporizhzhia Province. After multiple inquiries, her family received a response from the Russian Federation's Ministry of Defense with the first acknowledgement of her detention in the Russian Federation in April 2024, but without details on her whereabouts. In October 2024, in response to further inquiries, the Ministry of Defense sent a new letter stating that Roshchyna had died a month earlier, without any other explanation. At the time of writing this report, the family has received neither information on the cause of death, nor her remains.

14. In another case, Yevhenii Matveev, former mayor of Dniprorudne city, in Zaporizhzhia Province, disappeared in March 2022, after having been detained by Russian authorities. Regardless of multiple inquiries, his family did not receive any information from them on his fate or whereabouts. Former detainees attested to his presence in at least two Russian detention facilities. In 2023, Ukrainian authorities were able to confirm his detention in the Russian Federation. The family received a handwritten letter from him a year later. Without further news, in November 2024, the family was informed by Ukrainian authorities that the victim's dead body had been returned from the Russian Federation as part of an exchange. The death certificate stated that the victim died due to a "closed blunt injury to the torso with multiple fracture of the skeletal bones". The Commission has documented other cases in which victims of enforced disappearances have been executed, died or are presumed dead.

2. Prolonged detentions, victims placed outside of the protection of the law

15. Mainly during the initial stages of their operations in various Ukrainian localities, but also later, Russian authorities detained a broad category of civilians during searches of houses, public buildings, and verifications at checkpoints and filtration points. Persons

targeted include current and former local authorities, civil servants, law enforcement personnel, journalists, persons whom they suspected of supporting the Ukrainian armed forces or authorities, or who are related to them, those who expressed pro-Ukrainian views, and volunteers helping civilians amid ongoing hostilities.

16. Families described the anguish of seeing their loved ones being detained by Russian soldiers, without knowing the reason, where they would be held, and how they would be treated. For instance, in March 2022, as Russian armed forces occupied a village in Kyiv Province, they searched houses and detained a man and his 20-year-old son. The wife and mother of the victims cried, pleading for an explanation, ran after the military vehicle that took them away, implored the soldiers to release them, or to share some information with her, but they ignored her. She has not seen them since that day, nor received any information about their whereabouts. In another case, during a house search that occurred around the same time and in the same province, Russian soldiers detained a man and his adult son, a journalist, in a local makeshift detention facility. After a few days, a Russian soldier took the son away. When his father asked where he was taking him, the soldier responded, “when the war is over, your son will come back”. The family has received no information about his whereabouts since then.

17. Many of the victims were men who stayed behind in operational areas, to continue their work and take care of their properties, while women and children had fled. Families recounted how they lost telephone contact with their loved ones, subsequently to learn from neighbours that they had been detained. They were forced to carry out complicated searches from afar, relying on indirect and scarce information, while fearing that their efforts may complicate their situation. The wife of one man who disappeared in an area marked by hostilities, explained, “I feared that if the Russians found out that someone was searching for him, they might retaliate. [...] It felt like a game of roulette - you never know if your efforts will improve or worsen the situation for your loved ones in captivity.”

18. Victims have disappeared for prolonged periods of time. From the abovementioned sample of verified cases (see para. 8), more than half of the disappearances have lasted for over two years. Russian authorities further transferred many of the victims to detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation. In some cases, multiple transfers between various Russian-held detention facilities followed. Transfers and deportations of civilians are war crimes. Moreover, Russian authorities committed additional violations and crimes against victims of enforced disappearances, including wilful killings, torture, sexual violence, and forced labour.

3. Failure to provide information to the families

19. The initial detentions were mainly carried out by locally deployed Russian armed forces, but also by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation (referred to as “FSB” in Russian). They confined them in various detention facilities held by Russian authorities in occupied areas of Ukraine and transferred or deported many of them to well-established, official detention facilities run by the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation (referred to as “FSIN” in Russian). At the highest level, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation was the competent authority that addressed requests concerning missing persons (see para. 26).⁶

20. Russian authorities systematically failed to inform the families on the fate and whereabouts of those they were detaining. Various civil and military authorities based in occupied areas generally dismissed requests for information, referred families to other services, who dismissed them again, and at times provided erroneous or contradictory information. Moreover, in a case where a local Ukrainian official was missing and his relative went to inquire about his whereabouts at the Russian commandant’s office, an officer of the

⁶ For instance, a decision of a Russian court states that issues concerning the detention in the framework of the “special military operation” pertain to the competence of the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Ministry of Defense; another decision of a Russian court notes that the registration, maintenance and transfer of detainees are carried out by the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Ministry of Defense.

Federal Security Service told her, “If you are here to negotiate your uncle’s release, you are wasting your time, as your uncle was a local official and might be useful to us”.

21. Multiple transfers of the victims to different detention facilities in occupied areas or in the Russian Federation made searches by families particularly complicated. In the absence of official responses, families relied on information they could obtain from released detainees. At times, they managed to confirm the presence of the victim in one facility but subsequently discovered that the person was no longer there and were forced to reinitiate their search. In the case of a Ukrainian local official who had disappeared in June 2022, former detainees released from six different detention facilities informed the family that they had been detained with him at a certain period in time. Russian authorities have not communicated his whereabouts to the family.

