



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

HUMANISM DOES NOT WORK AGAINST TERRORISM



#RUSSIAISATERRORISTSTATE

UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA

Just and lasting peace
for Ukraine and the world

4.

RETURN OF DEPORTED CHILDREN, CIVILIAN HOSTAGES, PRISONERS OF WAR

Summit on the Peace Formula: work results in Malta

Together with the Ukrainian delegation, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, arrived in Malta for an international meeting on the implementation of the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi.

The search for sustainable peace in Ukraine is in the focus of the world community's attention, despite the conflict in the Middle East, as evidenced by the active participation of representatives of various countries in this meeting.

President Zelenskyi began the large-scale work of uniting dozens of countries around the Ukrainian Peace Formula at the G-20 summit last autumn, and continued it at the G-7 summit in May this year. The head of the Office of the President, Andriy Yermak, is coordinating this ongoing work on behalf of the President of Ukraine.



During the meeting, specific plans for the implementation of the five points of the Peace Formula were presented and discussed. These are the joint efforts of different countries from different continents.

The Ombudsman of Ukraine is responsible for point 4 – humanitarian aspect – return of deported children, civilian hostages, prisoners of war.

Therefore, he emphasized that the mass deportation and targeted kidnapping of Ukrainian children is a planned genocidal policy of the Russian Federation since 2014. And it has been doing it for over 9 years.

So far, about **20,000 children** have been deported to the Russian Federation or forcibly transferred to the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. About 4,000 of them are orphans and children deprived of parental care. And that's only based on verified data. In reality, the number can be many times higher.

Russia, on the other hand, talks about **744,000 children who arrived on the territory of the Russian Federation**, but does not provide Ukraine with lists of these children.

Regarding civilian hostages, Dmytro Lubinets noted that currently about **28,000 people are considered missing under special circumstances and illegally deprived of their personal freedom as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine**. According to our data, more than 2,000 people are over 65 years old. Among them, political prisoners who need help are also being held hostage.

The Ukrainian Ombudsman once again raised the issue of prisoners of war. Currently, thousands of Ukrainian soldiers are in Russian captivity. Russia does not provide access to them for international organizations such as the UN and the ICRC to monitor the conditions of their detention.



Dmytro Lubinets reminded those present about the terrible terrorist attack – **mass murder of Ukrainian prisoners by the Russians in Olenivka**. On the night of July 29, 2022, an explosion occurred in the barracks of the penal colony in Olenivka, in which Ukrainian prisoners of war were held. At that time, more than 50 defenders of Ukraine were killed.



The Ukrainian Ombudsman presented a plan for the implementation of the humanitarian direction, which refers to point 4 of the Peace Formula:

- 1 □ Establishment of an international monitoring group as part of an international oversight mechanism.
- 2 □ Verification with the help of OSINT tools of the facts of displacement and locations of children, civilian hostages and prisoners of war who were deported or forcibly transferred to the TOT of Ukraine.
- 3 □ Additional sanctions against Russia and its officials for violations of international humanitarian law.
- 4 □ International pressure on Russia to grant the UN and the ICRC unhindered access to Ukrainian prisoners of war, civilian hostages and political prisoners in order to stop their criminal prosecution.
- 5 □ Designate a protecting power in Russia to collect information on children, civilian hostages and prisoners of war and gain access to their places of detention, including advocating for the establishment of a joint medical commission for the immediate repatriation or internment of the wounded to third countries for their proper treatment.

Only by uniting the efforts of the world community will we be able to overcome the aggressor, restore peace and bring home all citizens of Ukraine!



**THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
CARRIES OUT STRIKES,
AFTER WHICH PEOPLE ARE
SEARCHED FOR UNDER RUBBLE
FOR SEVERAL DAYS**

In September 2023, the Russians launched
616 AIR TARGETS OVER UKRAINE.

THE NUMBER OF DRONES IS 500.
(the record was 373 in May 2023)

According to Ukrainian media Speka, **Russia spent the most money on the launch of:**

-  cruise missiles X-101/555 – **\$92.4 MILLION**;
-  «Shakhed» unmanned aerial vehicle – **\$17.5 MILLION**;
-  Kalibr cruise missiles – **\$14 MILLION**;
-  ballistic/anti-aircraft missiles – **\$10 MILLION**;
-  «Iskander-M» – **\$4 MILLION**;
-  «Onyx» anti-ship missiles – **\$2.6 MILLION**;
-  X-31P anti-ship missiles – **\$1 MILLION**;
-  X-59 air missiles – **\$660,000**.

The total amount is \$142.16 MILLION.

Not a day goes by in Ukraine without shelling, because Russia drops aerial bombs, launches missiles and UAVs not only on the frontline areas. Ukrainians do not feel safe in Lviv, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Odesa, or Kryvyi Rih.

Unfortunately, in addition to the destruction of infrastructure, residential buildings, cafes, hospitals, post offices, peaceful people die. Relatives cry for dead children, in churches they light candles for dead relatives and drown in grief, because of the murders of brothers, sisters and parents by Russians.

Russia, launching rockets and drones, is launching grief into the sky, which at a certain moment can explode in any city, on any floor, near the crib of any child.

The Russian Federation hunts Ukrainian civilians at their places of work, while they are receiving humanitarian aid, studying, shopping, and sleeping. Terrorist tactics intensify before the onset of winter. And for greater «effect» and damage to as many people as possible, the targets of the Russian Federation are the energy facilities of Ukraine. Russia, like last year, shows its focus on causing as much harm as possible to the civilian population and provoking a wave of criticism from the Ukrainian people against the government. Another obvious goal of such shelling is to cause as much damage as possible to the energy infrastructure so that Ukrainians leave their country.

**ENERGY TERROR is already a recognizable sign of the occupiers!
ENERGY TERROR is the face of Russia!**

During the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian civilians and energy facilities became the main targets for cynical strikes. The terror continues even as you read these lines, because an «aircraft alert» is sounding in one of the areas.

Ukraine still needs protection and help! Ukraine needs effective solutions aimed at protecting human rights! Ukraine needs peace on its own land!



This resident of the village lost two relatives
(Source: Ukrainska Pravda)

The killing of civilians by a Russian missile in the village of Groza is a tragedy that Ukrainians will remember even after 100 years

On October 5, at around 1:15 p.m., Russia struck the Suputnyk café and shop in the village of Groza in the Kupiansk district of the Kharkiv region with an Iskander-M missile complex. **At that time, the institution held a memorial service for the deceased soldier Andriy Kozyr.**



His son Denys died on the spot with his young wife Nina. **A total of 59 civilians were killed as a result of the missile strike (among them an 8-year-old child).** According to the census, a total of 330 residents are registered in the village of Groza, which is located 35 kilometers from the front line.

