



MONTHLY DIGEST

#InFocus



ICC ISSUED AN ARREST WARRANT FOR TWO RUSSIAN GENERALS

On March 5, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court [issued arrest warrants](#) against Sergei Kobylash, a Lieutenant General in the Russian Armed Forces, who at the relevant time was the Commander of the Long-Range Aviation of the Aerospace Force, and Viktor Sokolov, an Admiral in the Russian Navy, who at the relevant time was the Commander of the Black Sea Fleet.

They were allegedly involved in targeted attacks on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, specifically energy facilities, from October 2022–March 2023.

During this period, 220 attacks were conducted on 93 facilities, according to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine.



ICC ARREST WARRANTS AGAINST A RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND AN ADMIRAL IN THE RUSSIAN NAVY

This is a historic step, as we are proving once again that the world is united in delivering timely justice for the sake of all victims and survivors of this war. Regardless of when and how the suspects appear before the court, we are preparing the cases to be ready to prosecute them. I'm grateful to all our partners, prosecutors, and investigators, who contributed to this result and continue to contribute to our joint efforts in the pursuit of justice.

– [Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine](#)

INTENSIFYING LEGAL COOPERATION ON THE PATH TO EU MEMBERSHIP

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin took part in the [meeting](#) of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of the European Union held on 5 March in Brussels with the participation of European Commissioner Didier Reynders and justice ministers of European countries.

Andriy Kostin highlighted the progress made by Ukraine in strengthening human rights protection, which is a key element in ensuring extradition from European countries.

This includes the reconstruction of prisons, the introduction of legislative and regulatory changes to prevent torture, monitoring

the observance of prisoners' rights in cooperation with international partners and civil society organizations, and adapting the system to wartime conditions.

"Ukraine is committed to ensuring compliance with the highest European standards necessary for collaboration in mutual legal assistance and extradition. Our goal is to bring all perpetrators to justice, wherever they may be", – Prosecutor General said.

Andriy Kostin also provided information on efforts to [harmonize](#) Ukraine's criminal procedure legislation with EU standards. The implementation of the Overarching Strategic Plan for Law Enforcement Reform, developed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and international partners, is expected to facilitate this.



#WarCrimes

as of 03.31.2024

125,132

war crimes registered

in March, 2024

+2,246

155,904

civil infrastructure objects
destroyed or damaged**+5,217**

12,087

civilians killed

+142

among them

537

children

+8

CONSTANT SHELLING AND TWO MASSIVE ATTACKS ALL OVER UKRAINE



Major cities and the capital, as well as villages, are under attack

On March 2, as a result of a drone attack in [Odessa](#), a part of an apartment building was destroyed. 12 people killed, including 5 children. 8 civilians were injured, including a 3-year-old child.

On March 6, the occupiers attacked a residential area in the village of [Borova](#) (the Kharkiv region) with an Iskander-M missile. A 70-year-old man was killed in his yard, and seven people were injured.

On March 12, [Kryvyi Rih](#) was targeted by a missile attack. Three people were killed and 33 injured, including children.

On March 13, a Russian drone destroys part of a residential building in [Sumy](#). The bodies of two people were removed from the rubble, and 8 people were injured.

On March 21, the Russian army attacked [Kyiv](#) with 31 missiles, destroying several districts. 13 people were injured.

March 22, massive attack. Infrastructure and residential buildings were damaged in Dnipro and the [Dnipro region](#). In the [Odessa region](#), drones damaged energy facilities. About 20 missile strikes were made on [Zaporizhzhia](#), damaging the Dnipro hydroelectric power station and other infrastructure and housing. Three people were killed, including an 8-year-old girl. 29 people were injured.

In [Kharkiv](#) and the Kharkiv region, 18 Russian missiles caused fires at energy infrastructure facilities and prolonged blackouts in a number of settlements. In [Khmelnyskiy](#) and the Khmelnyskiy region, private home and energy facilities were damaged. Two people were killed and six injured.