22. The Commission has documented cases where Russian authorities not only failed to inform families of those disappeared, but also concealed the whereabouts of the victims and subjected them to further violations and crimes. Starting in late 2022, Russian authorities transferred several civilians they had detained to a military base in Verkhnia Krynytsia village, Zaporizhzhia Province. According to testimonies, with respect to at least five such former detainees, perpetrators first staged a transfer to areas under Ukrainian Government control, which they filmed or photographed. Instead, they transferred the victims to an operational area under their control, where they held them with over a dozen civilians, and forced them to dig trenches for hours, cook, and wash. Two of the victims were employees of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, previously confined at their workplace. According to witnesses, after one of them started coughing blood, instead of providing medical care, Russian soldiers brought both employees of the plant to the trenches. They were never seen again. Their families have not been able to trace them, despite multiple search efforts. The Commission determined that in these cases, in addition to enforced disappearances, Russian authorities committed unlawful confinement and transfers as war crimes, endangered civilians through forcing them to stay in an operational area, and subjected them to forced labour, in violation of international humanitarian law.⁷

23. As for the direct communication of detainees with their families, while some letters reached their destinations, others arrived with considerable delay, or never arrived. Former detainees told the Commission that they were generally not allowed to contact their relatives and when this was permitted, they were instructed not to disclose the place of detention.

4. Response letters from the Russian authorities

24. Many families sent written communications to a wide range of entities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation to inquire about their loved ones, including security services, prosecutors’ offices, penitentiary institutions, and ministries. The Commission analyzed over 280 letters from various Russian authorities, none of which were sent on their initiative, but only in response to relatives’ requests for information. Most letters reached the families months or even years after the initial disappearances and provided incomplete or no information. Some lawsuits filed before Russian courts by relatives or lawyers of disappeared victims against the inaction of Russian authorities concerning their repeated appeals, were rejected. The decisions of the courts used the same formulations as the letters from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation described below (see para. 26).

25. Response letters to families from the Federal Penitentiary Service, under whose authority most victims were held, generally denied the presence of the disappeared persons in the detention facilities under their control, claiming not to have the competence, or redirected them to other services. Other institutions of the Russian Federation also largely failed to provide relevant information to the families, some of them invoking lack of competence or confidentiality.

26. The Commission has analysed 50 replies to families from the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the highest competent institution in this matter (see para. 19). Using a standard formulation, some of the letters denied the detention of the disappeared persons in the Russian Federation, noting that they are not on the lists of persons “detained for countering the special military operation”. Other letters acknowledged that the victim was

⁷ Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, art. 58; Fourth Geneva Convention, art. 51.

detained in the Russian Federation. However, none of the reviewed letters from the Ministry of Defense revealed the whereabouts of the missing persons, many of them mentioning that the detention location of individuals held for countering the special military operation is confidential and cannot be disclosed to third parties. Many of these letters cite the Third Geneva Convention, which is not applicable to civilians but to prisoners of war. Depriving civilians of their protected status is unlawful.⁸

27. Some of the communications received from Russian authorities were inconsistent with one another. For instance, in one letter, the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation denied the presence of a missing person on the above-mentioned lists, contradicting information provided in three different letters by Russian authorities in occupied areas of Ukraine, confirming that person's detention. In another case, the so-called "Ministry of Interior" of the occupied area of Kherson Province stated that a missing person was detained in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which was denied by the so-called "Ministry of Interior" of Crimea one month later.

28. In rare cases, Russian authorities eventually informed the families about the whereabouts of those disappeared, when charges or a conviction had been issued. Nevertheless, even then, such information usually reached the families weeks or months after the initial disappearance. The Russian authorities had thus committed the violation of enforced disappearance until the time they disclosed the fate and whereabouts of the victims to the family. However, after such official acknowledgement, some victims went missing again.

5. Denial of the right to truth of the families

29. The denial of information has violated the right to truth of the families of those missing, who are recognized as victims of torture under international law. Families carried out considerable search efforts. Locally, they approached various Russian authorities stationed in occupied areas and visited different places of detention. They wrote multiple letters to different Russian authorities, hired lawyers, and some travelled to Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine or to the Russian Federation. They also appealed to Ukrainian authorities and non-governmental organizations. During their searches, families undertook significant risks and expenses. In one case, a woman was subjected to heavy beatings and gang rape when she went to the local police to inquire about her relative (see para. 50). A young man was detained and beaten when he went to a police office to inquire about his missing girlfriend.

30. Regardless of their strenuous efforts, many families found no trace of their missing relatives. They sent letters and parcels, often without knowing if they reached their loved ones. They described this uncertainty as unbearable. The wife of a man who had been missing for over two years, stated, "The despair is killing me. I don't know what to do or how to help my husband. There are so many other civilians detained. [...] I don't understand why the Russians keep them there." The majority of missing victims being men, the cases highlight some of the gendered dynamics and impact of enforced disappearances. Women often bore the emotional and logistical burden of searching for missing male relatives, while navigating complex bureaucratic systems. The inability to visit some of the conflict-affected areas, poor communication infrastructure, and the proximity to active conflict further compounded these challenges, leaving them isolated and reliant on hearsay to trace their loved ones. Moreover, the missing men were often the main breadwinner of the family. Consequently, women had to single-handedly meet multiple challenges, manage the households, take care of children, while coping with limited resources and facing the hardships relating to the unfolding of the armed conflict.

6. Concluding observations

31. The evidence demonstrates that Russian authorities have committed widespread enforced disappearances against large numbers of civilians and prisoners of war in the context of their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. They detained a broad category of civilians

⁸ Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, art. 50(1) and 51(3); see also A/HRC/52/CRP.4, para. 500.

whom they perceived as a threat to their military effort. Many of the victims have disappeared for months and years and their fate and whereabouts remain unknown, leaving their families in agonizing uncertainty.

