



## #InFocus

### INVOLVEMENT IN AGGRESSION: RUSSIA'S TOP MILITARY-POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

The [Speaker of the Russian State Duma](#) and [64 members](#) of its lower chamber were convicted of encroaching on Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty (Part 3 of Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). They were sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment with property confiscation.

The court established that on February 22, 2022, these individuals participated in the Russian parliament's vote to approve so-called "agreements on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance" with the pseudo-republics of the "Donetsk People's Republic" and "Luhansk People's Republic". This decision served as a formal pretext for the full-scale aggression against Ukraine.

[Four metropolitan bishops](#), members of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church, were notified of suspicion. Investigators report that between 2022 and 2023, they facilitated the seizure of property belonging to Ukrainian churches in occupied Crimea and the Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Kherson regions.

Alongside appropriating church structures and lands, they appointed bishops who propagated Russian narratives, endorsed the war against Ukraine, and justified the crimes of the occupiers (Part 3 of Article 110 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [Russian Lieutenant General](#), head of the Radiation, Chemical, and Biological Defense Forces of the Armed Forces, was charged with using chemical weapons in combat against Ukraine (Part 1 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine)

The Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, a [Colonel General](#), was charged with war crimes (Part 2 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). According to the investigation, under his command, an Iskander missile struck a hotel in Kramatorsk (the Donetsk region) on August 24, 2024. The attack killed a Reuters journalist, injured five of their colleagues, and wounded five civilians.



# #WarCrimes

as of 01.01.2025

147,051

war crimes registered

in November, 2024

+2,180

200,307

civil infrastructure objects destroyed or damaged

+3,563

13,820

civilians killed

+144

among them

596

children

+3

## MISSILE, DRONE, AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS DESTROYING HOMES AND KILLING CIVILIANS

On December 1, Russian forces dropped explosives from a drone on a minibus in [Kherson](#), killing three passengers and injuring eight others.

On December 2, a Russian drone hit a five-story residential building in [Ternopil](#), resulting in one death and injuries to three civilians.

On December 3, residential buildings in [Pokrovsk](#) (the Donetsk region) were shelled, killing a woman and injuring two others, including a three-month-old infant. Artillery shelling in Kostiantynivka on the same day claimed one life and injured three more residents.

Zaporizhzhia faced relentless targeting by Russian forces, with the most devastating attacks occurring on [December 6](#) and [10](#). These included airstrikes and missile attacks on residential buildings, shops, cafes, a private clinic, and an auto repair center. The death toll reached 21, with 46 injured, including children aged 4 to 11 and a five-month-old girl.

On December 6, a missile attack on [Kryvyi Rih](#) killed two people and injured 17, damaging homes and an administrative facility.

On December 11, an airstrike destroyed a private home in [Bilovody](#) village (the Sumy region), near the Russian border, killing a married couple.

On December 20, [Kyiv](#) came under attack, resulting in one death and 13 injuries. Residential buildings, office spaces, and a historic Catholic church in four districts sustained damage.

On December 20, Russian artillery heavily shelled [Kherson](#), killing two elderly individuals and injuring nine civilians, while damaging homes and power lines.

On December 25, Russian forces launched a missile strike on [Kryvyi Rih](#), killing one person and injuring 17. A residential building was partially destroyed, with additional damage to shops and other civilian structures.



\* Under p.1 of Article 62 of the Constitution of Ukraine, a person is presumed innocent of committing a crime and shall not be subjected to criminal punishment until their guilt is proven in accordance with the law and established by a court verdict of guilty.

# #WarCrimes

Investigation  
results

747 +15  
suspects

537 +12  
indicted

139 +1  
convicted

## HOLDING WAR CRIMINALS ACCOUNTABLE IN UKRAINIAN COURTS

The so-called "head of a regional branch of the Voluntary Society for Assistance to the Army, Aviation, and Navy of Russia," was charged with violations of the laws and customs of war. Since 2017, he has engaged in [propagating](#) military service among children and adolescents in occupied Crimea.

An officer of the Russian army was identified for ordering the shooting of unarmed civilians attempting to leave [Bucha](#) by car during the occupation.

A member of the "Akhmat" special forces unit was identified and suspected of torturing a female village elder in the Luhansk region and unlawfully detaining her husband. In April 2022, members of "Akhmat" raided their home and abducted both. The woman was tortured with electric shocks, beaten with a metal pipe, and pressured to reveal the identities of pro-Ukrainian residents in the village.

[Two occupiers](#) have been identified who, in the summer of 2022 in Iziium, abducted the mother of an active Ukrainian law enforcement officer. She was taken to a torture chamber, where she was subjected to abuse, rape, and electric shocks over several days. The perpetrators threatened to send photos of her suffering to her son. During her illegal imprisonment, due to severe psychological trauma, the woman attempted suicide.