Oleksandr Nechvolod, the 60-year-old headman of the Petropillia district, was also among those killed as a result of a missile attack on the village of Groza.

«How he was identified, I will be able to tell later. The missile tore some people into such pieces that we have to collect them now. You have to

imagine that the Iskander, which destroys houses, aimed at the place where people had gathered. We carry out DNA research on all the parts found.

We know that it is a person by a part of a hand, a finger. That's why it's hard right now, it's very painstaking work,» said the head of the Kharkiv region Police Investigation Department.



«59 people were killed by the Russians by a direct hit of the Iskander in the village of Groza. All the dead are local residents. Pensioners, doctors, farmers, teachers, entrepreneurs. All are civilians. Whole families of several generations died,» said the Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko.

11 children who were orphaned after the Russian attack already have care persons or guardians. **In total, as a result of the Russian terrorist attack, eight children remained total orphans.**



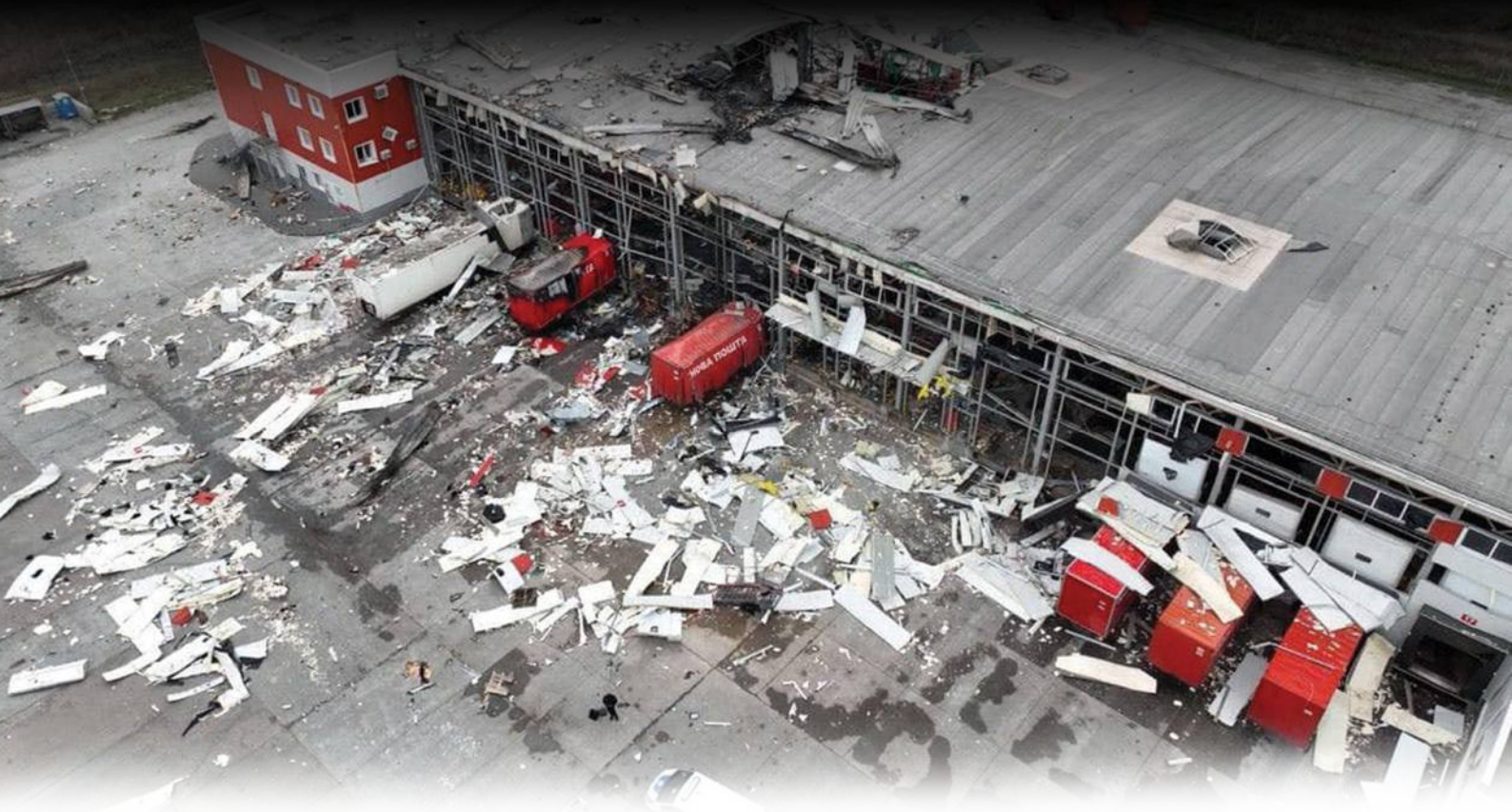
6 days after the tragedy, the Security Service of Ukraine established the identities of two traitors who corrected a Russian missile attack on a cafe in the village of Groza. The perpetrators were two local residents – 30-year-old Volodymyr Mamon and his younger brother, 23-year-old Dmytro Mamon, who during the occupation of the region went over to the side of the Russians. Both traitors together with their families fled to the Russian Federation, where they continued to work for the aggressor country.

On the basis of the collected evidence, the investigators of the Security Service of Ukraine suspected both persons involved of treason, committed under martial law by a group of persons. Comprehensive measures are being taken to locate and punish them.



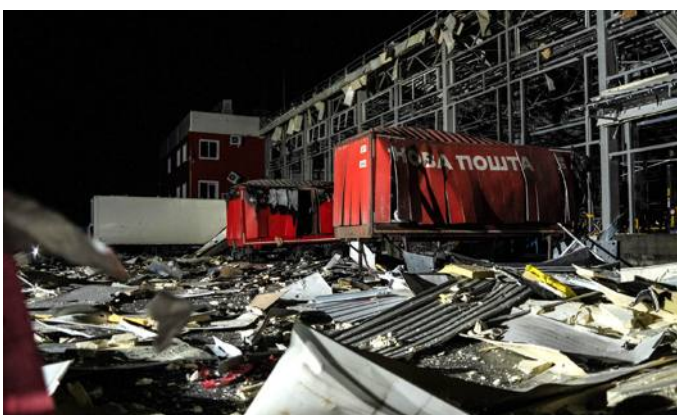


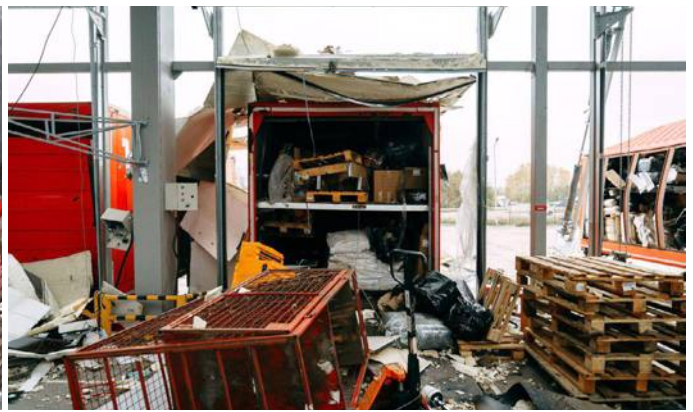
Russia's night attack on the Nova Poshta terminal



