



MONTHLY DIGEST

#InFocus

UNITED FOR JUSTICE. UNITED FOR HERITAGE



A high-level international [conference](#), "United for Justice. United for Heritage", dedicated to war crimes against Ukrainian culture and identity, was held in Kyiv. It brought together over 400 leading experts to assess the scale of the damage and ensure that Russia is held accountable for its war crimes.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin stated that over 900 cultural heritage sites, including architectural monuments, museums, churches, and historical objects, have been destroyed or damaged as a result of Russian aggression. The damage caused to Ukraine's culture is estimated at \$19 billion.

The conference was attended by the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal, President of Eurojust Ladislav Hamran, European Commissioner for Justice



Didier Reynders, Director General for Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe Christos Giakoumopoulos, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Karim A. A. Khan, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Poland Adam Piotr Bodnar, Prosecutor General of Romania Alex-Florin Florenta, Prosecutor General of Lithuania Nida Grunskiene.

A [meeting](#) of the Prosecutors General of the countries participating in the Joint Investigation Team with the participation of Eurojust President Ladislav Hamran was held on the margins of the conference.

The seven national authorities that compose the JIT agreed to continue the work of the group to further investigate the core international crimes committed in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression.



The nature and scope of Russia's atrocities are unmistakable hallmarks of genocide. The aggressor is killing our people, robbing us of our future by kidnapping tens of thousands of our children and attempting to erase our history by destroying our cultural heritage.

That is why we are uniting our efforts to hold Russia accountable for all its crimes: war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes of aggression, and genocide.

– *Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine*

#WarCrimes

as of 02.29.2024

122,886

war crimes registered

in February, 2024

+2,150

150,687

civil infrastructure objects
destroyed or damaged**+3,865**

11,945

civilians killed

+133

among them

529

children

+7

RUSSIA IS WAGING A WAR AGAINST CIVILIANS



The aggressor state uses bombs, missiles, and drones to kill civilians in their homes

On 1 February, as a result of another shelling of [Beryslav](#) (Kherson region), two foreign volunteers were killed. Four people were injured, including three foreign volunteers.

On the night of 6 February, the Russian armed forces destroyed a hotel in the village of [Zolochiv](#) (Kharkiv region) with two S-300 missiles. A 2-month-old boy was killed. His mother and two other women were injured.

On 7 February, [Kyiv](#) was shelled allegedly with cruise missiles. The falling debris caused a fire in several residential building apartments. The high-voltage cables were damaged. Five people were killed and about 40 others were injured.

On 9 February, [Kharkiv](#) came under attack with drones. A critical infrastructure facility was destroyed. As a result of a diesel fuel leak, large-scale fires broke out in the residential sector. 15 residential buildings were completely burnt down. Seven people died, including an entire family: a husband, wife and three boys aged 7 months, 4 and 7 years.

On the night of 14 February, the Russian army attacked [Selidove](#) (Donetsk region) with a missile. It destroyed part of a residential building. The next wave of attack destroyed a medical facility. A pregnant woman and a mother with a 9-year-old son were killed. 6 patients were injured.

On 20 February, a residential building was completely destroyed as a result of a drone attack on civilian infrastructure in the village of [Nova Sloboda](#) (Sumy region). A family of 5 people was killed.

On 22 and 23 February, the enemy attacked Odesa with drones. A civilian enterprise and a private [house](#) were destroyed. 4 people were killed.

On 26 and 27 February, the enemy carried out several air strikes in the [Sumy region](#) using guided aerial bombs. A retired couple was [killed](#) in their own home. Private houses and property of an agricultural enterprise were damaged.

The investigative team that documented the consequences of these attacks [came](#) under artillery fire. A policeman and a policewoman were killed. Six others were injured.

