

Precedents in the application of UCAVs against non-military targets by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in the territory of the DPR

REPORT

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ABBREVIATIONS

UCAV – unmanned combat aerial vehicle

GLFR – grenade launcher fragmentation round

EO – explosive ordnance

RF AF – Russian Federation Armed Forces

UAF – Ukrainian Armed Forces

DPR – Donetsk People’s Republic

EMERCOM – Emergency Control Ministry

PATGL – portable anti-tank grenade launcher

MLRS – Multiple Launch Rocket System

EMW – electromagnetic warfare

DMS – district maintenance service

IED – improvised explosive device

JCCC – Joint Centre for Control and Coordination

UAF – Ukrainian Armed Formations

PREAMBLE

At the beginning of 2023, the Kyiv authorities set a course to increase the number of unmanned combat air vehicles (UCAVs) employed during clashes with the Russian Armed Forces.

To this end, in February 2023, the Government of Ukraine expanded the list of military and dual-use goods including UAVs that can be imported into the country without obtaining permission from the State Export Control Service¹.

And already at the end of March, Ukrainian Defense Minister Alexey Reznikov stated that the government was working with more than 80 Ukrainian UCAV manufacturers².

“UCAVs are potentially changing the rules of the game on the battlefield in the same way as high-precision Western MLRS did last year,” Reznikov said, referring to multiple launch rocket systems.

Already in June 2023, head of the State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, Yuriy Shchyhol, claimed that the Ukrainian authorities poised to purchase up to 200 thousand drones of various modifications for the country’s armed forces this year³.

“We need both cheap and expensive drones. And drones with different types of communication. The more models we have, the more communication channels we have, the more effective our work will be,” he said.

¹ The resolution adopted today expands the list of military and dual-use goods that can be imported without the permission of the State Export Control Service (published on 14.02.2023) Government Online Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/uriad24/1240> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

² Insight: Inside Ukraine’s scramble for “game-changer” drone fleet (published on 24.03.2023) Reuters. URL: <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/inside-ukraines-scramble-game-changer-drone-fleet-2023-03-24/> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³ Exclusive: Inside Ukraine’s secretive drone program (published on 03.06.2023) Reuters. URL: <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/03/europe/ukraine-secretive-drone-program-russia-war-intl/index.html> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

According to Shchyhol, approximately 30 companies are engaged in serial production of drones in Ukraine. “So far, we have signed contracts for the purchase of two thousand drones, and this is only for a few weeks. This process is expanding every week,” he added.

In July 2023, it became known that the Ukrainian government allocated 40 billion hryvnias (roughly USD 1.1 billion) for investment in the production of drones⁴.

Furthermore, according to Prime Minister of Ukraine Denis Shmyhal, “the production of drones has increased tenfold.”

As a result of all these activities, since the end of October 2023, a sharp increase in the number of UCAV attacks on non-military targets began to be observed. Thus, whereas in October only four such cases were recorded in the territory of the DPR, in November there were already 33, in December – 55, and in January 2024 – already 60⁵.

The number of civilians affected by such attacks has also increased significantly. From two injured in October 2023 to eight dead and 26 injured in January 2024.

Ambulance crews, fire fighters, and DMS workers were often attacked. Thus, such cases affected not only the lives of the attacked civilians, but also put at risk the lives and health of the people who were supposed to be helped.

⁴ War poses new challenges every day. One of the key ones is military technology. We must be one step ahead of the enemy and protect each of our soldiers Drones provide such opportunities. (published on 26.03.2023) Denys Smyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine. Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/Denys_Smyhal/5694?single (accessed on 04.04.2024)

⁵ The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/online_dnr_sckk

TYPES OF UCAVs USED IN ARMED CONFLICTS

An unmanned air vehicle (colloquially also a drone) is an aircraft without a crew on board. UCAVs can have varying degrees of autonomy – from remotely controlled to fully automated, they also differ in design, purpose and other parameters. The UCAV can be controlled by episodic or continuous commands (including in the “first-person view” mode); in the latter case, the UCAV is called a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA)⁶.



Fig. 1 – Classification of UCAVs employed in armed conflicts.

⁶ Aviation: Encyclopedia. Svishchev G. P. (Ed.) Moscow: Great Russian Encyclopedia, 1994. ISBN 5-85270-086-X.

Types of drones are classified according to various criteria (the principle of flight, flight parameters, range, etc.⁷). However, in the context of this report, the most significant classification of UCAVs is based on their tactical purpose.

At the present stage, unmanned air vehicles are usually divided according to their intended purpose into reconnaissance, multi-purpose, combat and combat support⁸.

Precisely combat drones are used to attack civilians, which in turn are divided into reusable UCAVs (bombers) and single-use strike UCAVs (kamikazes).