On October 21, at around 10:15 p.m., the Russian enemy launched a missile attack on the Nova Poshta (New Post) terminal in the village of Korotych, Kharkiv region. The Russians fired two S-300 missiles from the Belgorod region. **Six postal workers did not have time to run to the shelter and died on the spot, another worker died in hospital, 16 more people were injured.** As a result of the enemy strike, a fire broke out on an area of about 300 sq. m. The terminal was almost completely destroyed, trucks were damaged.

In the last seconds of their lives, post office employees helped to sort humanitarian aid.





“Our colleagues spent the last seconds of their lives helping – sorting parcels with medicines and humanitarian aid for the civilian population suffering from war. Russia has destroyed a civilian building and should be convicted of war crimes,» the Nova Poshta company said.



Names of the dead:

- Artem Akopov, 21;
- Oleksandr Bizhanov, 22;
- Oleksiy Yermola, 23;
- Vladyslav Pankov, 28;
- Dmytro Gerasichkin, 30;
- Oleksandr Temnikov, 31;
- Maxim Yefremenko, 25.

11 victims are currently in hospitals. These are men from 19 to 48 years old. 6 victims are in serious condition. The condition of the one injured remains extremely serious, they are connected to artificial lung ventilation devices. 9 people have light and moderate injuries. Everyone is provided with the necessary medical assistance.

After the next terrorist attack, Nova Poshta plans to equip its terminals with special capsule shelters against shelling.

Due to shelling by the Russian occupiers, 7 thousand private enterprises were destroyed or damaged in Kharkiv and the region.



Russia continues to shell the cities and villages of Ukraine with impunity

- **On October 1**, the Russians shelled the city of Vovchansk in the Kharkiv region. A 63-year-old local resident, who was riding a bicycle at the time, died. Also, the enemy fired artillery at one of the villages in the Kherson region. A local resident died as a result of the shelling. On the same day, the settlements of Donetsk and Cherkasy regions were hit by Russian strikes.
- **On October 2**, the Russians shelled the Kherson and Kharkiv regions. As a result of powerful explosions, cars caught fire and residential buildings were damaged.
- **On October 3**, the Russian army targeted a residential quarter in the suburbs of Kherson with a guided aerial bomb. One civilian died as a result of an enemy strike. Four more local residents were injured.
- **On October 5**, the Russian Federation launched a missile attack on the «Suputnyk» café and store in the village of Groza, Kupiansk district, Kharkiv region. 59 people died.
- **On October 6**, the occupiers shelled the city of Kharkiv – they hit residential buildings. The bodies of a 10-year-old child and her grandmother were found under the ruins of one of them. 30 civilians were injured, including an 11-month-old child.
- **On October 8**, the Russian Federation shelled the residential quarters of the city of Kherson. 10 fires broke out due to enemy flights. 4 residential buildings, 3 utility buildings, cars and an abandoned warehouse were on fire. Shells exploded on the territory of the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Antonivka near Kherson. Two parishioners were injured. The faithful covered each other with their own bodies.
- **On October 11**, the enemy attacked the city of Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Four people died. The gymnasium building was partially destroyed, 42 private residential buildings, 18 farm buildings, a shop, and power lines were damaged.
- In the morning of **October 13**, the Russians shelled the city of Pokrovsk in Donetsk region. The occupiers hit the social security office, where at that time the employees of the institution received citizens, so there were up to half a hundred people in the building. One person died on the spot, 14 were injured. Also, the occupiers threw explosives on a civilian car in Beryslav, Kherson region. A 34-year-old woman died on the spot due to multiple injuries. Her 36-year-old husband was hospitalized in an extremely serious condition.
- **On October 15**, the Russians attacked Kherson region. In the village of Antonivka, an enemy shell hit a residential building. In the village of Stanislav and the city of Berislav, three commercial buildings caught fire after Russian shelling.
- **On October 16**, the Russian Federation carried out 97 shellings, firing 514 shells at populated areas of the Kherson region. There were three fires in the residential sector. The enemy also attacked Poltava Oblast with rockets and UAVs. Debris of the rocket damaged several private houses.
- **On October 17**, Russia struck a residential building in Slovyansk, Donetsk region. A 5-story dormitory building was destroyed.
- **On October 18**, Russia fired 6 missiles at the city of Zaporizhzhia, one of them hit a high-rise building. 5 people died, 5 more were injured. Several entrances to

the apartments were destroyed. On the same day, the enemy shelled the village of Obukhivka in the Dnipropetrovsk region. As a result, one woman died, 4 more people were injured.

- **On October 19**, Kherson and the region and settlements of Kharkiv region were again under enemy fire. Residential buildings of civilians, premises of enterprises, garages, cars and farm buildings burned.
- **On October 21**, the Russian army committed another missile attack against the civilian population. The occupiers attacked the Nova Poshta terminal in the Kharkiv region - 6 people were killed and 17 were injured.
- **On October 23**, Russia launched 19 shellings on the territory of Ukraine. 8 settlements in four regions were hit. A number of infrastructure facilities caught fire.
- **On October 24**, the occupiers attacked Kherson Oblast. Settlements were shelled with incendiary shells. In the village of Bilozerka, 4 people were injured, including a 12-year-old child. 20 houses, gas network, cars and commercial buildings were damaged. Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky, and Donetsk regions were also under fire. Private houses and cars of civilians were destroyed.
- On the night of **October 25**, for the fourth time in a week, Russia attacked Khmelnytskyi region with Shahed UAVs. It hit the city of Slavuta, the city of nuclear workers Netishyna and objects near the Khmelnytsky NPP. Household buildings near the Khmelnytsky NPP were damaged. As a result of the night attack, 1,760 objects were damaged. Also on this day, the Russian army shelled the Berislav district in the Kherson region. A 13-year-old boy died as a result of the shelling.
- **On October 26**, the occupiers launched an artillery attack on the civilian infrastructure of the Velikopysarov community of the Sumy region. A 16-year-old boy who was in the yard of his relatives died as a result of an enemy attack. On the same day, the Russian army carried out an airstrike on the Berislav district of the Kherson region. One of the aerial bombs hit a nearby cafe. A 59-year-old local resident died.
- **On October 27**, the Russian military shelled the city of Nikopol in the Dnipropetrovsk region with artillery. As a result of the enemy attack, a 5-year-old child and a local resident received shrapnel wounds. On the same day, the Russian military shelled the Kupyan district in the Kharkiv region and the Berislavsky district in the Kherson region.
- **On October 28**, the Russian Federation launched missiles and UAVs in Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, and Chernihiv regions. Local residents were injured. Civilian infrastructure was destroyed.
- **On October 29**, Russia attacked Donetsk, Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk regions. A man died. Houses, businesses, farm buildings, power lines were destroyed.
- **On October 30**, the Russian military shelled the center of Kherson. An 85-year-old woman died. High-rise buildings were damaged. Odessa Ship Repair Plant was attacked with 6 Onyx missiles. Two people were injured. The administrative building and equipment of the enterprise were damaged.

