



## #InFocus

### THE VERKHOVNA RADA ACCEPTS THE RESIGNATION OF ANDRIY KOSTIN

On October 29, the Ukrainian Parliament accepted the resignation of Andriy Kostin from the position of Prosecutor General.

In his address to the Members of Parliament, Andriy Kostin called his service as Prosecutor General the most significant chapter of his life, filled with professional challenges during the most difficult times for our nation.

He noted that Ukraine is the first country in the world that systematically documents and investigates war crimes while active hostilities are ongoing. 133 war criminals have already received court sentences.

Moreover, Ukraine is pioneering the efforts to investigate and prosecute war crimes against the environment and ecocide, as well as war-related cyberattacks. A specialized unit has been set up to ensure the investigation of war crimes against Ukraine's cultural heritage.

Among the main achievements of the Prosecutor General's Office, Andriy Kostin mentioned the development of a web of comprehensive accountability for Russia's international crimes, consisting of five pillars: effective investigation at the national level, ensuring accountability for the crime of aggression, cooperation with international justice mechanisms, development of bilateral and multilateral international cooperation, and compensation for damages through Russian assets.

The systemic cooperation between the PGO and the International Criminal Court has resulted in 6 arrest warrants against the Russian military and political leadership, including president Putin. The International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA) has been set up in the Hague to ensure the preparation of the case for the future Special Tribunal.



I thank Parliament and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for their trust. I thank our military forces for defending our freedom. I thank all prosecutors, investigators, detectives, special operations units, and our intelligence services, who secure public order, investigate crimes, and restore justice... I would also like to thank all our partners and friends—from the US, UK, EU, international organizations, and beyond—who have supported Ukraine on our path to building a web of accountability for Russia's international crimes.

— Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine

He also highlighted the key steps taken to increase the transparency and efficiency of the prosecution system, including the initiated comprehensive HR reform, the establishment of the Coordination Center for Victims and Witnesses, the introduction of new principles for investigating conflict-related sexual violence, and the development of a Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Law Enforcement Reform and an action plan for its implementation.

Andriy Kostin emphasized the importance of further transforming the criminal justice system to overcome existing problems and adapt to European justice standards.

### PACE SUPPORTS UKRAINIANS HELD CAPTIVE BY RUSSIA

On October 2, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a [resolution](#) on Missing persons, prisoners of war, and civilians in captivity as a result of the war of aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The resolution, which calls for the speedy release and rehabilitation of the detained Ukrainians and the prosecution of Russia, was unanimously supported by all 74 parliamentarians present in the session.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin [thanked](#) PACE for its unwavering support of Ukraine, emphasizing that the ill-treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war and civilians is systemic and encouraged by the Russian leadership.



# #WarCrimes

as of 11.01.2024

**142,572**

war crimes registered

in September, 2024

**+2,625****191,587**civil infrastructure objects  
destroyed or damaged**+3,797****13,489**

civilians killed

**+210**

among them

**585**

children

**+8**

## MASSIVE SHELLING OF CITIES AND VILLAGES DOES NOT CEASE FOR A SINGLE DAY



On October 1, the Russian army shelled the center of [Kherson](#), near a local market and a public transport stop. Six citizens were killed and the same number were wounded.

On October 3, a truck delivering household gas to people in one of the villages close to the state border in [the Chernihiv region](#) was hit by a shell. There was an explosion, and residential buildings caught fire. Three civilians were killed, including a child. Four were injured, including two children.

On October 9, the Russian Armed Forces launched missile attacks on the port infrastructure of [the Odesa region](#). Six people were killed and eight injured in the attack. A civilian cargo ship flying the flag of the Republic of Panama was damaged.

On October 10, Russians attacked the [Odesa district](#) with an Iskander-M ballistic missile. The attack killed four people, including a 16-year-old girl, and injured nine others. The production facilities of a private enterprise and the building where its employees lived were destroyed.

On October 24, the Russian army shelled the village of [Oleksiiievo-Druzhkivka](#) in the Donetsk region. The target was a post office. A postal worker and a local resident were killed. Another one was injured.

On October 26, Russian troops conducted a missile attack on [Dnipro](#). Two women and a 14-year-old girl were killed. 18 local residents were injured, including four children. Residential buildings, cars, and a medical facility were damaged.

On October 28, the Russians attacked [Kharkiv](#). A guided aerial bomb hit the Derzhprom building (the State Industry Building) in the city center, which is an architectural monument of national importance and is under temporary enhanced protection by UNESCO. The regional hospital, apartment buildings, and a restaurant were also damaged. Nine people were injured, including a police officer on duty and two employees of the regional hospital.