32. The cases documented by the Commission demonstrate the involvement of Russian authorities at different levels. In areas that came under their control in Ukraine, the authorities carrying out the initial detentions have systematically failed to provide information on the fate and whereabouts of those detained to the family members. Often, they transferred the victims to multiple detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation. There, they subjected them to additional, grave violations and crimes, notably torture and sexual violence. Many of those who disappeared in March 2022 are still missing.

33. During all the stages of enforced disappearances, Russian authorities generally did not take any steps to inform the families on the fate and whereabouts of the victims. Multiple response letters from different authorities also failed to provide such information. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, the competent authority in the matter, sent standard response letters. While some of them denied the detention of the disappeared persons in the Russian Federation, other letters acknowledged their presence but refused to provide any information on their whereabouts.

34. The widespread and systematic nature of the enforced disappearances; the sequenced involvement of various entities of the Russian Federation allocating and directing resources and efforts to detain large numbers of civilians in various facilities for prolonged periods of time; the provision of standard responses to families, which systematically failed to communicate the fate or whereabouts of those disappeared during the three years of the armed conflict, point to a coordinated state policy. The failure to disclose the whereabouts of the victims further shows the intention of the Russian authorities to deprive them of the protection of the law.

35. The combination of these elements has led the Commission to conclude that Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances for a prolonged period of time as part of a widespread and systematic attack against civilian populations, pursuant to a coordinated policy, which amounts to a crime against humanity.⁹

B. Torture as a crime against humanity: Russian authorities involved in torture

1. Overview

36. Based on investigations carried out since its establishment, the Commission concluded during its third mandate that Russian authorities have used torture pursuant to a coordinated state policy and as crimes against humanity.¹⁰ They deployed personnel who acted in a coordinated manner and according to a division of labour in the commission of the crimes. Regular personnel and special purpose units (referred to as "Spetsnaz" in Russian) of the Federal Penitentiary Service were the main perpetrators of torture in well-established detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, during violent "admission procedures", daily brutal practices and punishments, and interrogations.¹¹ Russian armed forces were the main perpetrators of torture in medium sized and makeshift detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine.¹²

37. In all investigated detention facilities, some of the most brutal forms of torture have been used during interrogations. These included severe beatings, electric shocks, burns, strangling, suffocation, hanging, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as other acts. In addition to personnel running the detention facilities, the interrogations were often led by authorities referred to as "investigators" by former detainees. They were principally

⁹ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 7(1)(i) and 7(2)(i).

¹⁰ A/79/549, paras. 72-78.

¹¹ A/79/549, paras. 59-67.

¹² A/79/549, para. 68.

personnel from the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and, to a lesser extent, from the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.¹³ The present report provides further information on the role of these services in the use of torture.

38. As highlighted previously, perpetrators have targeted certain categories of civilians and prisoners of war.¹⁴ The Commission has documented new cases in which military personnel from Mariupol who were captured by Russian armed forces, including members of the Azov brigade and associated personnel, were subjected to particularly harsh forms of torture, including rape and sexual violence, as punishment, and to extract false confessions or testimonies implicating others. The Commission has updated the map of areas and the list of detention facilities where Russian authorities committed torture (see annex 2 and 3).

2. Investigators' involvement in torture

(a) Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation

39. The evidence gathered demonstrates that personnel of the Federal Security Service have played a significant role in the systematic perpetration of torture in the context of detention in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. It has set up offices in occupied areas and carried out investigations concerning specific categories of persons, involving searches, arrests and interrogations accompanied by torture, and decisions on their detention and release. According to multiple former detainees, when personnel of the Federal Security Service were present in detention facilities, they exercised the highest authority compared to all other services and forces, including heads of facilities, and gave orders.

40. Victims' accounts show that many of the initial arrests were carried out by personnel of the Federal Security Service, as they searched for specific persons or categories of persons, at their homes, during checks at filtration points, or in public places or buildings. In some cases, they immediately used torture or ill-treatment. For instance, a civilian woman whose brother died fighting in the Ukrainian armed forces, recounted that in September 2023, in a village of Luhansk Province, a large group of Federal Security Service personnel stormed her house and informed her that she was under arrest. Without further explanation, they immediately started beating her and took her away, blindfolded. During a subsequent interrogation, the same group of Federal Security Service personnel administered electric shocks to her using a field phone, while asking questions about her connections with the Ukrainian armed forces. Another young civilian woman stated that, in June 2022, four men intercepted her in a park in Berdiansk City, Zaporizhzhia Province, told her that they were from the Federal Security Service, and immediately started beating and kicking her, saying, "This is for what you did. You, bitch, were informing khokhols¹⁵ about the Russian armed forces' positions, and our military bases." They placed a bag over her head, dragged her to their vehicle, and brought her to a detention facility.

41. The Commission also investigated situations involving the detention of several employees of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant at their workplace. One of them recounted that in September 2022, two men who introduced themselves as personnel of the Federal Security Service arrested a senior staff member, took him to his home, beat him, suffocated him, and applied a hot iron to his body, while questioning him.