On 27 March, the armed forces of the Russian Federation shelled residential areas of [Kharkiv](#) using a new type of bombs. Residential buildings, medical facilities, a school, and a kindergarten were damaged. One person was killed and 19 were injured.

March 29, another massive attack. Private property was damaged in the [Dnipropetrovsk region](#), and five civilians were injured. A drone strike on the [Myrivska Rural Community](#) killed a local resident and wounded another one.

In the [Lviv region](#), enemy drones attacked energy infrastructure. Energy facilities were also damaged in the [Ivano-Frankivsk](#) region as a result of rocket attacks. In the [Cherkasy](#) and [Chernivtsi](#) regions, critical infrastructure was targeted.

In all these incidents, a pre-trial investigation is being conducted into the violations of laws and customs of war, as stipulated by Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

#WarCrimes

Investigation results

551 +28
suspects

371 +18
indictments submitted to court

104 +24
convicted

PROSECUTING WAR CRIMINALS IN UKRAINIAN COURTS

A member of the Russian state Duma and spouse of the leader of the 'Fair Russia' party were notified of suspicion of the forced displacement of [Ukrainian children](#).

The Vice Admiral of the Russian Navy and Deputy Commander of the Long-Range Aviation of the Aerospace Forces were notified of suspicion of organizing [massive shelling](#) of Ukraine's energy infrastructure from October 2002 to February 2023.

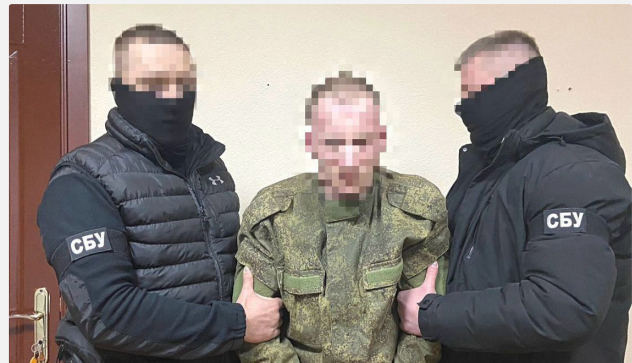
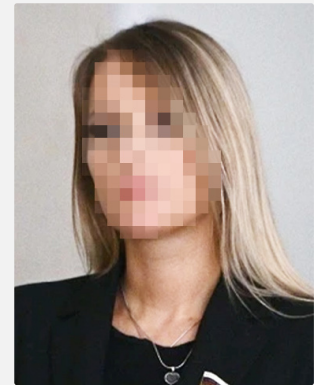
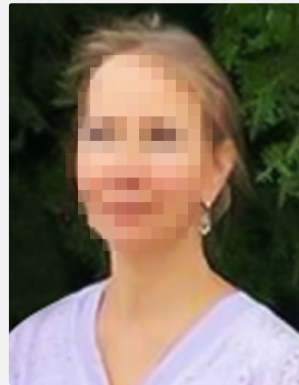
The commander of the Eastern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces and the commander of the 11th Army of the Air Force and Air Defense were notified of suspicion of ordering [air strikes](#) on residential areas of Borodianka (Bucha district, the Kyiv region), which resulted in the deaths of more than 30 civilians.


A soldier of the Russian army's Storm-V assault unit is suspected of [shooting](#) a Ukrainian prisoner of war on 6 January 2024 near the village of Priiutne (the Zaporizhzhia region).

A Russian army colonel, commander of the 99th self-propelled artillery regiment, and his subordinate will stand trial for [raping](#) a young woman during the occupation of the Kharkiv region.

The commander of a reconnaissance platoon of the 76th Air Assault Division and two subordinates will stand trial for the torture and [murder](#) of a civilian in the Kyiv region.

Fifteen Russian servicemen were convicted to 12 years in prison. They held 368 people hostage as [human shields](#) during the occupation of the village of Yahidne, in the Chernihiv region. Ten of them died as a result of inhumane conditions and lack of medical care.