! After withdrawing from the «grain agreement», Russia attacked Ukrainian ports more than 20 times, destroying 300,000 tons of grain.

This information reflects only a small part of the events that are happening in Ukraine due to Russian armed aggression.

Peaceful people will spend the winter without heating due to Russian shelling

Ukrainians have been warned that the 2023-2024 heating season will be the most difficult in the last 30 years, as the Russians are shelling the energy infrastructure. Last year, the Russians carried out 288 strikes on the facilities of the energy structure of Ukraine, 177 such facilities were damaged.

In the city of Huliaipole, in the Zaporizhzhia region, two-thirds of the housing stock was destroyed. Pharmacies, shops, hospitals are closed. In such conditions, about 2,000 people remain in the city. Every day, the Russians hit houses and civilian infrastructure with artillery and aviation. It is impossible to repair heat networks damaged by the enemy. In winter, people will be without heating, water and electricity.

Kharkiv authorities reported that due to severe damage to the city's housing stock and infrastructure, 57 houses will not be connected to heating.

Due to hostilities, the heating cannot be turned on in the following communities of the Donetsk region: Bakhmut, Zvanivsk, Siversk, Soledar, Toretsk, Chasiv Yar, Vugledar, Avdiivka, Maryinka.

In Sviatohirsk and Lyman, only health care and social facilities will be connected to heating. The heating points will also be operational at their base.

In the Kherson region, more than 42,000 households need heating materials to stay warm this winter. Volunteers and charity organizations help people there.

We strive to return children while they are still children

It was possible to return **four more children deported by the Russian Federation** to Ukraine. This was done within the framework of the Bring Kids Back UA action plan, initiated by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi. There were the employees of the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine who took care of the safety, unhinderedness and observance of all the rights of children. **The return took place with the assistance of the State of Qatar.**





We also involve public organizations and international partners in this process. This return was made possible thanks to the cooperation with the Orphans Feeding Foundation, in particular the co-founder of the organization Mariam Lambert. We sincerely thank the NGO Heroiam Slava and the «Posmishka UA» charitable foundation for their involvement.

Efforts to return children to the Motherland will continue, so Ukraine thanks everyone who helps to do it.

It is necessary for the state, it is necessary for our future!

Communication with families of prisoners of war and missing persons

In the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, weekly meetings are held with the families of soldiers who were captured by Russia. Relatives are interested in the processes of evacuating bodies from the battlefield, how they can join international events to tell the whole world that the Russian Federation is violating the Geneva Conventions. They were also interested in the possibility of returning home seriously wounded Ukrainian soldiers and communication with captured defenders (correspondence, phone calls). However, the implementation of these actions and processes is inhibited by the Russian side.





At the meetings, it was stated that Russia continues to fight with cynical methods to destroy our nation and does not even provide the opportunity to evacuate the wounded soldiers. The Russian Federation also slowed down the processes of repatriation of prisoners of war. Returns have not been made for over three months.

Despite everything, the relatives continue to hope and believe that the son, husband, father and brother is alive and will soon return from captivity.

The Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine monitored 100% of Military Medical Commissions



The institution was regularly contacted by applicants who spoke about more than a dozen outrageous rights violations related to the work of military medical commissions. In particular, since the beginning of 2023, 1,093 appeals have already been received.

So the monitoring, which started back in 2022, continued in 2023. In August, the employees of the Secretariat of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights recorded positive changes compared to last year, but also found the insufficient organizational level of the military medical commission, significant violations of rights during its passage, which affect the moral and psychological state of both servicemen and conscripts.

Employees of the Ombudsman's Office carried out 833 on-site and off-site (documentary) monitoring, which is 100%. All regions are covered, including the front-line ones.

So, after the visits and processed appeals, a number of problems related to the observance of human rights were discovered and confirmed.

The Office of the Ombudsman will initiate the creation of a working group with the participation of all responsible government agencies to lay the foundation for the development or regulation of current legal acts on military medical commissions to the challenges of the present.

And will also continue to respond to citizens' appeals and work to ensure that the rights of servicemen are not violated!



Oleksandr Kononenko

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Kidnapping is a problem that affects children and we have to protect them

Ombudsman of Ukraine Dmytro Lubinets participated in the round table «**Mechanisms of judicial protection of children from domestic violence**» organized by the Supreme Court.

«We must work to ensure that the child is protected from any manifestations of violence in the family, and that the judicial mechanisms become a prevention against the use of physical, psychological or sexual violence against children,» said Dmytro Lubinets.

The Ombudsman also drew attention to such a sensitive concept as «**parental kidnapping**». Dmytro Lubinets emphasized that there are private associations in Ukraine that help steal a child from one of the parents for money, despite the court's decision, and this is one of the most difficult problems. In 2022-2023, the Commissioner's Secretariat received 157 appeals regarding the arbitrary change of the child's place of residence by one of the parents. The geography of kidnapping is as follows: 41 appeals – displacement of children within the territory of Ukraine, 4 – forcible transfer of children to the temporarily occupied territories, to the Russian Federation and Belarus, 122 – displacement of children abroad.



Currently, the legislation of Ukraine on kidnapping has certain gaps, and there is an urgent need to make appropriate changes to the Law of Ukraine «On Executive Proceedings» in order to regulate the mechanism of enforcement of court decisions, establish criminal liability for kidnapping, and resolve the issue of speeding up the consideration of civil cases related to the issue of residence and raising a child, due to changes in the Civil Code of Ukraine.

Norway is one of the important partner countries that is interested in helping Ukraine and Ukrainians

At the Center for the Protection of Children's Rights, the Ombudsman of Ukraine met with the Norwegian delegation headed by **the Director of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Section on Peace and Reconciliation Lisa Golden**.