Reusable UCAVs (drone bombers)

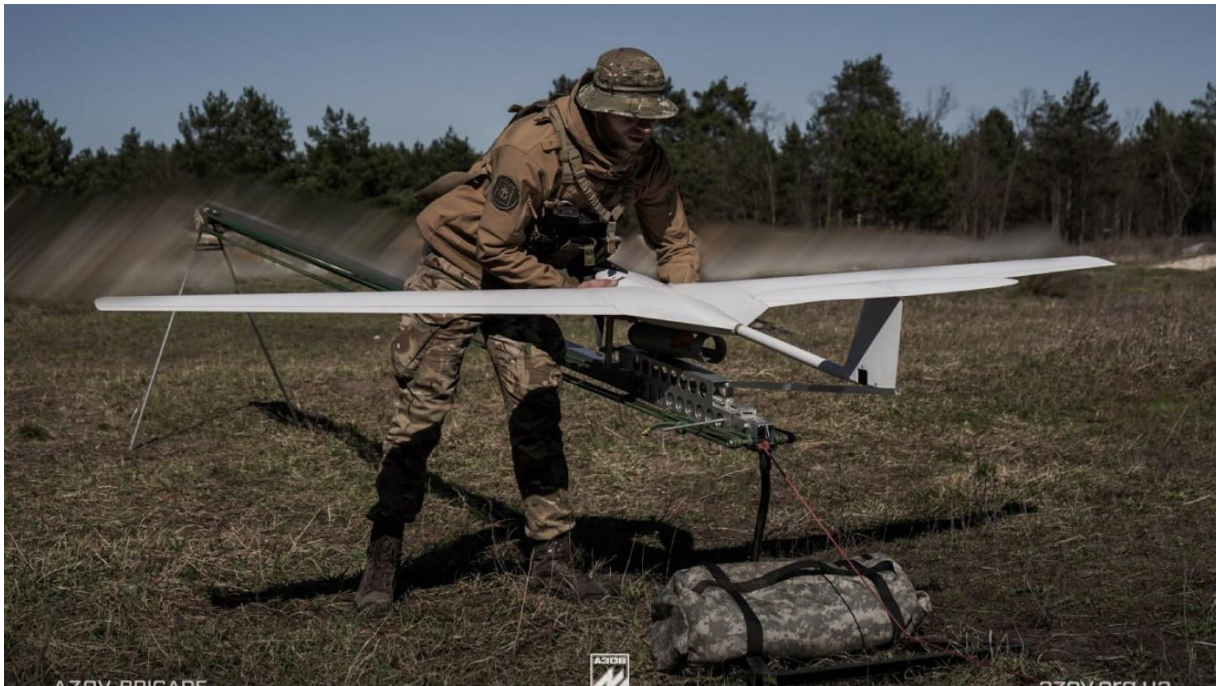


Fig. 2 – Preparing the Punisher UAV with explosive ordnance on board for the launch 9.

⁷ Bezrukov S.I., Gumelev V.Yu., Zheglov V.N., Moldakov S.V., Slepukhina S.V., Filippov D.A. Classification of unmanned aerial systems for military purposes in the context of the educational process of a military university. Original Research (ORIS). 2022. No. 2. Pp. 62-67.

⁸ High-precision weapons of the USA and NATO: a textbook. N.P. Timofeev, Yu.P. Samokhvalov. Ekaterinburg: Ural University Press, 2013. 132 p.

⁹ "Azov" is preparing to use strike Punisher UCAVs (published on 30.04.2023) Militarnyi website [URL: https://mil.in.ua/uk/news/azov-gotuyetsya-zastosovuvaty-udarni-bpla-punisher/](https://mil.in.ua/uk/news/azov-gotuyetsya-zastosovuvaty-udarni-bpla-punisher/) (accessed on 04.04.2024)

Most reusable UCAVs combine reconnaissance functions and, in addition, can attack targets using dropped ammunition. Such UCAVs are often called drone bombers. They are used to conduct combat operations, attacking enemy targets, military equipment and enemy manpower¹⁰.

Table 1 – The most widespread Ukrainian drone bombers¹¹.

N o.	Name	Firing range, km	Combat load, kg	Condition	Application	Cost
1	Heavy Shot	20	40	In operation since April 2022	Until October 2023, approximately 150 UCAVs were used at the front + 206 UCAVs were delivered to the troops in October 2023	USD 10 thousand
2	Bat	7	20	An agricultural drone retrofitted for military needs.	more than 60 drones were estimated to be in operation as of September 2023	USD 12 thousand
3	Vampire	10 (recommended 4)	15	Mass-produced since 2023	At least 270 drones are used in combat activities	USD 10 thousand
4	R18	4	5	In operation since 2019	Over 20 crews are used	USD 20 thousand
5	STEN-2	TBC	TBC	Transferred to the UAF back in January 2023	At least 45 drones were transferred to the UAF	TBC

Aircraft-type UCAV bombers are still almost never used in the Ukrainian army. Ukrainian industry offers a wide range of drones of this class, but in practice only one of them (Punisher) has a fairly wide application. It can be assumed that their main use is to destroy critical targets in the rear at a distance of up to 50 km from the line of combat contact. However, given the counteraction of electromagnetic warfare systems, this task can be more effectively performed by the multiple launch rocket system.