VERDICT

15 RUSSIAN SERVICEMEN CONVICTED FOR ILL-TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS IN YAHIDNE VILLAGE

A tank platoon commander and his subordinate were convicted to life imprisonment for [shooting](#) at two civilian vehicles in the Chernihiv region. As a result of their actions, four civilians were killed: two of them were on their way to the hospital, while the rest were delivering bread to the occupied area residents.

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

* 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.

#AntiCorruption

COMBATING CORRUPTION IS OUR PRIORITY



In Kropyvnytskyi, an academic regional theater director was exposed for selling a position in the [theatre](#) collective for \$3,500 (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the Lviv region, a group of officials and entrepreneurs were exposed for embezzling UAH 33 million on the [renovation](#) of a military camp (Part 1 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A former director of the [laboratory](#) of the State Service of Ukraine on Food Safety and Consumer Protection was notified of suspicion of illicit enrichment. According to the investigation, she received UAH 3.5 million in bribes to avoid inspections (Part 3-4 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former head of the Central Food Supply Department of the Logistics Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was arrested. Investigators found [assets](#) worth UAH 58 million, including 55 land plots, a car, an apartment, etc., that were not confirmed by income (Part 5 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A deputy of the village council of the Lviv region and head of forestry is suspected of misappropriating a plot of [forest](#) and property worth over UAH 3 million (Part 4 of Article 358, Part 1 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An employee of the Deposit Guarantee Fund and an appraiser will be tried for [selling](#) the Khreshchatyk bank building at an undervalued price of UAH 161 million (Part 3 of Article 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A village council official was arrested for bribery in the Zakarpattia region. For \$3,000, he "solved issues" with allocating [land plots](#) for business (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former director of a Ministry of Defence enterprise and his accomplice were notified of suspicion of [extortion](#) of \$600,000 for the transfer of a land plot of the Ministry for construction (Part 4 of Article 368, Part 3 of Article 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#AntiCorruption

THE NABU AND SAPO REPORTING ON THE FIGHT AGAINST LARGE-SCALE CORRUPTION



A former [Energoatom](#) official will stand trial for abuse of authority. The investigation established that he facilitated the victory of one of the largest electricity traders at an auction, which resulted in the state losing UAH 93.76 million (Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

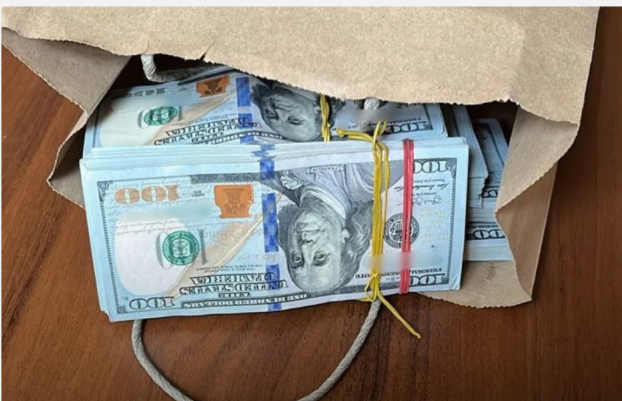
The former head of the [Supreme Court](#), who was caught taking a bribe, will stand trial. According to the investigation, the judge received \$1.8 million for ruling in favor of a Ukrainian businessman on the ownership of a mining and metallurgical plant (Part 4 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The owner and former chairman of the supervisory board of [VAB Bank](#) are to be tried. They are accused of misappropriating UAH 1.2 billion of a stabilization loan, laundering part of these funds, and inciting the National Bank's management to abuse their authority (Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A judge of the [Kropyvnytskyi Court of Appeal](#) will be tried. According to the investigation, he offered to commute the sentence of the perpetrator of a fatal road accident for \$10,500 (Article 368, paragraph 3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Two deputies of the [Sumy Regional Council](#) were caught transferring a bribe. According to the investigation, they offered \$100,000 to the head of the Sumy City Military Administration for fraud in the allocation of budget funds and the appointment of one of the deputies to the position of chief doctor (Part 4 of Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The [joint work](#) of the NABU and SAPO detectives and the National Bureau of Investigation of the Republic of Finland, resulted in the arrest of three people on suspicion of laundering funds of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. According to the investigation, it involved EUR 5.7 million for the purchase of personal protective equipment.