Dmytro Lubinets told the partners about how the Center, which works according to the Barnahus model, works with children affected by the war.

Partners from Norway emphasized that they are aware of how hard Ukraine is working on the return of children and what a colossal job it is doing in terms of their rehabilitation after returning to their native land.



The Kremenchuk Regional Specialized Children's Home in Poltava region is an example of the fact that there are no other people's children!



Employees of the Ombudsman's Office visited the Kremenchuk Regional Specialized Children's Home of the Poltava Regional Council for orphans, children deprived of parental care and children who found themselves in difficult life circumstances, with physical and mental developmental disorders.

There are very little ones here – children from birth to 6 years old. The institution specializes in their rehabilitation, provides palliative care and medical and social protection of this category of children.

For the best possible development of children, the institution has a physical therapy room, a physiotherapy room, a sensory room, a room for defect correction, a massage room, a Montessori room, and a music room.

In addition, the administration took care of the organization of children's leisure time in the shelter. Despite the fact that the shelter needs major repairs and proper access to it, it contains toys, a projector, and didactic material for children.

This kind of support for children, especially in the difficult time of Russian aggression, inspires and gives confidence – everything will be fine!



Iryna Suslova

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Participation in the General Assembly of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)



Olga Altunina, Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens who are Victims of the Armed Aggression against Ukraine, took part in the 27th Annual General Assembly of the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC). She called on the children's ombudspersons of Europe to support Ukraine in implementing the Peace Formula proposed by the President of Ukraine in terms of the return of the deported children.

The Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine intends to become a full member of the ENOC.

Recommendations are provided to be followed

The size and systematicity of violations caused by Russia, the need to adapt Ukrainian legislation to new realities, as well as the need to protect the rights of victims forced the Ombudsman of Ukraine to investigate specific cases of human rights violations. Therefore, for the first time in 9 years since the beginning of the war, the Ombudsman of Ukraine has prepared a Special Report on the observance of the rights of persons who suffered as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine for the period from February 24 to October 31, 2022.

During the year, the Office of the Ombudsman constantly analyzed the implementation of the recommendations made in the Special Report. As a result, we prepared a generalized document regarding the state of their implementation.

After analyzing the recommendations, the following results are obtained:

- **36 recommendations have been successfully implemented;**
- **16 recommendations are in the process of implementation.**

Since the beginning of 2023, the Office of the Ombudsman has restored the rights of almost 10,000 people who are victims of the armed aggression against Ukraine. Part of these rights was renewed precisely thanks to the authorities' implementation of the recommendations of the Special Report.

On October 17, the Ombudsman held an event where he presented an analysis of the implementation of the recommendations provided in the Special Report. The only unfulfilled recommendation of the Special Report remains the recommendation given to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding the development of a draft law on the legal status of persons who suffered from the armed aggression against Ukraine and their social guarantees, with the definition of the concept of «a person who suffered from the armed aggression against Ukraine» and the categorization of persons, victims of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation, as well as the mechanism of compensation for the damage caused, including restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and satisfaction.



The Ombudsman created a working group, which included members of the Parliament of Ukraine, representatives of state authorities, as well as international and national human rights organizations. According to the results of the working group, its findings will be presented to the general public.

Provision of decent living conditions in temporary settlements

The Commissioner pays special attention to the issue of ensuring decent and comfortable living conditions in places of temporary settlement.

During the year, 1,191 monitoring visits were made to collective sites, as a result of which 1,765 recommendations were made. In addition, according to the data of the 9th round of monitoring of the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster and the REACH Initiative, it was established that 85% of residents indicated the need for capital or current repairs of collective sites, 83% of residents reported the presence of bomb shelters directly in the collective sites (46%) or near them (37%), 27% reported the need for additional heating sources, 15% reported the need for thermal insulation works.

Based on the results of the analysis of relevant information, the Office of the Ombudsman, together with a number of public organizations, developed the **Minimum Standards**. They formed the basis of the Government's resolution N° 930 «Some issues of functioning of collective sites of internally displaced persons».



From now on, Ukraine has an official definition of the concept of collective sites and approved norms for the residence of internally displaced persons in such places. In addition, regional military administrations will form a register of places of temporary settlement. With the support of international partners, this will make it possible to bring temporary settlements up to minimum standards within 6 months.

In order to get acquainted with the adopted resolution, as well as to discuss problematic issues that will arise during its implementation, the Office of the Ombudsman, with the participation of representatives of state authorities, local self-government bodies, and international partner organizations, **held a conference «The right to dignity in places of temporary settlement: present and future»**, devoted to the protection of the rights of forced migrants.



The Commissioner emphasized that the formation of temporary and social purpose funds based on the created places of temporary settlement is an integral part of the strategy of solving the problem of ensuring decent living conditions in places of temporary settlement with the involvement of international partner organizations.



Olga Altunina

Representative of the Commissioner for the Rights of Citizens, who are Victims of Armed Aggression Against Ukraine

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The environment is a silent victim of war: how the Russian army commits environmental crimes

Among the numerous crimes committed by Russia against Ukraine, there are those consequences that will be felt by many generations of people outside the borders of our country. We are talking about environmental crimes. The Russian Federation destroys Ukrainian nature mercilessly and deliberately. **And it violates the right to an environment that is safe for life and health not only of citizens of Ukraine, but also of all mankind.**

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Ukraine currently estimates the environmental damage caused by the occupiers at **2,108 billion hryvnias**. These data are as of October 11, 2023. During the year and a half of the war, the State Inspectorate registered more than 2,500 complaints about Russian crimes against the environment. And these are far from the final numbers. Russia has been continuously destroying the natural resources of Ukraine for almost 10 years, the scale of which increased after February 24, 2022.