¹⁰ Ivlev D. A. Analysis of the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in modern combat conditions. Current research. 2023. No. 48 (178). Part I, pp. 27-30. URL: <https://apni.ru/article/7603-analiz-primeneniya-bespiotnikh-letatelnykh> (accessed on 22.03.2024)

¹¹ Ukrainian drone. Reference manual on UCAVs used by Ukraine in the SMO zone as of November 2023 (published on 14.11.2024) Source: Wsem.ru website. URL: https://wsem.ru/publications/ukrainskij-bespiotnik-spravochnoe-posobie-po-bpla-samolyotnogo-tipa-ispolzuemykh-ukrainoj-v-zone-svo-na-noyabr-2023-goda_16734/ (accessed on 22.03.2024)



Вот такой большой дрон из семейства «баб-яг» недавно был сбит нашими воинами. Небольшой анализ по нему:

Октокоптер, собран из комплектующих китайского производства на основе модели С16 фирмы JJYI (агродрон).

Грузоподъемность до 16 кг. Дооборудован под сбросы 6 единиц СВУ.

Fig 3 – Social network post describing a crashed Ukrainian UCAV-bomber¹².

As for multicopter UCAV bombers, we can state with confidence that drones of this class occupy a significant share in the UAF fleet. The Ukrainian leadership view these UCAVs as a factor that can change the situation in hostilities.

¹² Such a large drone from the Baba-Yaga family was recently crashed down by our soldiers. A short analysis on it (published on 08.05.2023) “Revenge of Good Will” Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/sharp33377/175338> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

The most common models: Heavy Shot, Bat, Vampire, R18, and STEN-2. Their characteristics can be seen in Table 1.

In fact, they are all quite large multicopters, with gasoline or electric engines, capable of carrying a fairly large payload (from 5 to 40 kilograms). They are often home-made converted “agricultural” drones, nicknamed “Baba Yaga” by RF AF soldiers.

Single-use strike UCAVs (kamikaze drones)

Kamikaze drones (also known as loitering munitions) are a type of UCAVs that are loaded with explosives. They are designed for a direct attack on a specific target, capable of hovering over it while waiting for an operator command or a signal from a pre-set program. When the right moment comes, the drone attacks the target and self-destructs.

This UCAV segment is represented in the UAF by Ukrainian and foreign developments. In terms of scale of application, FPV drones of the multi-rotor type are the undoubted leaders.

First Person View (abbreviated FPV) is an English-language concept, used to define technical devices capable of transmitting the physical reality surrounding them to a remote operator as virtual reality.



Fig. 4 – Ukrainian FPV-kamikaze UCAV with an attached charge from PATGL¹³.

Most often, such kamikaze UCAVs are equipped with improvised explosive devices made from improvised means, or converted from suitable sized ammunition (for example, GLFR or PATGL).

As for aircraft-type kamikaze drones, we can conditionally distinguish two mass classes – long-range kamikaze drones (from 300 km and further) and kamikaze drones with a range of up to 50 km. Long-range kamikaze drones are used by the Ukrainian military to strike various regions of greater Russia.

As for kamikaze drones with a range of up to 50 km, despite their high variety, their use in combat operations is not widespread.¹⁴

¹³ How Dnieper heroes destroy enemy equipment near Avdeyevka (published on 03.11.2023) Dnepr municipal website. URL: <https://gorod.dp.ua/news/224376> (accessed on 04.04.2023)

¹⁴ Ukrainian drone. Reference manual on UCAVs used by Ukraine in the SMO zone as of November 2023 (published on 14.11.2024) Source: Wsem.ru website. URL: https://wsem.ru/publications/ukrainskij-bespiotnik-spravochnoe-posobie-po-bpla-samolyotnogo-tipa-ispolzuemykh-ukrainoj-v-zone-svo-na-noyabr-2023-goda_16734/ (accessed on 04.04.2023)

FACTS OF APPLYING UCAVS AGAINST NON-MILITARY TARGETS

The first attacks by Ukrainian UCAVs against civilians in the DPR were recorded back in 2018.

Thus, on September 23, 2018, at about 9:00 a.m., the Ukrainian drone dropped high-explosive fragmentation ammunition on civilians in the village of Sakhanka, Novoazovsky district of the DPR¹⁵. A man born in 1962 and a woman born in 1972 were wounded.¹⁶



Fig. 5 – On the left is a man who suffered on September 23, 2018 from an ammunition dropped from a UCAV; on the right is the remnant of the tail unit of the dropped ammunition.