#FightingOrganizedCrime

In the Dnipropetrovsk region, [11 members](#) of a criminal organization who defrauded Latvian citizens of EUR 70,000 by obtaining confidential bank account data will stand trial (Part 1-2 of Article 255, Part 1 of Article 263 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The organizer and six members of the criminal group were notified of suspicion of creating a powerful channel for the supply of [counterfeit tobacco](#) from Pakistan and its sale in Ukraine with a monthly income of almost USD 200,000 (Part 1 of Article 204, Part 3 of Article 209 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [criminal group](#) that stole 350 solar panels worth UAH 1.2 million from the territory of power plants located in the war zone in the Zaporizhzhia region was exposed (Part 5 Article 185 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The members of a criminal group specializing in [arson attacks](#) on property were notified of suspicion (Part 2 Article 194 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

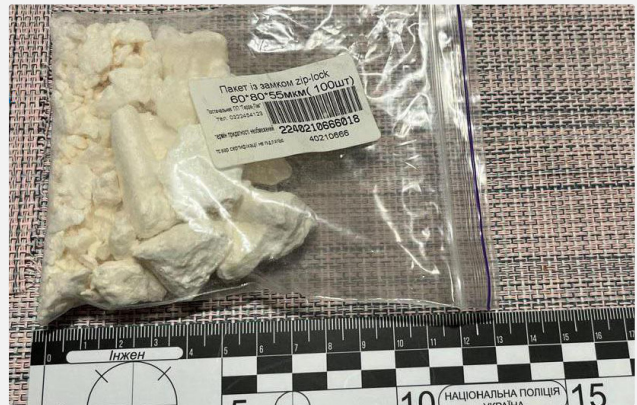


#CombattingDrugTrafficking

A group of [7 drug traffickers](#) who allegedly organized a methadone supply channel from Ukraine to the EU countries were arrested (Part 3 Article 305 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The organizer of the [drug channel](#) and his accomplice were arrested. According to the investigation, they imported cocaine from the Netherlands to Ukraine and then sold it in large quantities, earning UAH 12 million in monthly income (Part 3 Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the Volyn region, 7 members of a criminal organization engaged in the sale of [psychotropic drugs](#) through social media were arrested (Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#FightingCybercrime

As part of a joint [special operation](#) of Ukrainian and Latvian law enforcement agencies, with the assistance of Europol and Eurojust, the operation of a call center was terminated. The fraudsters used it to seize funds from EU citizens. (Part 3-4 Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Three members of a criminal group who launched an illegal [online casino](#), generating illicit profits of UAH 1.5 million, will be tried (Part 2 of Article 203 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#ProtectingNature

The deputy head of the Lviv Regional Forestry Department and 7 heads of forestry enterprises in the region were notified of suspicion. They allegedly organized [illegal logging](#) instead of increasing the forest area, causing UAH 64 million in damage (Part 4 of Article 246, Part 3 of Article 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of a state-owned enterprise and three accomplices, private entrepreneurs, were notified of suspicion of felling [100-year-old oaks](#) in the Chernobyl Radiation and Ecological Biosphere Reserve (Part 4 of Article 246 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#Reform&Cooperation



An updated [public reception](#) office has been opened in the Prosecutor General's Office, where citizens can submit inquiries and appeals. The launch of the updated reception was supported by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, International Development Law Organization, and the Partnership Fund for a Resilient Ukraine.

A [meeting](#) of the heads of law enforcement agencies was held to approve the draft Action Plan for the Implementation of the Overarching Strategic Plan for Ukraine's Law Enforcement Reform for 2023-2027.

During a working visit to Washington, Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin [discussed](#) with U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland cooperation in investigating war crimes, strengthening the institutional capacity of law enforcement agencies, and fighting corruption and transnational organized crime.

A unique relief from the times of Kyivan Rus depicting the Holy Warrior was handed over to the National Museum of History of Ukraine, which prosecutors, together with law enforcement officers and museum workers, [rescued](#) from illegal sale and returned to the state.