42. Further, personnel of the Federal Security Service were the main interrogators in detention facilities. In many cases, they inflicted torture themselves, to extract information, coerce, or intimidate, or used threats of violence causing distress to the victims. In other cases, they ordered employees of the Federal Penitentiary Service, or of their special purpose units, to commit torture. Detention personnel also perpetrated torture to prepare the detainees for interrogations by the Federal Security Service. In some instances, the release of detainees was at the discretion of the Federal Security Service. Interrogations were directed at obtaining information about Ukrainian authorities and armed forces, persons with pro-Ukrainian

¹³ A/79/549, paras. 66-67.

¹⁴ A/HRC/52/62, paras. 71-72.

¹⁵ "Khokol" is a derogatory Russian term for Ukrainians.

positions and those supporting protests, as well as persons suspected of passing information to the Ukrainian armed forces. In one case, a civilian man held in several detention facilities reported that in two of them, during regular interrogations led by officers of the Federal Security Service, they administered electric shocks to him using wires connected to his fingers and toes, while questioning him about his connections with Ukrainian authorities.

43. Personnel of the Federal Security Service also ordered torture to coerce detainees into confessing participation in crimes or naming others. One former prisoner of war recounted that during interrogations involving recurrent beatings targeting various parts of his body, an interrogator of the Federal Security Service demanded that he confess to crimes committed in Mariupol. When he denied, the interrogator replied, “Incorrect answer. I need a response that satisfies me and my superiors” and prompted the guard of the detention facility to resume the beatings. A civilian woman recounted how, during an interrogation, guards beat her with a baton on her chest, until she had difficulty in breathing. Officers of the Federal Security Service pressured her to confess that she was a spy, promising to stop the beatings if she complied. Personnel of the Federal Security Service also forced detainees to sign documents which they did not have the opportunity to read and to make false declarations while being filmed.

(b) *Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation*

44. The Investigative Committee is directly answerable to the President of the Russian Federation. In the framework of the Russian Federation’s full-scale invasion, it has set up offices in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and was tasked with “documenting crimes committed by the Ukrainian regime against the civilian population” of Donetsk and Luhansk Provinces.¹⁶ Personnel of the Investigative Committee interrogated detainees and formulated charges against them for such offences as attempted coup d’etat, terrorism, high treason, espionage, or sabotage. Their interrogations focused on identifying persons responsible for alleged crimes. During some of the interrogations, members of the Investigative Committee ordered the personnel of the Federal Penitentiary Services to commit torture to extract confessions, and at times committed violence themselves. They also exerted psychological violence, threatening that a refusal of cooperation would result in torture. In one case, an Investigative Committee member told a former detainee, “Are you sure you’ve told me everything you know, or do you need some treatment in the neighbouring office?”, from where screams could be heard.

45. Personnel of the Investigative Committee forced detainees to sign documents that they did not have the occasion to thoroughly read or had not read at all. Some former prisoners of war from the Azov battalion held in Russian detention facilities told the Commission that they were compelled to undergo trials in Russian Federation courts, after having been coerced to sign documents by personnel of the Investigative Committee under threats of torture.

3. Concluding observations

46. The Commission’s findings show that personnel of the Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee have played a prominent role in ordering torture during interrogations which involve the most brutal forms of torture. Personnel of the Federal Security Service have been overwhelmingly cited by former detainees for their role in the commission or ordering of torture, during various stages of detentions. Their aim was to extract information, coerce and intimidate the detainees. Personnel of the Investigative Committee have also ordered torture, albeit to a lesser extent, during interrogations which appear to have been aimed at issuing charges against the detainees.

47. The coordinated actions of these two services demonstrate how Russian authorities have used torture systematically as a method of social control, ultimately designed at consolidating their hold over areas that they occupied in Ukraine. Both services have a position of authority with respect to other services and security forces involved in detention. These findings further show the extent to which Russian Federation services have acted

¹⁶ Meeting of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee, 1 March 2022.

pursuant to a policy and strengthen the Commission's previous conclusion that they have committed torture as crimes against humanity.

C. Sexual violence as a form of torture and gender-based violence

48. The Commission has previously described the systematic use of sexual violence as a form of torture by Russian authorities in detention facilities, mostly against men.¹⁷ In the present report, it focuses on new cases of rape and sexual violence amounting to torture against detained women. The actions of the perpetrators, aimed at humiliating and degrading women in detention, highlight the gendered manifestations of violence in detention.

49. A 26-year-old female prisoner of war, who was detained for over two years by Russian authorities after her surrender in May 2022, was subjected to multiple acts of violence in a detention facility in the Russian Federation. During interrogations, personnel of the Federal Penitentiary Service tied her hands and severely beat her for hours on various parts of her body. During one such session, they removed her top clothing, hung her by her arms and further beat her in that position. During another session, they stripped her naked, placed her face down, blindfolded. They tied her hands and ankles, and raped her with a rubber baton, while telling her that she deserved everything that had happened to her. The victim was bleeding, lost consciousness and could not stand or walk after that. She stated, "It was just pain. I couldn't even breathe. I couldn't understand why they would do that to me, how they could do that to someone". The former detainee suffered other acts of abuse and humiliation and was ultimately placed in solitary confinement for eight months. After her release, she had to undergo medical rehabilitation, two surgeries, and developed an additional serious medical condition.

50. In another case, in April 2022, a 40-year-old civilian woman went to the Russian authorities' commandant office in Kherson city to inquire about a missing relative (see para. 29). There, an officer of the Federal Security Service questioned her. Dissatisfied with her answers, he stated that since she had not cooperated, he would have to call "professionals". He ordered three Russian soldiers to "talk to her normally, maybe she will remember something". The soldiers took her to another room, where they took turns raping her. They also raped her using a rubber baton. While questioning her, they beat her and struck her tailbone. Afterwards, the victim could barely walk and needed surgery.