¹⁵ A wounded resident of Sakhanka reported a shell dropped from a UAF drone (published on 23.09.2023) Novorosinform website. URL: <https://novorosinform.org/ranenyj-zhitel-sahanki-soobshil-o-sbroshennom-s-besipilotnika-vsu-snaryade-52687.html> (accessed on 04.04.2018)

¹⁶Proceedings into the shelling of Sakhanka village by the UAF on September 23 (published on 27.09.2018) the DNR in JCCC. URL: <https://dnr-sckk.ru/razbiratelstvo-po-faktu-obstrelya-vsu-n-p-sahanka-23-sentjabrja/?ysclid=lu2oz06jxo522083432> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

Since then, such attacks have been carried out sporadically - from time to time. However, as already written above, attacks against non-military targets using variousUCAVs have reached a new level since the beginning of October 2023. Thus, compared to three cases in September and four in October, in November 2023, 33 cases of drone attacks against non-military targets were recorded, during which one civilian was killed and 27 civilians were injured, three of them being children.

Places of trade, transport hubs, fire trucks, utility vehicles and ambulances are mainly attacked.

It all started on November 1, 2023 withUCAV attacks in the Petrovskiy district of Donetsk. As a result of the release of explosive ordnances at 4, Dobrovolskogo Str., men born in 1998 and 2001 were wounded; at 1A, Markina Str., an employee of the Petrovsky Western DMS was wounded (a man born in 1966).¹⁷



Fig. 6 – The result of dropping an EO from aUCAV near the Galaktika hypermarket in the Petrovskiy district of Donetsk: on the left – a damaged car; on the right – a trace from an EO rupture.

¹⁷ The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of November 1 at 13:00 received information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 01.11.2023) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine’s war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/17405 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

As for attacks against ordinary civilians (not related to public utilities and rescue services), UkrainianUCAVs usually attack them near retail outlets or transport hubs.

Thus, on November 9, 2023, a UkrainianUCAV dropped ammunition near the entrance to the *Galaktika* hypermarket in the Petrovskiy district of Donetsk¹⁸. At that moment there were many people near the building. As a result of this incident, a local resident, a man born in 1962, was severely injured. Eyewitnesses saw the wounded man bleeding and dragged him into the shopping center, where they administered first aid until paramedics arrived.

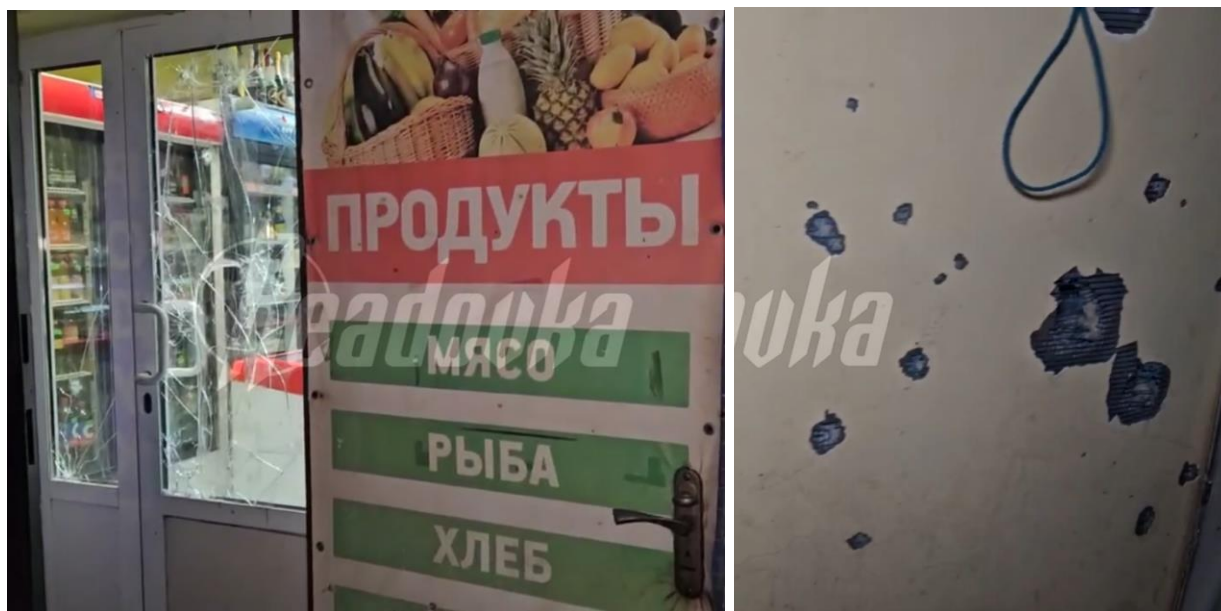


Fig. 7 – The result of dropping an EO from aUCAV near a grocery store in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk: on the left - the entrance to the store damaged by fragments; on the right – damage from EO fragments on the wall of the building.