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

523 +40
suspects

353 +16
Indictments submitted to court

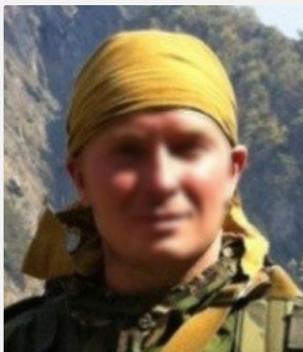
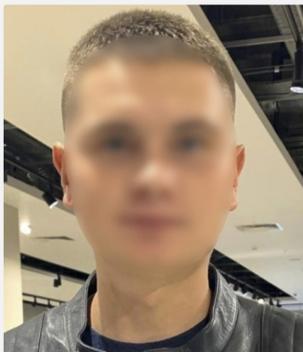
80 +1
convicted

IDENTIFYING THE SERVICEMEN AND MILITANTS INVOLVED IN CRIMES AGAINST CIVILIANS

[Lithuania](#) issues first notices of suspicion regarding the commission of war crimes in Ukraine. Three pro-Russian militants have been identified as the murderers of Lithuanian filmmaker Mantas Kvedaravičius. The incident took place in April 2022 in occupied Mariupol.

A Russian serviceman who [shot](#) at a car with civilians near Chernihiv in March 2022 was notified of suspicion.

An officer of the Rosgvardia was notified of suspicion of unlawful detention and [torture](#) of civilians and prisoners of war in Hostomel in March 2022. About 100 people were detained in freezers and subjected to beatings, suffocation, and electric shocks.



A captain of the Russian army suspected of using residents of the village of Yahidne (Chernihiv region) as [human shields](#) has been identified. Under his command, 369 civilians, including 69 children, were kept in inhumane conditions in the basement of a local school for a month. 10 people died.

An investigation was completed and an indictment was submitted to court against a member of pro-Russian proxies. The investigation established that he detained and [raped](#) a woman who refused to evacuate to Russia during the occupation of Mariupol in the spring of 2022.

A commander of the Russian army and another soldier accused of illegally detaining and [torturing](#) three brothers in the spring of 2022 during the occupation of the Chernihiv region will be tried. After extensive torture, the commander ordered them to be executed.

A Russian serviceman, the "commandant-commander of the garrison," was sentenced to 12 years in prison. During the occupation of the Kherson region, he [ill-treated](#), detained and tortured civilians who had a pro-Ukrainian position.

The commander of a tank of the Kantemyrov Division, who ordered to [shell](#) of the Trostianets City Hospital (Sumy region) in March 2022, was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

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

PROSECUTING CORRUPT OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS



An official from the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy was caught extorting \$3,300 for 'assistance' in exporting [antiques](#) from Ukraine, a violation under Part 3 of Article 369–2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

The head of a department of the Sumy Regional Administration was [caught](#) receiving a \$5,000 bribe for preparing and approving documentation (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of the advisory department of one of the institutes of the National Academy of Sciences was notified of suspicion of receiving a [bribe](#). According to the investigation, for \$8,000, she promised to issue a disability document to avoid mobilization (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Two [deputies](#) of one of the local councils of Lviv region were notified of suspicion. According to the investigation, they extorted \$30,000 from an entrepreneur for unimpeded land rent (Part 4 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of a department of the Ministry of Defense was notified of suspicion of [not declaring](#) assets worth UAH 14 million, including real estate and cars (Part 1 of Art. 366–2, Art. 368–5 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former vice-president of Ukraine International Airlines will be tried. He is accused of [embezzling](#) over UAH 10 million from the state-owned Boryspil International Airport (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Four officials of [Ukrzaliznytsia](#) are accused of embezzling UAH 17 million from repairing the Boryspil Express (Part 5 of Article 191, Part 2 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An [official](#) of the Odesa Housing and Maintenance Department will be tried for extorting 20% of the cost of the ordered works from an entrepreneur. He was arrested after receiving UAH 405,000 in unlawful benefit (Part 3 of Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#AntiCorruption