51. Further, a civilian woman who had been confined in March 2022 in a detention facility in Zaporizhzhia Province, stated that during the night, five intoxicated soldiers took her from her cell and brought her to the interrogation room, where they beat her, burnt her foot with cigarettes, and undressed her. All five raped her, including with batons and other objects. Another civilian woman, who had also been confined in March 2022 in another facility of the same province, recounted that during the night, a soldier who appeared intoxicated came to her cell and ordered her to undress, touched various parts of her body, and raped her. She screamed. Other soldiers, who approached, mocked her and encouraged the assailant. The next night, two soldiers came to her cell, ordered her to remove her clothes waist up and to squat and jump on a table, while they threw lit cigarettes at her and poured water over her.

52. Personnel of certain detention facilities in the Russian Federation and in occupied areas of Ukraine imposed forced nudity on groups of women. Former female detainees, prisoners of war, reported that upon their arrival at several detention facilities, they were ordered to undress fully, after which they were examined thoroughly and photographed in the presence of numerous onlooking male guards. One of the detainees added that they were forced to squat repeatedly while naked. A woman who underwent such degrading treatment in several detention facilities stated, "I was helpless, hopeless, humiliated, tired. I felt like a little monkey at the zoo, while those men stared at us."

53. Forced nudity was also imposed before and after showers. Several women detained together described how male guards, without any explanation, pushed a group of women, blindfolded, into the corridor. One of the guards remarked, "You will be executed now," while others laughed. Unknown to them, this was the first time they were going to be

¹⁷ A/HRC/52/62, paras. 80-85.

allowed to shower in weeks of detention. The perpetrators forced them to undress fully while male guards and convicts lined the corridor, laughed and mocked them. After two minutes under boiling hot water, the women, still naked, were ordered to parade back through the same corridor full of male guards and convicts. One of the women stated, “It was such a horrible event. [...] I thought we were going to be executed, like in concentration camps.” Another detainee said that such treatment felt “as violating and degrading as rape”. Women who had been detained by Russian authorities in other detention facilities described similar practices, suggesting a common pattern. One of them recounted, in addition, that if they stayed in the shower for more than three minutes, guards accompanied by dogs electrocuted them and beat them on the way back to the cells.

54. In several detention facilities, female detainees were subjected to inhuman conditions which affected them differently and disproportionately. Detention personnel refused to provide them with hygiene pads during their menstruation. Instead, they mockingly instructed them to tear the mattresses, bedsheets, or clothes, to use them as hygiene pads. Consequently, detained women suffered from reproductive health issues. A female detainee who suspected that she was pregnant and requested medical assistance, was ignored by the guards. She collapsed and regained consciousness in a hospital. The Federal Security Service officer who escorted her remarked, “Why didn’t you tell us you were pregnant? Well, not anymore, and that’s your fault.”

55. The Commission has previously found that Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture in detention facilities, and that most of the victims were men. The newly documented cases outlined in the present report demonstrate the particular vulnerability of female detainees to forms of sexual violence and abuse that reflect the gendered nature and impact of the treatment of women during detention. The Commission concluded, in these cases, that Russian authorities committed the war crimes of rape or sexual violence as a form of torture. The violent practices and the inhuman conditions described caused long-term physical and psychological harm.

D. Killing or wounding persons hors de combat

56. The Commission has investigated the killing or wounding, by parties to the armed conflict, of soldiers who were captured, injured, or attempted to surrender, and were thus hors de combat.¹⁸ It has compiled available video footage and photographs, and collected corroborating and contextual information. The Commission has also interviewed soldiers who have deserted from the Russian armed forces and described orders to kill surrendering Ukrainian soldiers. The incidents reviewed occurred in two types of situations: the killing or wounding soldiers while they were surrendering or were already captured, and the killing or wounding already injured soldiers.

1. Killing or wounding captured or surrendering soldiers

57. Since the outset of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian authorities have conducted pre-trial investigations in 57 criminal cases concerning the killing by Russian armed forces of over 196 Ukrainian soldiers. They have reported a sharp increase in the number of executions in 2024. The Commission has examined 32 incidents in which Russian soldiers killed or wounded 101 surrendering or captured Ukrainian soldiers in 2022, 2023, 2024, and early 2025, in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Provinces of Ukraine, as well as in the Kursk Province of the Russian Federation. It has noted an increase in reports concerning such incidents since late 2023.

58. The Commission previously reported about incidents in which Ukrainian armed forces shot at Russian soldiers as they were surrendering or had been captured, in 2022.¹⁹ It is not aware of further allegations of this nature.

In most situations reviewed, Russian soldiers shot, with small arms and at close range, Ukrainian soldiers as they were surrendering. The soldiers targeted were in a vulnerable

¹⁸ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(b)(vi).

¹⁹ A/77/533, para. 87; A/HRC/52/CRP.4, paras. 645-666.

situation: unarmed, lying on the ground, kneeling, and some were partly naked. For instance, video footage that circulated in February 2024, geolocated to the Bakhmut District, Donetsk Province, shows eight Ukrainian soldiers as they come out from a trench and lay on the ground, in an apparent surrender. While some of them were still coming out of the pit, five Russian soldiers who surrounded the trench and held them at gunpoint, shot at them multiple times, including with an automatic weapon. Other footage that circulated in October 2024, also geolocated in Donetsk Province, shows Russian soldiers shoot three Ukrainian soldiers after instructing them to lie down. In additional incidents, Russian soldiers shot Ukrainian soldiers whom they had already captured, and in one incident Russian soldiers appear to use three Ukrainian soldiers as human shields, before shooting at least one of them.