On November 22, 2023, the area near a grocery store in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk was attacked¹⁹. Three teenage girls were the target of a Ukrainian drone attack. Three EOs were dropped on the group of minors. Eyewitnesses managed to

¹⁸ The UAF dropped ammunition from a drone onto a crowd of people near a local shopping center in Donetsk (published on 09.11.2023) “Readovka” Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/readovkanews/69155> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

¹⁹ Ukrainian militants dropped three shells from aUCAV on teenagers in Donetsk - eyewitnesses saved the girls from death (22.11.2024) “Readovka” Telegram Channel. URL <https://t.me/readovkanews/69760> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

drag the girls into the store near which they were standing. However, two girls born in 2009 were wounded as a result of this incident²⁰.

On December 4, 2023, a shopping pavilion was attacked at the Oktyabrsky Rudnik market in the Kuibyshevskiy district of Donetsk²¹. As a result of a kamikaze drone attack, a woman born in 1991, who was selling meat at the market, was wounded²².



Fig. 8 – Wreckage of a kamikaze drone found at the Oktyabrskiy Rudnik market.

On January 31, 2024, at a bus station near the railway station in Donetsk, an EO was dropped from aUCAV on bus 70, which was waiting for passengers²³. As

²⁰ The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of November 22 at 17:00 received information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 22.11.2023) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine's war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/17726 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²¹ Market hunt by the UAF - the enemy attacked the Oktyabrskiy market in Donetsk with kamikaze drones, injuring a girl seller and a buyer (published on 04.12.2023) "Readovka" Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/readovkanews/70324> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²² The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of January 4 at 13:00 received additional information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 04.12.2023) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine's war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/17885 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²³ Donetsk, Kievskiy district, Railway Station. EO dropped from a drone onto bus 70, the driver was picked up by an ambulance (published on 31.01.2024) War through the Journalist's Eyes" Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/WarInMyEyes/6295> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

a result of the attack, the driver, a man born in 1976, who was on the bus, was wounded²⁴. The bus was badly damaged.

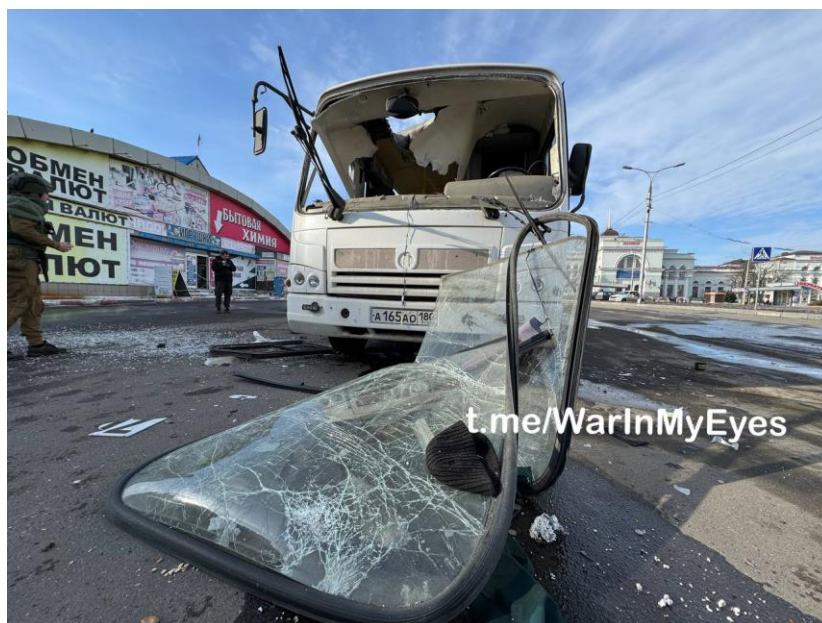


Fig. 9 – Municipal bus 70, damaged by an EO dropped from a UCAV.

Particularly egregious is the incident that occurred on January 23, 2024 in Yasinovataya. A Ukrainian drone dropped an EO into the chimney of a private house²⁵. This resulted in the death of an elderly married couple: a man born in 1949 and a woman born in 1952.²⁶

It is also worth noting that out of 186 civilians of the DPR who have suffered from attacks by Ukrainian UCVs since the beginning of 2023, 54 people are employees of public utilities and rescue services. This category of injured persons face danger while performing their official duties.