On October 30, [Kharkiv](#) suffered another massive attack. An aircraft munition hit a nine-story residential building. A 12-year-old boy with severe injuries was pulled out of the rubble, but it was not possible to save his life. Thirty-five people were injured. Neighboring high-rise buildings and at least 20 cars were damaged.

# #WarCrimes

Investigation  
results

722 <sup>+17</sup>  
suspects

518 <sup>+27</sup>  
indicted

133 <sup>+2</sup>  
convicted

## IDENTIFY AND PROSECUTE WAR CRIMINALS

The number of executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war by the Russian military has increased significantly. This month, criminal proceedings have been initiated over the shooting of 16 Ukrainian defenders in [the Pokrovsk sector](#), the killing of a wounded soldier in [the Bakhmut sector](#), the shooting of two captured members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine near [Selydove](#) and the killing of four captured members of the National Guard of Ukraine near [Selydove](#).

The head of the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic", his advisor, and another pseudo-official were notified of suspicion of [deportation of children](#). According to the investigation, they organized the illegal transfer of at least 31 children from the Donetsk region to Russia.

Major General, commander of the Tula Airborne Division of the Airborne Forces, was notified of suspicion of waging an aggressive war. According to the investigation, he organized and [ensured the invasion](#) and occupation of the territory of the Kyiv region between February 24 and April 2, 2022, on the orders of the General Staff. He directly gave orders to conduct hostilities involving military equipment and other weapons.

The platoon commander of an airborne company who [opened fire](#) on two local residents cooking over a fire during the occupation of Bucha has been identified. One civilian died on the spot, the other was injured but managed to escape.

Another serviceman of the Russian Airborne Forces is suspected of [killing](#) a civilian. According to the investigation, during the occupation of the village of Moshchun (Buchansky district, the Kyiv region), he opened fire on the locals without warning, killing one man and injuring another.

Three servicemen of the 108th Air Assault Regiment, [accused of ill-treatment of civilians](#), will be tried. In March 2022, in the occupied part of the Mykolaiv region, they threatened to kill the village elder and residents, and imitated an execution. One of the local residents was illegally detained, tortured, and eventually killed.

A Russian artilleryman will be tried for [the beating and rape](#) of a woman during the occupation of the Kyiv region in March 2022.

The Russian colonel general, commander of the Western Military District, and four of his subordinates who led the attacks on the National Science Center in Kharkiv, where the "Neutron Source" [nuclear facility](#) and nuclear material storage facility are located, will be tried.



In 2022, the facility was attacked 74 times with various types of weapons, including air bombs, artillery shells, and "Grad", "Uragan", "Smerch", and "Pion" multiple launch rocket systems.

A platoon commander of a tank division of the Russian Armed Forces was [sentenced to 10 years in prison](#). In May 2022, he and other Russian soldiers broke into the home of an entrepreneur in Iziium, demanded that he confess to adjusting fire, severely beat him and robbed the house.

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 PUBLIC SERVICE



[Corruption exposed in the Khmelnytskyi region](#): the head of the Regional Center for Medical and Social Expertise and her son, an official of the regional Pension Fund, are suspected of illicit enrichment. During searches, almost [\\$6 million in cash](#) in various currencies was seized from them (Article 368-5 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A member of [the Khmelnytskyi City Council](#) was exposed for illegal enrichment. During searches at her home and office, more than \$1.5 million in cash in various currencies was seized. These funds are not listed in the annual declaration (Article 368-5 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An official of [the tax service](#) of the Zhytomyr region was arrested. According to the investigation, he extorted \$6 thousand for not obstructing business activities (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of one of Kyiv's [municipal enterprises](#) and the director of the company will be tried for misappropriation of almost UAH 5 million of budget funds allocated for the provision of public utilities (Part 5 of Article 191, Part 1 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former [Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine](#), Head of the Department of Public Procurement and Head of the Department of Material Support will be tried for purchasing low-quality bulletproof vests worth almost UAH 2 billion (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A Range Rover bought for UAH 65,000 was confiscated from the mother of the [Kyiv City Council member](#) – the prosecutor's office proved in court that the member committed a corruption-related offense (Part 1 of Article 172-5 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses).

The High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine [has convicted](#) the former acting head of the Nikopol District Administration and two accomplices for embezzling UAH 4 million in connection with a land valuation scheme. They were sentenced to 7 years in prison with confiscation of property (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #AntiCorruption

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



[The former head of the StateGeoCadastre](#) in the Zhytomyr region is suspected of fraudulently owning 5,000 hectares of land and causing damage to the state in excess of UAH 54 million (Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

[An incumbent Member of Parliament](#) is suspected of illicit enrichment of over UAH 20 million. According to the investigation, in 2021–2022, she acquired assets, including a house in the Odesa region, that exceeded her official income (Article 38–54 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The investigation into a criminal organization headed by the former head of [the State Property Fund of Ukraine](#), whose activities caused losses to the state in excess of UAH 700 million, has been completed. Members of the organization are also suspected of legalizing property worth over UAH 10 billion.