59. The Commission also notes violent acts committed against Ukrainian soldiers or their dead bodies in some of the material circulated. For instance, photographs geolocated in Donetsk Province and dated August-September 2024, show a dead Ukrainian soldier, covered in blood, with a spade bearing the writing “for Kursk” stuck in his chest. A video released by a Russian military unit and geolocated at the border crossing with the Belgorod Province in the Russian Federation shows a severed head, said to be that of a Ukrainian soldier, impaled on a spike, with an audio message threatening that this will be repeated at every future encounter. A video with similar content was circulated on Russian telegram channels in January 2025.

Perpetrators’ orders and instructions

60. The Commission has interviewed 48 former soldiers who have deserted from the Russian armed forces. The majority participated in combat operations in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia Provinces. Eleven among them described direct orders or instructions by their commanders not to take prisoners. In most cases, they also received orders to kill them instead. Another fifteen of the interviewed soldiers heard accounts from fellow soldiers concerning such orders, instructions, or practices to not take prisoners.

61. The testimonies of the deserted Russian soldiers show that during meetings, both prior to and during deployment to Ukraine, Russian unit commanders instructed large numbers of attending soldiers to not take prisoners. One former soldier stated that during such a meeting, a deputy brigade commander told the regiment, “Prisoners are not needed, shoot them on the spot” (“Пленные не нужны, расстреливать на месте”). Another former soldier recalled that in a staff meeting of the assault squad, the regiment commander responded to a question about prisoners, stating, “Don’t take them. Shoot.” (“Не брать. Расстреливать”). One more former soldier reported that, when answering a similar question, a battalion commander declared, “We don’t take prisoners. Those Nazis should not be taken in captivity, they should be killed.” (“Мы не берем в плен. Этим нацистов нельзя брать в плен, их надо убивать”).

62. Orders were also given in operational situations, at times via radio messages. Two deserted Russian soldiers deployed in different regions of Ukraine heard similar orders on the radio. One of them spoke of general instructions of the regiment commander to all the soldiers of the assault unit, saying, “When you go in the trenches, do not take prisoners” (“Когда заходите в окопы, пленных не брать”). Another former soldier heard how the commander of the assault unit instructed, “Take no prisoners, kill everyone, take everything” (“Пленных не брать, всех убить, все отнять”). He also heard on the radio, how, in response to reports that a Ukrainian soldier was attempting to surrender without a weapon and waving a white cloth, the commander ordered to drop a grenade on him.

63. Some of those interviewed had witnessed fellow soldiers killing captured Ukrainian soldiers. One of them recounted that an officer ordered, “Zero him!” (“Обнулить!”), referring to a captured soldier. He later saw the captured soldier’s body. Finally, another deserted Russian soldier heard over the radio, how, after the commander’s order to kill surrendered soldiers, one of them pleaded, crying, “I want to live”. Nevertheless, gunshots followed.

2. Killing or wounding injured soldiers

64. Videos and photographs of incidents where both parties to the conflict targeted injured soldiers have widely circulated. The soldiers that were hit had often visible, grave injuries and were unfit to continue combat. Perpetrators mainly used exploding drones or explosives dropped by drones. Footage showing such incidents has circulated on telegram channels run by servicemen of both parties or on telegram channels closely affiliated to them. Many of the videos are particularly disturbing, set to loud music, styled like a video game, with dismissive comments accompanying images of killings, grave injuries and intense suffering.

(a) *Killing or wounding injured Ukrainian soldiers by Russian armed forces*

65. The Commission has documented incidents in which Russian armed forces fired at injured Ukrainian soldiers. Footage that circulated on 27 September and 8 October 2023, and referred to frontline developments in Luhansk Province, shows an exploding drone targeting a group of three Ukrainian soldiers carrying an injured soldier on a stretcher, severely injuring one of them. One of the videos is titled “Destruction of the evacuation crew of the enemy”. In another situation, videos disseminated on 16, 17, and 27 November 2023, and referring to a frontline in Donetsk Province, show drones dropping explosives on six heavily wounded Ukrainian soldiers. Two of them appear to wear tourniquets. In yet another incident, footage dated 22 November 2023, referring to operations in the Bakhmut District, Donetsk province, shows drones repeatedly dropping explosives on seven apparently injured Ukrainian soldiers.

(b) *Killing or wounding injured Russian soldiers by Ukrainian armed forces*

66. The Commission has also documented situations where Ukrainian armed forces targeted injured Russian soldiers. For instance, a video compilation referring to frontline developments on 24 May 2024, in Donetsk Province, shows how explosives are dropped by drone on four Russian soldiers with visible and life-threatening injuries. On 4 December 2024, a unit of the Ukrainian armed forces circulated a video, described as the aftermath of operations in Donetsk Province, which shows how drone operators allowed a severely wounded Russian soldier, wearing a tourniquet on a leg, to smoke a last cigarette before dropping explosives to kill him. The Commission reviewed other material about similar incidents, including a video compilation showing active combat, but also an explosive dropped from a drone on a visibly injured Russian soldier lying on a stretcher.