²⁴ The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of January 31 at 16:00 received additional information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 31.01.2024) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine's war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/18446 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²⁵ Yasinovataya, an EO dropped from a copter into the chimney of a private house. A man and a woman killed. (published on 23.01.2024) War through the Journalist's Eyes" Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/WarInMyEyes/6227> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²⁶As a result of successive shelling of Yasinovataya, two people were killed - a man born in 1949 and a woman born in 1952. (published on 23.01.2024) Dmitry Shevchenko, head of Yasinovatskiy municipal Telegram channel. URL: https://t.me/shevchenko_yas/9919 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

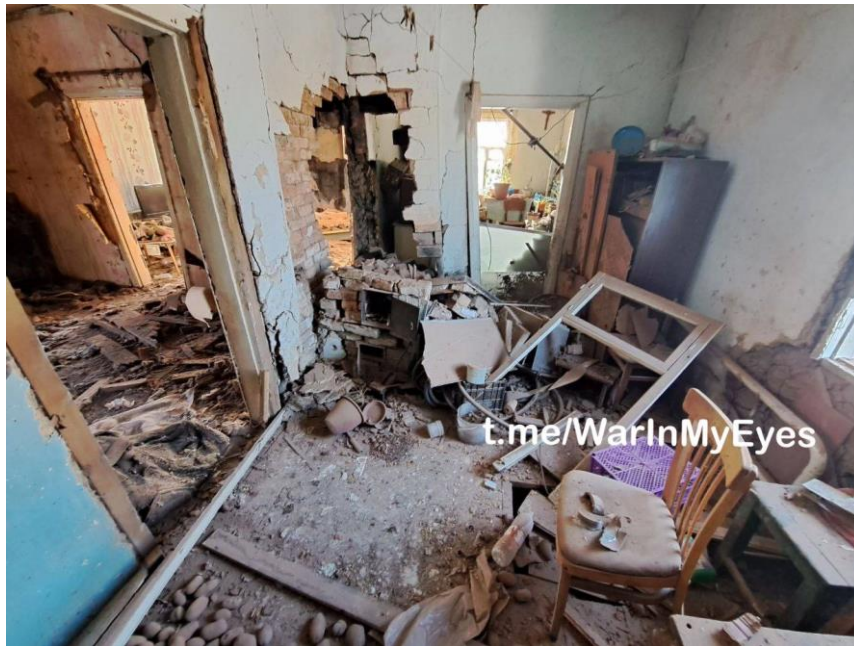


Fig. 10 – A hearth in a private house, destroyed by an explosion of an EO dropped from aUCAV.

Thus, on December 20, 2023, aUCAV dropped an EO on an ambulance in the village of Verkhnetoetskoye, Donetsk People’s Republic²⁷. At the time of the attack, the brigade was rushing to respond to the emergency call. Three health workers were injured²⁸.

Unfortunately, medical professionals are not always able to survive attacks by Ukrainian drones. Thus, on January 12, 2024, in Horlivka, an ambulance arrived for a call to a girl electrician who was wounded as a result of aUCAV attack²⁹. Having loaded the wounded girl into the car, the ambulance headed towards the hospital. However, a UkrainianUCAV attacked the ambulance. The patient and the paramedic (a woman born in 1966, died on the spot. Two ambulance orderlies were wounded – a man born in 1979 and a woman born in 1978, a driver born in 1956 was also injured.³⁰

²⁷ An ambulance was attacked by aUCAV in the DPR (published on 20.12.2023) Russia’s Ministry of Health Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/minzdrav_ru/4968 (published on 04.04.2024)

²⁸ The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of December 20 at 00:30 received additional information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 21.12.2023) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine’s war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/18138 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

²⁹ Ambulance teams in Donbass are increasingly becoming targets of the UAF (published on 26.01.2024) NTV website. URL: <https://www.ntv.ru/novosti/2809699/?ysclid=ltzrq0d2fq171525867> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³⁰ The operational lines of the DPR JCCC as of January 12 at 14:00 received additional information about civilian casualties in the cities of the Republic (published on 12.01.2024) The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine’s war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/18337 (accessed on 04.04.2024)



Fig 11 – An ambulance damaged by an EO dropped from a UCAV in the village of Verkhnetoetskoye.



Fig 12 – Consequences of a Ukrainian UCAV attack on an ambulance in Horlivka: on the left – the paramedic and the patient who were killed as a result of the incident³¹; on the right - an ambulance damaged by the explosion³².

³¹ Ambulance _ Horlivka... January, 12... (published on 12.01.2024) Odnoklassniki Social Network. Video by Aleksandr Knysh. URL: <https://ok.ru/video/7280698198703> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³² Consequences of a Ukrainian UCAV attack on an ambulance in Horlivka (published on 12.01.2024) VKontakte Social Network. Video by “Donetsk Media”. URL: https://vk.com/video-222944159_456239233 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

Firefighters are no less at risk than healthcare professionals. They are attacked by Ukrainian drones while extinguishing fires that broke out at the sites of shelling.

Thus, on November 22, 2023, EMERCOM employees were extinguishing a fire that occurred due to shelling in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk. At this time, a UkrainianUCAV attacked the firefighters, dropping an EO on them³³. As a result, four firefighters were injured, and the fire truck was damaged³⁴.