An investigation has been launched into the suicide of a [Ukrainian teenager](#) who was illegally transferred to Russia. The boy had been a foster child in a family-type orphanage in the village of Tokarivka, the Kherson region.

Another occupier has been identified, suspected of murdering [Ukrainian writer](#) Volodymyr Vakulenko and three other individuals in the Kharkiv region in March 2022. According to the investigation, the deputy commander of one of the "Luhansk People's Republic," companies, along with two previously identified Russian soldiers, participated in the abduction of the writer from his home, his torture, and subsequent murder.

A staff member of the regional office of the Federal Security Service of Russia (FSB) in the Tyumen region has been charged with [torturing civilians](#) in the occupied city of Kherson. According to the investigation, the suspect personally interrogated at least five peaceful individuals, coercing them to confess to collaborating with the Ukrainian Defense Forces. During these interrogations, civilians were subjected to electric shocks, beaten, stripped, and held under inhumane conditions, deprived of access to food and water.



A Russian Army platoon commander was [sentenced](#) to 12 years in prison. At the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he ordered the looting of a farming enterprise in the Chernihiv region. Russian soldiers dismantled several vehicles, stole part of the property, and burned the rest, causing damages worth UAH 2.8 million.

Another Russian soldier involved in property looting was also [sentenced](#) to 12 years in prison. In March 2022, he participated in an attack on a business, where the occupiers stole computer equipment, tools, furniture, and other assets, destroying the remaining property.

All of the above crimes are classified as violations of the laws and customs of war (Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

# #AntiCorruption

## ERADICATING CORRUPTION IN STATE INSTITUTIONS



A former deputy of the [High Commercial Court of Ukraine](#) has been detained on suspicion of bribery. According to the investigation, the former judge was part of a group of judges, lawyers, and their relatives led by the former head of the High Commercial Court of Ukraine, who is currently wanted. Members of this group ensured favorable court decisions in exchange for bribes (Part 2 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of the regional Medical and Social Expert Commissions (MSEC) in Mariupol, currently operating in Khmelnytskyi, has been charged with [extorting money](#) from internally displaced persons in exchange for granting disability status (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A lawyer from the Odesa region has been charged with large-scale fraud. He allegedly promised to arrange the lease of a coastal plot in a Kyiv park for [\\$1 million](#), leveraging connections in the Kyiv City Council. The lawyer was arrested after receiving \$900,000 (Part 5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the Lviv region, a regional council deputy and a deputy mayor have been detained on suspicion of [tender-related](#) fraud. Investigators report that they promised the head of an enterprise assistance in signing tender contracts and ensuring timely payment in exchange for a "kickback,"—a percentage of the contract value. Both were detained after the second installment of the bribe was handed over (Part 5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

As part of a criminal investigation into the unlawful acquisition of disability statuses by officials, [two prosecutors](#) have been charged. According to the investigation, the head and deputy head of regional prosecutor's offices unjustifiably obtained disability statuses and received related financial payments (Part 4-5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). Two MSEC officials who facilitated the fraudulent disability certifications for the prosecutors have also been charged (Part 1 of Article 166 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the same investigation, a [director](#) of one of the departments of the Kyiv City Council's executive body was charged with unlawfully obtaining a disability status (Part 3 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the Volyn region, a [village head](#) has been charged with illegal enrichment. Authorities discovered assets registered to the official's wife, daughter, granddaughter, son-in-law, and sister-in-law that exceed his declared income by UAH 38 million (Article 368-5 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Prosecutors successfully defended in the Supreme Court the conviction of a former deputy head of the Territorial Department of the [State Judicial Administration](#) of Ukraine in the Poltava region. The official was sentenced to six years in prison with confiscation of property for accepting UAH 248,000 in bribes (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #AntiCorruption

### NABU AND SAPO REPORT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST LARGE-SCALE CORRUPTION



With the support of Austrian and French law enforcement agencies, premium-class vehicles and real estate worth over €6.5 million have been [seized](#). According to the investigation, these assets belong to members of a criminal organization led by a former head of the State Property Fund of Ukraine. The group inflicted damages exceeding UAH 700 million on the state and laundered assets worth over UAH 10 billion.

The current and former heads of the [Commercial Court](#) of the Lviv region were exposed for soliciting a \$1 million bribe from a representative of a private company. In exchange, the judges promised favorable court rulings. The transfer of a \$75,000 "advance payment" was documented (Part 3 of Article 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The investigation into the former head of the [Antimonopoly Committee](#) of Ukraine has been completed. The individual is accused of illegal enrichment exceeding UAH 72 million and submitting false asset declarations. The investigation revealed that between 2020 and 2023, the official acquired an apartment, land plots, a house, a car, and commercial property, registering them under the names of his wife's relatives (Article 368-5 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The investigation into corruption within the [tax administration](#) of the Kharkiv region has been completed. According to the investigation, a tax officer incited an entrepreneur to pay \$55,000 to resolve an issue with the then-head of the tax administration.