Consequences of blowing up the Kakhovka dam. Photo: Libkos

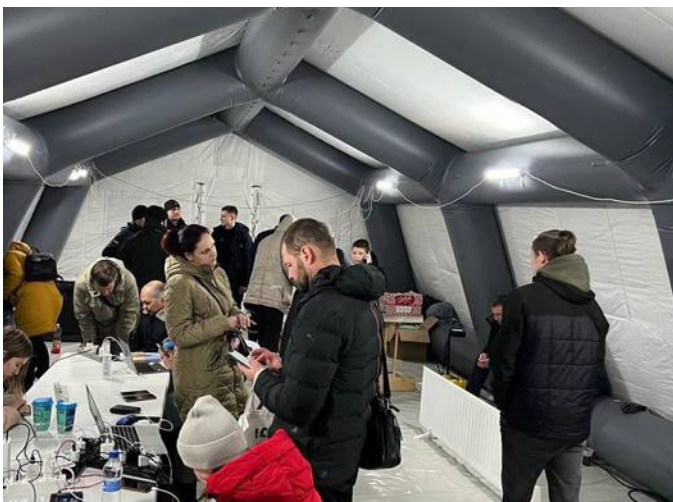
Genocide, crimes against humanity, aggression and war crimes are currently recognized as international crimes. However, Ukraine wants to add **ecocide to this list – mass destruction of flora and fauna, poisoning of the atmosphere or water resources, as well as actions that can cause an ecological catastrophe.**

Combating ecocide is **the point 8 of President Volodymyr Zelenskyi's Peace Formula**. Ukraine is currently actively working on the consolidation of the world community so that Russia will answer for the destruction of our nature, for ecocide. The newly created International Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of War is already working. Together with other states, Ukraine is looking for common answers to all environmental threats caused by Russian aggression and holding the Russian Federation accountable for ecocide. After all, without it, it will be impossible to return to a full-fledged peaceful life.

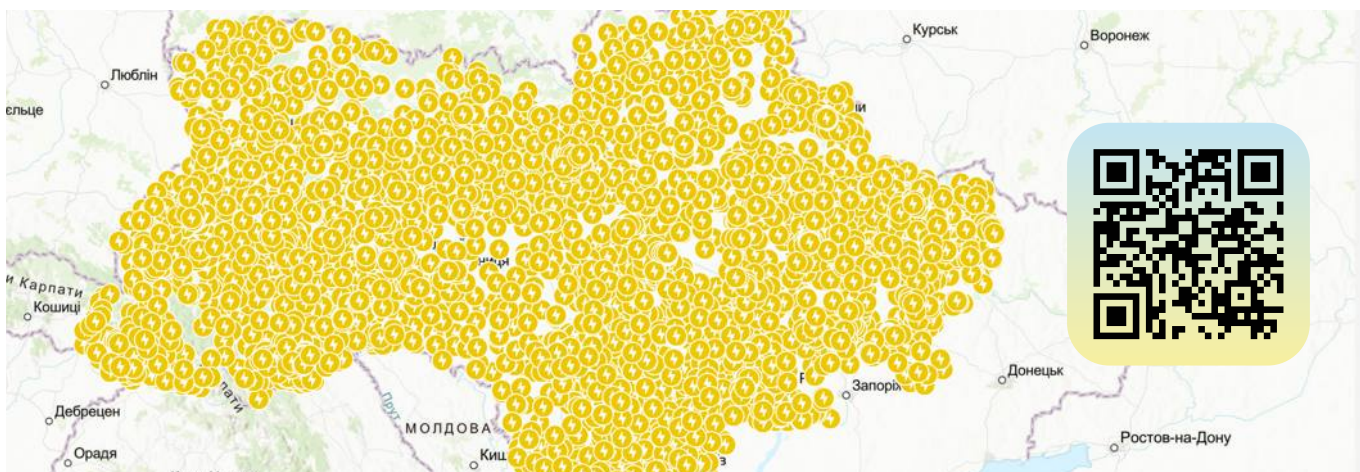
The consequences of Russian armed aggression for Ukraine's ecological security can already be called catastrophic. This is a challenge that must be answered not only by our state, but also by the entire civilized world.

In case of blackouts and massive shelling of the occupiers, there are Invincibility Points in Ukraine

With the onset of cold weather in Ukraine, Invincibility Points – places where people can get warm, connect to Wi-Fi and recharge their phones – have started working again. So far, more than 13,000 objects have already been deployed in various regions, in particular at 96 railway stations. Closer to winter, the number of points will increase, as some of them are currently being restocked.



You can find out about the work in the regions of the Invincibility Points and their location by using the interactive map. In addition, there is an interactive map about Invincibility Points in the «Diia» application – you can use it even offline. It is only necessary to pre-load the map of the selected region in «Diia» when there is an Internet connection, and it will remain available. Due to the security situation, the service started working for all regions, except for Kherson, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk. And also partly for the Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv regions.



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Fight in the international arena – meetings with diplomatic representatives of other countries

The Ombudsman of Ukraine constantly holds meetings with international partners. The main topics always concern the protection of human rights. At all meetings, Dmytro Lubinets raises the issue of **the return home of Ukrainian children deported and illegally transferred by Russia, of civilian hostages, and prisoners of war.** In particular, he talked about this with **the Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine and the titular Archbishop of Martana Visvaldas Kulbokas, as well as the Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Nataalka Tsmots.**



The topic of assistance to Ukrainian children, in particular those who were returned from deportation or illegal displacement, as well as the issue of the return of Ukrainian children kidnapped by Russia, was raised by the Ombudsman of Ukraine at meetings with **the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Margus Tsahkna, and the Ambassador of Estonia to Ukraine, Anneli Kolk,** and also at the Breakfast with MEPs, which the Ombudsman of Ukraine joined at the invitation of **the Vice-Chair of the Group on Children's Rights of the European Parliament Catharina Rinzema.** In general, regarding the humanitarian aid to the citizens of Ukraine the Ombudsman of Ukraine spoke with **representatives of the European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA).**



Ukraine's accession to the EU and the implementation of important recommendations were discussed at the meetings with:

- Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to Ukraine Martin Oberg;
- Head of the EU Advisory Mission in Ukraine, Rolf Holmboe;
- Head of the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine, Maciej Janczak, and heads of Council of Europe projects in Ukraine;
- The European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA);

– Member of the European Parliament and Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Committee of the Ukraine-EU Association Viola von Cramon, as well as with the EU Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore during a visit to Brussels on October 10.



Also, on October 10, **Dmytro Lubinets spoke at the ENNHRI high-level anniversary conference in Brussels**, where he talked about Russian crimes in Ukraine and on October 12, the Ombudsman of Ukraine participated in **the round table meeting within the framework of the OSCE Warsaw Conference on the Human Dimension**. During this visit in Warsaw, in between speeches at the side event, Dmytro Lubinets held a number of bilateral meetings: with the heads of the delegations of the USA, France and Germany and the Director of the OSCE ODIHR. At each of them, he spoke about the consequences of Russia's genocidal war against Ukraine. Dmytro Lubinets had another appearance at a side event within the OSCE Warsaw Conference on the Human Dimension, during which he spoke about how Ukrainian children suffer from Russian armed aggression.

The Ombudsman of Ukraine also gave a speech at **the 41st meeting of the 54th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council**, where the latest report of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission was discussed.

Almost **20 meetings** were held in October. And in general, since July 1, 2022, the day of appointment to the position, the Ombudsman of Ukraine has held **231 international meetings and made 19 foreign visits to other countries of the world**.