Fig. 13 – Consequences of a UkrainianUCAV attack on the EMERCOM employees on November 22, 2023: above - the bulletproof vest of one of the firefighters, with shrapnel marks; below – a door of the buildings at the scene of the incident damaged by the EO fragments³⁵.

On December 22, 2023, at 14.35, a message was received on line “101” about a fire in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk. The fire and rescue men arrived at the

³³ In Donetsk, four firefighters from the Russian EMERCOM were injured during shelling (published on 22.11.2023) DPR EMERCOM Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/mchs_dnr/11622 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³⁴“I fulfil my duty. If we don’t do this work, who will?” (published on 22.11.2023) DPR EMERCOM Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/mchs_dnr/11623 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³⁵ The footage shows the consequences of shelling in Donetsk, as a result of which four firefighters of the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations were injured. (published on 22.11.2023) REN-TV News Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/rentv_news/119429 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

scene. Upon arrival, it was determined that the outbuilding was on fire. Rescuers began to extinguish the fire.

While the tanker was refilled with water, a drone dropped an EO on the tanker. As a result, five employees of the third fire and rescue unit of Donetsk were injured. One employee got shrapnel wounds to the lower limb and four sustained aural barotraumas³⁶.



Fig. 14 – Damage to a fire truck from the explosion of a high-pressure explosive device dropped by a UkrainianUCAV.

Public utility workers are also at serious risk. They are often attacked by UkrainianUCAVs while performing their official duties.

Thus, on October 6, 2023, in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk, aUCAV dropped an EO on employees of a utility company who were loading garbage into a

³⁶ As a result of the dropping of ammunition from aUCAV in the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk, five EMERCOM employees were injured (published on 22.11.2023) DPR EMERCOM Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/mchs_dnr/11979 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

truck³⁷. Two workers – a tractor driver and a driver – were injured: the driver was hit in the hand by one of the damaging elements, and the severely injured tractor driver (a man born in 1972) reached a store nearby³⁸. There the saleswomen bandaged him and then handed him over to military doctors.



Fig 15 – A utility company vehicle damaged by an explosive device dropped from a UCAV.

On December 19, 2023, during restoration work, a brigade of the Petrovskiy Western DMS of the Regional Energy Supply Company was attacked by a Ukrainian UCAV. As a result of the EO release, the foreman and electrician of the operational team were injured. In addition, the aerial platform was damaged³⁹.

As for the analysis of statistical data on the application of UCAVs against non-military targets in the territory of the DPR by the UAF, we collected information

³⁷ In the Kirovskiy district of Donetsk, an enemy drone dropped ammunition on citizens loading garbage into a truck (published on 06.10.2023) “Readovka” Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/readovkanews/67239> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³⁸ Official brief of the DPR Representative Office in the JCCC from 00:00 05.10.2023 to 00:00 06.10.2023 (published on 06.10.2023) The DPR in JCCC Telegram Channel: facts of Ukraine’s war crimes. URL: https://t.me/DNR_SCKK/17207 (accessed on 04.04.2024)

³⁹ This afternoon, during restoration work, a team from the Petrovskiy Western DMS of the Regional Energy Supply Company was attacked by an enemy drone (published on 19.12.2023) Ministry of Coal and Energy of the DPR Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/miniue/9439> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

based on an analysis of the frequency of mentioning the attacks using UCAVs in the “online DPR in the JCCC” telegram channel⁴⁰. This information was processed and a diagram was built on its basis.