The case involves two corruption episodes—regarding the Odesa Port Plant and the United Mining and Chemical Company.

An investigation into corruption at [the Odesa Port Plant](#) has been completed. According to the investigation, a former MP organized a scheme under which the OPP sold mineral fertilizers to a predetermined company at below-market prices. The damage caused is estimated at over UAH 94 million (Part 2 of Article 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The investigation into corruption at [Ukrzaliznytsia](#) has been completed. It established that the former director of one of Ukrzaliznytsia's enterprises, with the help of five other employees, embezzled UAH 17.1 million through fictitious equipment repairs (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The investigation against the head of [a municipal enterprise](#) in the Poltava region has been completed. According to the investigation, he illegally transferred community real estate to private ownership, causing UAH 12.7 million in damages (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine [has convicted](#) a former executive of PJSC "State food and grain Corporation of Ukraine" and a representative of an international grain trader of organizing a scheme to sell grain at reduced prices in 2014, together with other officials. The losses amounted to more than \$60 million. The penalty is 10 years in prison with confiscation of property (Part 2 of Article 364, Part 4 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A judge of the Dnipropetrovs'k District Court of the Dnipropetrovs'k Region was sentenced to [5 years in prison](#) for receiving a \$2.5 thousand bribe in exchange for making a decision in a civil case in the interests of an individual (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



# Alleged fraud with disability certificates

The Prosecutor General's Office is conducting an internal investigation into possible abuses by prosecutors in obtaining disability groups.

The investigation covers all regions, specialized prosecutor's offices and the central office. The investigation covers both the acquisition of disability status by prosecutors and the receipt of pension payments by court order.

There are 523 prosecutors with disabilities in the prosecution authorities at all levels. This makes up less than 6% of the total number of prosecutors. The share of prosecutors who have the status of a person with disability does not exceed 10% in the majority of regional prosecutors' offices. In particular, in the Prosecutor General's Office, 22 prosecutors have the status of persons with disabilities, which is 2.5% of the total number of prosecutors working in the central office.

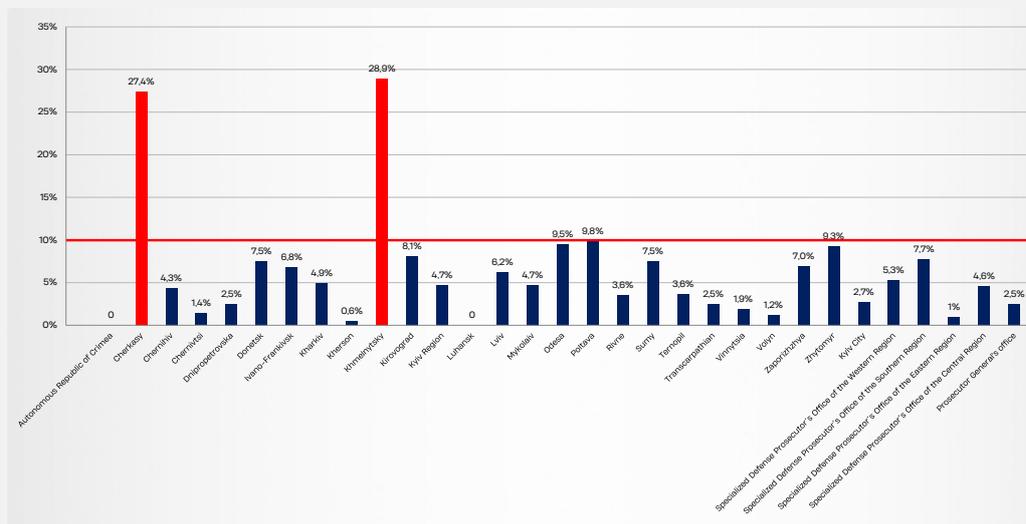
A high number of prosecutors with disabilities was found in two regions—Cherkasy and Khmelnytskyi, where the percentage of prosecutors with disabilities is 27% and 29%, respectively.

The heads of Zaporizhzhia, Rivne, Ternopil, Kharkiv, Cherkasy regional prosecutor's offices and the Specialized Defense Prosecutor's Office of the Southern Region resigned after the pension payments were audited.

The Prosecutor General's Office has set up a commission to select candidates for inclusion in the personnel reserve for filling managerial positions in regional and district prosecutor's offices, which should be conducted on the basis of full transparency.

The Council of Prosecutors supported amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the Prosecutor's Office" aimed at making it impossible for prosecutors to receive pensions simultaneously with their salaries.