Also, during the month, employees of the Ombudsman's Office **met with the delegation of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in the Conflict, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of North Macedonia, Bujar Osmani**.

Battle for Crimea. Battle for Human Rights



The Office of the Ombudsman organized the online conference «Battle for Crimea. Battle for Human Rights» within the framework of **the Crimean platform together with Stanislav Křeček, the Public Defender of Rights of the Czech Republic, for the Ombudsmen of the World**. Representatives from all continents of the world from more than 60 countries joined the event.

At the event, the Ombudsman of Ukraine analyzed **the challenges and violations of human rights in the territory of the temporarily occupied Crimea**, namely:

- arbitrary detentions and illegal imprisonments of Ukrainian citizens on the peninsula. Currently, 186 people are illegally detained;
- forced passporting and mobilization of Ukrainians, use of the territory of Crimea as a bridgehead for hostilities;
- forcible transfer or deportation of our citizens from Crimea, including children;
- oppression of the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar languages, militarization of the educational process.

Dmytro Lubinets also noted: *«I addressed my colleagues, ombudsmen of different countries, with appeals. Among them is to help Ukraine bring home all deported, illegally displaced Ukrainian children, civilian hostages and prisoners of war, as well as to support the Peace Formula of the President of Ukraine».*

In addition, **at the conference, the Ombudsman of the Republic of Turkiye Şeref Malkoç said that he is ready to come to Ukraine and Russia to see the conditions of keeping prisoners of war.** The Ombudsman of Ukraine, in turn, noted that he fully supports such an initiative!

Protection of the rights of Ukrainians in Israel and the Gaza Strip

In connection with the events in Israel and the Gaza Strip, the Ombudsman of Ukraine arrived on October 14 in Cairo (Egypt) in order to help with the adjustment of the mechanism of evacuation of Ukrainian citizens from the Gaza Strip.

Due to the attack of Hamas terrorists on Israel, civilians of Ukraine remain blocked in the Gaza Strip. However, as of October 27, there was still no evacuation. The Rafah border crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip is blocked.

Ukrainian diplomats continue to work around the clock to ensure the safety of Ukrainian citizens.

The chief rabbi of Ukraine, Moshe Asman, showed on social networks a photo of his grandchildren, who were hiding in Ukraine last year from the shelling of the Russian army, and now they are already in Israel trying to protect themselves from Hamas missiles.



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Unanimously – yes! The Office of the Ombudsman became a member of EQUINET

Members of the European Network of Equality Bodies (EQUINET) unanimously, with 42 votes, supported the membership of the institution of the Commissioner in the organization! Earlier, in September, EQUINET representatives visited the Ombudsman's Office and familiarized themselves with the institution's activities.



Joining EQUINET and deepening cooperation with other European equality bodies will strengthen the institutional capacity of the Commissioner.

With the acquisition of the status of a candidate state for EU membership, Ukraine's desire to meet international standards of equality and non-discrimination has gained new significance. Membership in this organization will provide an opportunity to share experience and adopt best practices in the field of preventing and combating discrimination, ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, vulnerable population groups in accordance with international standards.

The state must protect those who have suffered from domestic violence!

The Ombudsman of Ukraine took part in a joint meeting of law enforcement and other state bodies under the chairmanship of the Prosecutor General regarding the state of combating domestic violence, protecting the rights and interests of victims of such offenses.

Dmytro Lubinets spoke about the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman in this area. He emphasized that upholding the rights of victims of domestic violence is one of the key areas of his activity, especially in the context of **Ukraine's ratification of the Istanbul Convention.**



The Ombudsman noted that:

- since 2023, the Ombudsman's Office has received 125 appeals from victims of domestic violence. For the same period in 2022 – 103 such appeals;
- employees of the Ombudsman's Office made 16 monitoring visits regarding domestic violence;
- the Ombudsman's Office received 157 appeals regarding the arbitrary change of the child's place of residence by one of the parents;
- employees of the Ombudsman's Office monitor the mass media and social networks regarding the observance of the rights of victims of domestic violence.

In addition, Dmytro Lubinets drew attention to **the geography of kidnapping:**

41 appeals – displacement of children within the territory of Ukraine,

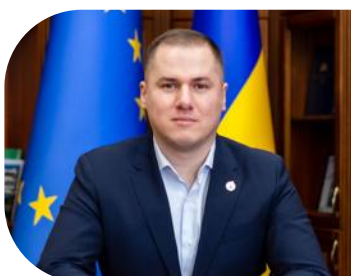
4 – removal of children to temporarily occupied territories, to the Russian Federation and Belarus,

122 – moving children abroad.

It is the duty of the state to guarantee comprehensive assistance and protection to all victims of domestic violence, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

Also, at the end of the meeting, Dmytro Lubinets initiated a separate joint meeting on the issues of the law enforcement bloc, which are constantly discussed at meetings with relatives of prisoners of war, with the participation of the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and law enforcement agencies: the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Police, the SBU, the Security Service, the State Border Service.

Let's consolidate our efforts so that the citizens of Ukraine feel protected!



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What is life like in a correctional facility?

NPM visits

Representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman and the public visited **the Boryspil correctional colony № 119 in the Kyiv region**. Monitors of the Commissioner's institution constantly make regular visits to all places of detention. The previous visit to this institution was in 2021. Many significant shortcomings were discovered then. However, there are positive changes at the moment.



There are about 680 convicts in the colony, this number has increased significantly over the past year. Among them are citizens of other countries. Convicts of serious and especially serious crimes are held here.

On the territory of the colony there are places necessary to ensure human rights – **a medical center, hygiene rooms, a dining room and a kitchen, work facilities, a library, a sports hall, places for prayer**. The library has a variety of literature: fiction, nonfiction and law – in Ukrainian, Russian and English. Convicts also work in various workshops – in the manufacture of boards and boxes, they are engaged in sewing.

Among the violations of human rights, the first and one of the most significant is the over-limitation of the institution and the lack of living space. Because certain premises are unfit for living, and others are overcrowded. They also lack lighting, and some of them are in need of major repairs.

Representatives of the Ombudsman's Office had **confidential conversations** with the prisoners, and they did not receive any complaints about violations of the conditions of detention. Repair works are also being carried out in the colony. As for shortcomings and violations, their solution **requires funding and improvement of the legislative framework**. The Office of the Ombudsman has repeatedly sent the submission to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine.

Participation in the Warsaw OSCE Human Dimension Conference

The delegation of the Office of the Ombudsman, led by the Representative of the Commissioner for Human Rights in Places of Detention Vitaliy Nikulin, took part in **the OSCE Warsaw Conference on the Human Dimension, organized by the North Macedonian Chairmanship of the OSCE with the support of the OSCE Bureau of Democratic Institutions**.