3. Concluding observations

67. Based on the documented cases, the Commission has concluded that both parties committed the war crimes of killing or wounding injured soldiers²⁰ and of outrages upon their dignity, through disseminating dehumanizing footage of injury and death, with loud music and offensive comments.²¹

68. Further, the Commission has found that Russian armed forces committed the war crime of killing or wounding soldiers who attempted to surrender or were captured. The dissemination of material concerning such incidents has increased significantly. The testimonies of former Russian soldiers, showing that commanders of various units, at different levels and in multiple locations, both prior to and during deployment or active operations, gave almost identical orders, combined with the wide number of incidents documented and their regular recurrence, indicate that the Russian armed forces have acted pursuant to a policy to kill surrendering or captured soldiers, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.²² Moreover, declaring that no quarter will be given is a war crime.²³

²⁰ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(b)(vi).

²¹ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(b)(xxi).

²² Additional Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, art. 41 (1); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, art. 13.

²³ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 8(2)(b)(xii).

E. Violations committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons accused of collaboration with the Russian authorities

69. The Commission has previously found that Ukrainian authorities have committed some violations of human rights against persons whom they have accused of collaboration with the Russian authorities.²⁴ During the present mandate, it has investigated four additional such cases, all concerning incidents in 2022, against male victims. The Commission concluded that Ukrainian authorities committed the human rights violations of arbitrary arrest and detention in all of these cases. It also determined that the human rights violation of torture was committed in two of them and the human rights violation of enforced disappearance in one of them.²⁵

70. In one case, on 31 March 2022, men in uniform arrested a civilian man near Dymer settlement, Kyiv Province, immediately beat him, shot near him, and detained him in the building of the Security Service of Ukraine in the center of Kyiv city. There, according to the victim, armed persons with masks interrogated him, beat and suffocated him, administered electric shocks and burnt him with cigarettes, to force him to confess collaboration with the Russian armed forces. His arrest was officially recognized by court decision only on 16 April 2022. Starting from the day after the arrest, the parents attempted, in vain, to locate him. They received information about the place of detention only on 19 April 2022.²⁶

71. In another case, on 27 July 2022, persons in uniform arrested a member of the Security Service of Ukraine near the building of the Security Service of Ukraine for Kharkiv region, in Kharkiv city, and immediately beat him. The Security Service of Ukraine released a video partially showing the arrest. During subsequent detention, according to the victim, persons in uniform interrogated him, beat and administered electric shocks to him, to extract a confession, and threatened him with sexual violence and mutilation. A protocol made by the Security Service of Ukraine records his date of arrest on 29 July 2022.

72. The Commission previously referred to the legal uncertainty concerning the definition of “collaborative activity” and has recommended that the legislation be aligned with international standards.²⁷ Since 2022, several draft amendments to the Criminal Code on this issue have been submitted to the parliament. In May and June 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine issued guidance letters concerning criminal prosecution for “collaborative activities”, instructing full compliance with the requirements of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, which is a positive development.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

73. **During its third mandate, the Commission has concluded that Russian authorities committed the crime against humanity of enforced disappearances and the crime against humanity of torture. These crimes have been carried out as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population. Perpetrators have detained large numbers of civilians in areas that came under their control in Ukraine and further transferred or deported many of them to detention facilities in occupied areas of Ukraine or in the Russian Federation. They committed additional violations and crimes during these prolonged detentions. Many victims have been missing for months and years, and some died in captivity. Various Russian authorities have systematically failed to provide information on their whereabouts. This included the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, which denied information on the whereabouts of detainees, invoking confidentiality. The elements documented demonstrate that Russian authorities have acted pursuant to a policy and with the intent to remove those disappeared from of the protection of the law. Prisoners of war**

²⁴ A/78/540 paras. 70-73; A/HRC/55/66 paras. 82-84.

²⁵ The Security Service of Ukraine stated that the information presented on these cases is unfounded.

²⁶ The Office of the Ukrainian Prosecutor General has informed the Commission that it has conducted an investigation concerning the enforced disappearance of the victim, without providing further details.

²⁷ A/HRC/52/CRP.4, para. 855.

have also been victims of torture and of enforced disappearances, in violation of international humanitarian law.

74. Torture of detainees was particularly brutal during interrogations. The Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation have been among the main authorities leading interrogations. Personnel of both entities have participated in or ordered torture and have issued threats of violence against the victims. Evidence shows that the Federal Security Service had the highest authority, when present in detention facilities, and committed torture at various stages of the detentions.

75. Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture against men in detention facilities. The Commission documented new cases in which the war crimes of rape and sexual violence were committed against female detainees.

76. The Commission further examined incidents involving the killing or wounding, by Russian armed forces, of captured or surrendering Ukrainian soldiers, which are war crimes. Testimonies of soldiers who deserted from the Russian armed forces indicate that there is a policy not to take prisoners but to kill them instead.

77. Both parties to the armed conflict have killed or wounded injured soldiers on frontlines, using drones, which are also war crimes.

78. Finally, the Commission documented some human rights violations committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons accused of collaboration.

79. Three years of armed conflict have had a devastating impact on the civilian population. Victims have often suffered from a complex combination of violations and crimes, as well as from hardships owing to prolonged armed conflict. Many have endured deprivation of liberty, physical violence, and inhuman treatment; disappearance, death, or separation from loved ones; loss or destruction of homes; and, consequently, limitations of their basic rights to housing, food, education, and health. Family members have been subjected to excruciating anxiety and suffering, while coping with prolonged separations from their loved ones, and searching and waiting for them. For many of the victims, the physical and moral losses are irreparable.