SHARE OF PROSECUTORS WHO HAVE THE STATUS OF A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY



# #FightingOrganizedCrime

In the Zakarpattia region, an illegal cigarette production facility that produced about 20 thousand packs per day for sale in Zakarpattia and neighboring regions was shut down. Equipment with a full production cycle and almost 1 million counterfeit excise stamps were seized (Part 3 of Article 204 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Two more clandestine workshops producing more than 60 thousand packs of cigarettes per month were exposed in Kamianske, in the Dnipropetrovs'k region. The products were labeled with well-known brands and distributed in the region and beyond.

The director of a Kyiv clinic, along with two accomplices, will stand trial for allegedly organizing a scheme to recruit women for surrogacy programs aimed at single foreign clients (Article 149, Article 255 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.

## #CombatingDrugTrafficking

During [the special operation](#), a network of drug trafficking groups was dismantled, and an international channel for the supply of precursors from abroad was cut off. 19 drug laboratories operating throughout Ukraine and producing almost a ton of alpha-PVP and amphetamine salts per month were shut down. The total income from their activities amounted to over UAH 4 billion per year. More than 60 members of criminal organizations were detained along with their organizers (Art. 255, parts 1-2, Art. 307, part 3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Law enforcement officers dismantled a nine-member [drug trafficking group](#) that supplied methadone to a penal colony (Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The organizer and five members of [the criminal organization](#), which manufactured and sold psychotropic drugs in particularly large amounts in the Kyiv region, will be tried. The monthly turnover amounted to at least UAH 10 million (Part 1-2 of Article 255, Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #FightingCyberCrime

Four members of [a fraudulent group](#) that defrauded at least 24 Ukrainians of UAH 3 million were notified of suspicion. The group members called the victims, introduced themselves as bank employees and gained access to online banking (Part 4-5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A member of [an international hacker group](#) which has been attacking leading companies in France, Norway, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, and the United States since 2018 will stand trial. During this time, the group members encrypted more than 1000 servers of global enterprises and caused losses of more than UAH 3 billion (Part 2 of Article 361 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #ProtectingNature



Four officials of the state enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" and two experts of the Rivne Chamber of Commerce and Industry were exposed for trying [to export pine wood to the EU](#) by passing it off as firewood (Part 2 of Article 201-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In the Carpathians, a large-scale scheme of ["black loggers"](#) – illegal felling of valuable trees in the territory of the nature reserve fund – was exposed. The preliminary damage to the state is estimated at UAH 8 million. Two people were served a notice of suspicion, other persons involved are being identified (Part 4 of Article 246 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former head of the Slavske forestry (the Lviv region) and his four accomplices will be tried for [attempting to misappropriate](#) a forestry land plot and a forester's house worth more than UAH 3 million (Part 1 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

## #Reform&Cooperation



A Russian citizen and former deputy commander of the Rusich unit, suspected of committing five war crimes in Ukraine in 2014, [will be tried in Finland](#). In 2016, Ukrainian law enforcement officers notified him of suspicion of participation in a terrorist organization. The Finnish authorities launched their own investigation in December 2023. During the investigation, the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) cooperated with the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine and the Security Service of Ukraine and exchanged information with Europol, Eurojust, and the ICC.

The Prosecutor General's Office expresses its support for [the decision](#) of Pre-Trial Chamber II of the International Criminal Court to recognize Mongolia's failure to cooperate in the arrest of Putin and to refer the matter to the Assembly of States Parties to the Court. The responsibility of the leadership of the aggressor state is a key factor in achieving a just and lasting peace.



On October 19, the international conference on implementing Point 8 of Ukraine's Peace Formula – Environmental Security – was held in Helsinki. During the [discussion](#), Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin presented the current efforts of Ukrainian law enforcement in investigating Russian war crimes against the environment.

Andriy Kostin emphasized the priority cases for the Prosecutor General's Office in the field of the environment include investigations into the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant dam and the threats to the Zaporizhzhia NPP. The event in Helsinki was attended online and offline by representatives of 60 countries and organizations, which adopted a Joint Communiqué as a result of the meeting.



On October 23–25, [the EU-Ukraine bilateral meeting](#) on Section 24 "Justice, Freedom and Security" was held in Brussels as part of the official screening of the compliance of Ukrainian legislation with EU law.

The Ukrainian delegation presented to the European partners the progress of approximation of the national legislative and institutional framework to the relevant European norms, particularly in the areas of combating corruption, organized crime and terrorism, development of international cooperation and provision of legal aid. The Overarching Strategic Plan for Law Enforcement Reform for 2023–2027 and the action plan for its implementation, which contains over 200 measures to improve law enforcement, were also presented. The Ukrainian side was represented by more than 300 Ukrainian experts at the offline and online events.