Vitaliy Nikulin spoke at the plenary session «Rule of Law II. Prevention and eradication of torture; Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism; Abolition of capital punishment».

The representative of the Commissioner familiarized the participants with the achievements and results of the work of the national preventive mechanism in Ukraine and the challenges facing our country during the war.



Within the framework of the implementation of the NPM, 558 visits to places of detention were made, 124 submissions were made to eliminate the detected violations and, as a result, 55 officials were prosecuted and 23 criminal proceedings were opened.

As the Representative of the Commissioner noted, at the same time, a constant search and implementation of innovative approaches to increase the effectiveness of NPM is carried out. For example, a pilot project of independent repeated visits to places of deprivation of liberty by representatives of public organizations is being implemented, monitoring of the implementation of the Ombudsman's recommendations is carried out not only through repeated visits, but also with the help of zoom conferences.



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The right to information is the basis of democracy!

One of the public organizations sent 70 requests to the Boryspil City Council and did not receive a response. All of them related to obtaining information on one page of the land improvement project intended for the implementation of honorable burials. In response to requests, the city council informed about the need to provide a document confirming the status of a journalist.

According to the results of the response measures taken by the Secretariat of the Commissioner, 70 requests of the public organization were re-examined by the Boryspil City Council and the requested information was provided.

Participation in a high-level conference held in Latvia

Head of the Commissioner's Secretariat Roman Romaniuk and Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights Yuliia Derkachenko took part in the high-level conference «**The Pen is Mightier than the Sword? A Response to Modern challenges of freedom of speech and safety of journalists**», which took place in Riga, Republic of Latvia.

The conference is organized by the Council of Europe and the Latvian Presidency in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and precedes the five-year Council of Europe Campaign for the Safety of Journalists. The campaign is designed to ensure an independent, pluralistic media environment, promote the safety of journalists, draw the attention of the European community to the problem of protecting journalism and information, support relevant campaigns at the national level, and encourage states to create national plans and mechanisms for the safety of journalists.



During the discussion on the topic «Legal restrictions on freedom of speech during conflict and war», Yuliia Derkachenko informed the audience about the cases of deaths of journalists and the number of criminal offenses committed by the Russian Federation against journalists working in Ukraine.

The representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights emphasized the importance of protecting freedom of speech and the rights of journalists during the war in order to objectively cover the events taking place in the country.

In addition, the Ukrainian delegation informed those present about the number of appeals by journalists to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner and the efforts of the Commissioner's Secretariat to protect the right to freedom of speech and personal data of journalists who appeal to him.



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Representative of the Commissioner for Information Rights

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The right to access to justice has been restored

A citizen appealed to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights with a question regarding the violation of the right to access to justice, as a result of the Kyiv District Administrative Court's long-term non-fulfillment of the decision of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal, which demanded from the Kyiv Regional Administrative Court the case materials for the citizen's administrative claim to the Main Directorate of the Pension Fund of Ukraine in Kyiv on the recognition of illegal actions and the obligation to perform certain actions.

Having studied the content of the citizen's appeal in detail, the Commissioner, taking into account the limits of authority and being concerned with the acute problem of violation of the citizens' right to access to justice, sent the relevant letters to the Kyiv Regional Administrative Court and the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal.

As a result of the measures taken by the Commissioner, the Kyiv Regional Administrative Court provided information on the execution of the decision of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal, in particular, the transfer of case materials was carried out based on a citizen's claim to the Main Department of the Pension Fund of Ukraine in Kyiv regarding the recognition of illegal actions and the obligation to commit certain actions to the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal.

According to the results of the inspection carried out by the Commissioner, the citizen's right to access to justice was renewed, since the long-term failure to comply with the decision of the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal prevented the legality of the actions of the Main Directorate of the Pension Fund of Ukraine in Kyiv from being resolved in a court of law and the need for the specified body to take certain actions.

The Commissioner initiated an inspection for the purpose of assigning a disability category to the inmate

The inmate appealed to the Ombudsman of Ukraine regarding the violation of his right to health care, namely, the delay by the employees of the municipal medical department of passing the observation procedure for the continuation of the disability category.

In course of the verification of the information provided by the applicant, it was established that, during the stay in the pre-trial detention facility, the applicant repeatedly sought medical help from the medical department, was examined clinically, laboratorilly and instrumentally, yet there was no information regarding disability category conferred upon him.

At the same time, upon conducting the necessary clinical, laboratory and instrumental examinations for the applicant, as well as upon the collection of relevant documents by a medical specialist of the medical department of the pre-trial detention facility on October 11, 2023, **a cover letter was drawn up and the relevant materials were transmitted to the regional center for medical and social expertise for further resolution of the issue regarding the establishment of the inmate's disability category.**



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Human Rights in Ukraine

since the Beginning of Russia's Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

2,598

people released from Russian captivity

including



144

civilians

≈

28,000

persons missing under special circumstances and illegally deprived of personal liberty as a result of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine

*According to the information of the state bodies involved in this issue

9,991

killed civilians

17,962

injured civilians

510

dead children

1,141

injured children

2,003

missing children

19,546

children forcibly taken to Russia

1.4 million

people without access to water due to the destruction of infrastructure

4.6 million

people with limited access to water

4.9 million

people now identified as IDPs

8.2 million

people receiving temporary shelter in other countries

≈ **700 thousand**

people in Ukraine were left without drinking water due to the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station

3,793

destroyed educational institutions

1,031

destroyed kindergartens

1,661

destroyed healthcare facilities

including



384

hospitals

352

ambulatories

494

destroyed religious buildings

1,322

destroyed objects of culture

≈ **167,200**

destroyed houses

126

destroyed railway stations

346

destroyed bridges and bridge crossings

576

destroyed boiler houses

426

destroyed factories and businesses

* As of October 30, 2023

«Ombudsman of Ukraine» chatbot



This is an opportunity to get answers to important questions quickly and conveniently. It contains important information divided into 17 categories.

In particular, servicemen, internally displaced persons, and families with children can receive answers about their rights here. There is also a category for people who are in the temporarily occupied territory or were forcibly deported.

The chatbot is available at [@ukraine_ombudsman_bot](https://t.me/ukraine_ombudsman_bot)



Омбудсман України
Ombudsman of Ukraine

The Russian Federation and all the war criminals it sent to Ukraine will bear the most serious responsibility for the evil they committed.

Ukraine meticulously documents every crime and every brutality. All those who are guilty will undoubtedly be held accountable.

We will never forget or forgive. And so is the world.

#StandWithUkraine



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