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



A district court judge in the Odessa region is [suspected](#) of fraud and incitement to provide an unlawful benefit. According to the investigation, he offered a participant in an administrative proceeding a \$4,000 bribe to his colleagues for making a decision in his favor (Part 1 Article 190, Part 3 Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A criminal organization was exposed, whose activities caused UAH 967 million in losses to the state in 2014–2018 as a result of the misappropriation of 97,000 tonnes of seized [oil products](#). Six people were notified of suspicion, including a former MP and top managers of a state-owned enterprise (Part 5 Article 191, Part 1 Article 255 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The Chief of Staff of the Kharkiv Regional Administration is suspected of embezzling UAH 15.2 million during the [procurement](#) of food for humanitarian purposes (Part 5 of Article 191, Part 1 of Article 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The deputy head of the Zaporizhzhia regional council, his assistant, and a deputy were notified of suspicion of receiving illegal benefits. The investigation established that they paid the director of the regional hospital to secure [tenders](#) from predetermined companies and open accounts in the respective banks (Part 4 of Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An organized group composed of [Ukrzaliznytsia](#) officials and entrepreneurs who supplied products at inflated prices to UZ branches in 2018–2021 was exposed. The damage is estimated at UAH 11.4 million (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The case of the owner of an agricultural holding was submitted to the court. He is accused of giving the former head of the State Fiscal Service \$5.5 million, which is said to be the [largest](#) documented bribe in the history of Ukraine (Part 4 of Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#FightingOrganizedCrime

Another attempt to [smuggle](#) cigarettes worth UAH 12 million to the EU was prevented in Bukovyna (Part 2 Article 201-4 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

In cooperation with the Latvian police, criminal group members were exposed. The group was involved in the [murder](#) of a Latvian citizen, the owner of a residential complex on the seashore. Four members of the group were arrested in Ukraine (Part 2 Article 115, Part 3 Article 146 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Ten members of a criminal organization accused of organizing the illegal activity of an [online casino](#) that transferred almost UAH 3 billion of its profits to Russia will be tried (Part 1-2 of Article 255, Part 1 of Article 203-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head and 3 members of the group will be tried for seizing 5 real estate [objects](#) worth UAH 41 million belonging to foreign companies through forgery (Part 3-4 Article 358 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#CombattingDrugTrafficking

Three residents of the Volyn region were notified of suspicion of attempting to [smuggle](#) 22 kg of hashish across the border with a drone (Part 3 Article 305 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [laboratory](#) producing synthetic psychotropic drugs for distribution across the country was exposed in the Kirovohrad region. About 25 kg of PVP worth more than UAH 5 million were seized during the searches (Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Six members of the criminal organization, who set up a scheme to [supply](#) drugs, psychotropics, and potent medicines to the Kyiv pre-trial detention center, were notified of suspicion (Part 1-2 Article 255, Part 3 Article 307, Part 4 Article 321 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#FightingCybercrime

The [LockBit](#) hacker group has been stopped as a result of an international joint operation between law enforcement agencies of Ukraine, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Switzerland, Finland, Poland, Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand.

The group has carried out over 3,000 cyberattacks on the infrastructure of companies in Europe and the United States since 2019. LockBit is considered to be the most "reputable" hacker group among ransomware in the world.



#ProtectingNature

The Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office issued a notice of suspicion of committing the crime of [ecocide](#) to a Russian colonel general and four of his subordinates. According to the investigation, they ordered to shell the Kharkiv Neutron Source research centre, which contains a nuclear facility (Article 441 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, Part 1 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The head of Kyivavtodor and the former head of the utility company were notified of suspicion; as a result of their negligence, a land plot in one of the districts of Kyiv was turned into a [landfill](#) (Part 2 Article 239, Part 2 Article 367 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



#Reform&Cooperation



Ukrainian prosecutors participated in the 'Russia's War on Children' international conference in [Riga](#). They discussed the return of deported children and the prosecution of the aggressor state for the illegal removal and deprivation of children of their national identity.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin participated in a [London](#) conference dedicated to establishing a Special International Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression. Panelists discussed ensuring effective investigation and prosecution of the Kremlin's leadership.

The High-Level Working Group on the Environmental Consequences of the War presented an [Environmental Compact](#). The document contains recommendations for ensuring accountability for environmental damage caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

The Centre for Protection and Social and Psychological Support in the Justice Process for Children was opened in the Volyn region. It is the [11th center](#) established in Ukraine using the Barnahus model.