80. In this context, victims have faced numerous challenges in their recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration in society. The Commission thus reiterates the importance of non-judicial forms of accountability, including measures of truth, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence. It also emphasizes that judicial accountability remains key to ensuring that perpetrators of violations and crimes are identified and held to account for their acts, and to end the cycle of impunity.

81. The recommendations made in previous reports remain relevant. The Commission sets out below specific recommendations to address issues developed in the current report.

82. The Commission recommends that the Russian Federation immediately:

- (a) Cease aggression and all acts of violence committed against civilians and prisoners of war in violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
- (b) End the widespread and systematic use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment committed against civilian detainees and prisoners of war;
- (c) Take all possible measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence of civilians and prisoners of war.

83. The Commission also recommends that the Russian Federation:

- (a) End enforced disappearances, notably through informing families of the fate and whereabouts of all persons in their custody, ensuring that all those detained are registered, and provide legal review of the grounds of their detention;
- (b) End transfers of civilians to Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and deportations of civilians to the Russian Federation;

(c) Release or return to Ukraine all Ukrainian civilians who have been deported to the Russian Federation and are detained there as a consequence of the armed conflict;

(d) When a disappeared person dies, promptly return the remains of the deceased to the family and inform them of the circumstances of the death;

(e) End killing or wounding prisoners of war and personnel hors de combat and ensure that all such allegations are duly investigated;

(f) Ensure that all perpetrators, in particular commanders and other superiors and those ordering, soliciting or inducing the commission of crimes under international law, are held accountable in accordance with international standards;

(g) Take the measures necessary to prevent the commission of such violations and crimes, in particular through unequivocal instructions to all branches of the armed forces, the Federal Security Service, the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Investigative Committee, with a view to ensuring that discipline and respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law are upheld, along with the principle of command responsibility.

84. The Commission recommends that Ukraine:

(a) End killing or wounding injured personnel hors de combat and ensure that all such allegations are duly investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;

(b) Take the measures necessary to prevent the commission of such violations and crimes, in particular through unequivocal instructions to all branches of the armed forces;

(c) Examine the various proposed amendments to its criminal code in order to clarify the crime of collaboration, in conformity with international law, to ensure legal certainty and prevent harm to social cohesion;

(d) Continue comprehensively addressing mental health and psychosocial needs resulting from the armed conflict by ensuring access to the relevant services, allocating resources to those services and enhancing their institutional coordination, legal regulation, monitoring and evaluation.

85. The Commission recommends that other States and regional and international organizations:

(a) Strengthen their support to judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms, the latter including measures of truth, reparation, and guarantees of non-recurrence;

(b) Provide comprehensive support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violations and crimes, including health, psycho-social support, and housing.

Annex I



UKRAINE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Areas where Russian authorities initially detained persons that became victims of enforced disappearances in the context of their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, according to the IICIU's investigations

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (IICIU)

March 2025



Created: 5 March 2025 Author: IICIU Sources: IICIU, UN Geospatial, OCHA Contact: coi-ukraine@un.org

Annex II



UKRAINE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Updated map of areas investigated by the ICIU where Russian authorities committed torture in the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (ICIU)

March 2025



Annex III

Detention facilities in areas that were under Russian Federation control in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation

The list below enumerates the detention facilities held by Russian authorities where the Commission has confirmed the use of torture through investigations since its appointment. Additional detention facilities are under investigation.

In areas under Russian Federation control in Ukraine²⁸

Kherson Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Chonhar village
- Temporary detention centre, Kherson city
- Police department, Nova Kakhovka city
- Temporary detention centre, Hola Prystan city
- School (makeshift facility), Biliayivka village
- Sanatorium (makeshift facility), Hola Prystan city

Zaporizhzhia Province

- Correctional Colony No. 77 (aka Prymorsk Colony no.145), Berdiansk city
- Police department, Berdiansk city
- Police Department, Enerhodar city
- Police Department, Melitopol city
- District police, Vasylivka town

Donetsk Province

- Volnovakha Correctional Colony No.120, known as Olenivka, in Molodizhne village
- Kalinin Correctional Colony No. 4 (previously No. 27), Horlivka city
- Pre-trial detention centre, Donetsk city

Kharkiv Province

- Police Department, Izium city
- Railway Hospital (makeshift facility), Izium city
- Police Department, Balakliia town

Kyiv Province

- “Viknaland” metal plant (makeshift facility), Dymer village

Luhansk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre in Starobilsk city, Luhansk Province

Chernihiv Province

- Agricultural shed (makeshift facility), Vyshneve village

Mykolaiv Province

- Location near a water canal (makeshift facility), Novopetrivka village

Autonomous Republic of Crimea

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Simferopol city

In the Russian Federation

Belgorod Province

- Pre-trial detention facility No. 2, Staryi Oskol city
- Correctional colony No. 6, Valuyki town

Kursk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 1, Kursk city

²⁸ Russian authorities have lost control of some of the mentioned areas.

Bryansk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Novozybkov city

Rostov Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Taganrog city

Tula Province

- Correctional colony No. 1, Donskoy town

Tver Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Kashyn town

Ryazan Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Ryazhsk town

Vladimir Province

- Penal Colony No. 7, Pakino village

Volgograd Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Kamyshin city

Voronezh Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2 Borisoglebsk town

Republic of Mordovia

- Correctional Colony No. 10, Udarnyi village
-