Eleven members of a criminal organization accused of causing UAH 689 million in damages to the [Odesa](#) community will stand trial. Among the accused are the incumbent mayor, several city council officials, a company director, and others. The investigation established that between 2016 and 2019, these individuals unlawfully appropriated nearly 16 hectares of land for subsequent commercial development.

The High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine has issued a verdict in the case of the illegal [appropriation of over 13 hectares](#) of highly valuable land belonging to the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine. Nine individuals involved in the scheme, including officials from the Academy, the State Land Agency, and the Security Service of Ukraine, were sentenced to 7-8 years of imprisonment.

The [head](#) of the Druzhkivka City Court (the Donetsk region) and a former prosecutor of the Kramatorsk Local Prosecutor's Office were sentenced to 7.5 and 4.5 years in prison, respectively, for being implicated in bribery.

The Supreme Court of Ukraine upheld the [conviction](#) of a Moldovan citizen who attempted to bribe a military prosecutor. In 2016, the individual offered a \$75,000 bribe to the Military Prosecutor of the Southern Region to lift the arrest on a ship and its cargo. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison.



## #FightingOrganizedCrime



The Head of the Commission for the Regulation of Gambling and Lotteries ([CRGL](#)) has been detained on suspicion of collaboration with a Russian online casino and the illegal possession of large quantities of narcotic substances (Part 1 of Article 111-2, Part 2 of Article 309 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Previously, three beneficial owners (Russian citizens), along with the director and the trademark owner (Ukrainian citizens), were [charged](#) with aiding the aggressor state (Part 1 of Article 111-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). Casino accounts holding UAH 2.6 billion were seized and transferred to the Asset Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA).

In Odesa, the illegal operation of a [network](#) of underground gambling establishments was halted, and equipment worth over UAH 54 million was confiscated (Part 2 of Article 203-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In Dnipro, a large-scale scheme for the distribution of counterfeit [tobacco products](#) worth over UAH 7 million was uncovered (Part 1 of Article 204 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

## #CombatingDrugTrafficking



Ten Kyiv residents have been charged with organizing the supply, storage, and distribution of drugs and psychotropics in the [capital of Ukraine](#) (Part 2-3 of Article 307, Part 2 of Article 309 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An international [smuggling channel](#) for trafficking psychotropic substances from the United States to Ukraine via postal shipments has been uncovered. Nearly 100 such packages have been documented (Part 2 of Article 309 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A foreign national has been sentenced to [9 years in prison](#) after 200 kilograms of heroin were discovered during a search. The court established that he was a member of an organized group planning to transport drugs from Asian countries to the EU (Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

## #FightingCyberCrime

In Kyiv and seven other regions of Ukraine, [50 searches](#) were conducted, and 25 individuals were charged. According to the investigation, they ran fraudulent call centers that defrauded citizens of over UAH 5 million (Article 190, Article 361 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Law enforcement exposed an organized group that defrauded individuals through a [phishing website](#) disguised as a state assistance platform (Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The organizer and two members of a [fraudulent call center](#) based in the temporarily occupied territory of the Donetsk region will stand trial. Posing as bank employees, they fraudulently obtained at least UAH 3 million from the accounts of 24 victims (Part 4-5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #ProtectingNature

In [Prykarpattia](#), prosecutors successfully returned 32 plots of highly valuable land, totaling 1.137 hectares, to state ownership.

In [the Zakarpattia region](#), 36.5 hectares of protected land within the Synevyr National Nature Park were returned to state ownership.

Two inspectors from the [State Agency](#) for the Development of Land Reclamation, Fisheries and Food Programs in the Sumy region have been charged with organizing illegal large-scale industrial fishing (Part 1 of Article 249, Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #Reform&Cooperation

The Prosecutor General's Office hosted a meeting of the [International Advisory Board](#) to review collaborative efforts to protect children's rights and approve joint projects for 2025.

Child-friendly justice was a key topic at an [interagency coordination council](#) meeting involving government officials, law enforcement officers, judges, and Ukrainian and international experts. Discussions focused on implementing judicial specialization in family and child-related cases.

Representatives from the Victim and Witness Coordination Center and prosecutors participated in a [study visit](#) to the United States to adopt leading practices from American services supporting victims in criminal proceedings.

Deputy Prosecutor General Viktoriia Litvinova attended the [23rd session](#) of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court and related side events. She highlighted issues such as the repatriation of deported Ukrainian children and the horrors endured by prisoners of war and civilians in Russian captivity.

Acting Prosecutor General Oleksii Khomenko met with Council of Europe Secretary General [Alain Berset](#), expressing gratitude for supporting Ukraine's pursuit of justice for victims of international crimes and assistance in strengthening the criminal justice system.

Law enforcement officials from [Ukraine and Moldova](#), during a meeting of the regional working group, agreed to continue cooperation in combating human trafficking.