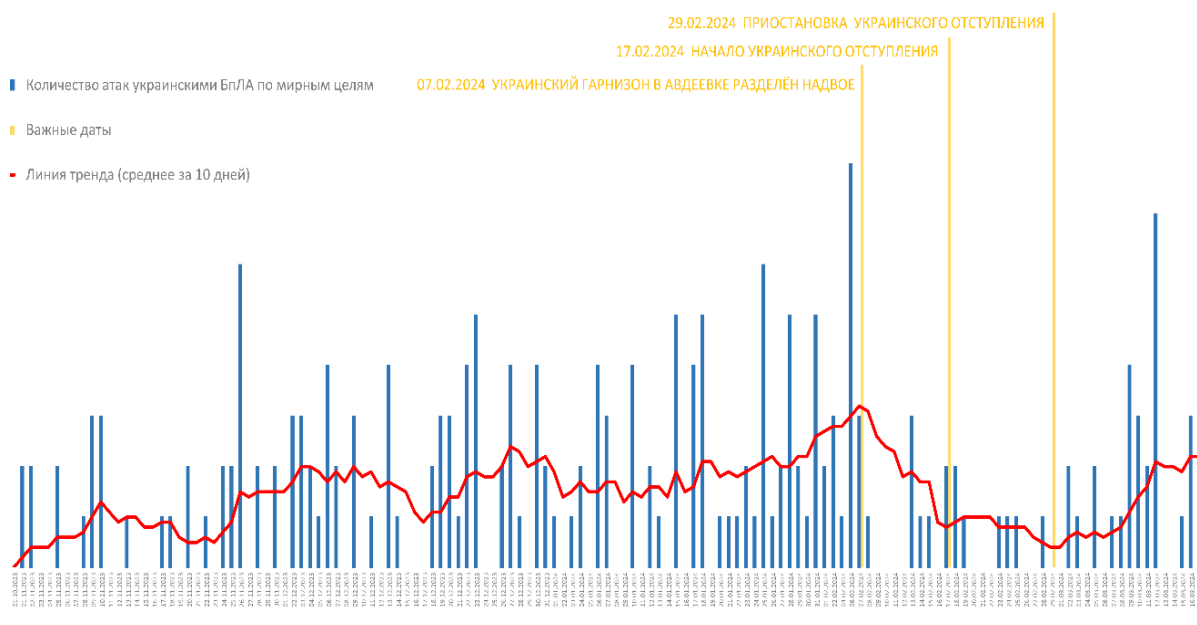


Fig 16 – Attacks by Ukrainian UCAVs against non-military targets in the DPR over the period of 01.11.2023 – 18.03.2024.

The curve shows that since November 2023, the UAF has been carrying out massive and systematic attacks against non-military targets using various types of UCAVs. The number of attacks has consistently and steadily increased. And only the successful steps of the RF AF during the Avdeyevka operation distracted the UAF from civilians.

Thus, on February 7, 2024, the RF AF practically divided the Avdeyevka UAF garrison into two parts, taking under fire control the section of the last asphalt road along which the UAF units were supplied in Avdeyevka⁴¹. After this, the number of attacks by Ukrainian drones against non-military targets decreased sharply.

The next event that influenced the decrease in the number of this type of attacks was the beginning of the Ukrainian retreat from Avdeyevka on February 17,

⁴⁰ The DNR in JCCC Telegram Channel. URL: https://t.me/online_dnr_sckk

⁴¹ War in Ukraine (07.02.24): Avdeyevka - the situation for the UAF is becoming catastrophic (published on 07.02.2024) The World Today with Yury Podolyaka Telegram Channel. URL: <https://t.me/yurasumy/13082> (accessed on 04.04.2024)

2024⁴². At the same time, after the relative stabilization of the front along the Berdychi - Tonenkoye line, the number of attacks by Ukrainian UCAVs against non-military targets increased again.

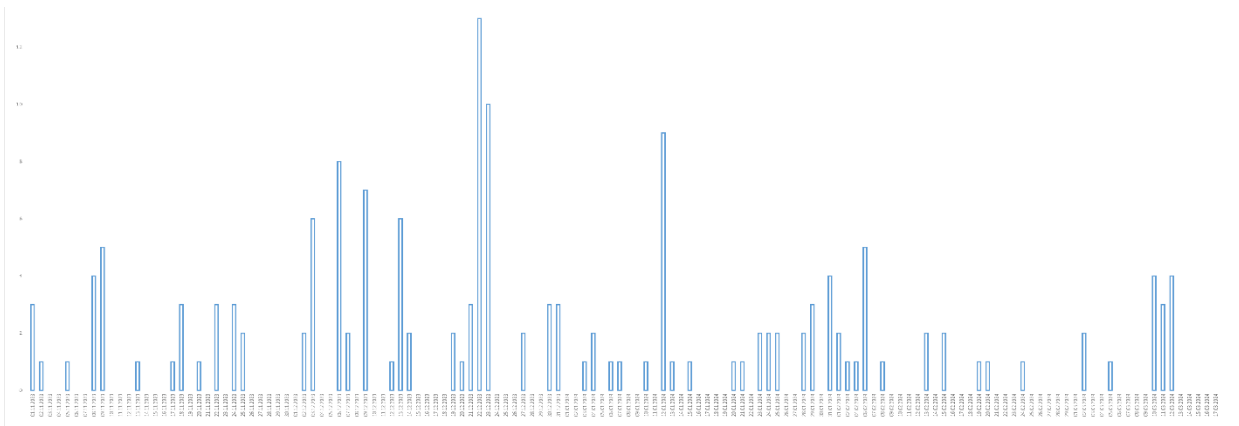


Fig. 17 – Civilians of the DPR who suffered from attacks by Ukrainian UCAVs from 01.01.2023 to 18.03.2024.

Thus, there is a tendency for the Ukrainian side to systematically violate the norms of international humanitarian law through attacks using UCAVs against non-military targets. In these circumstances, it is important to note that the operators of Ukrainian drones cannot help but realize that they are attacking peaceful targets, because they observe these targets through UCAV video cameras. Therefore, there is not only a criminal act, but also malicious intent.

It can be assumed that such actions are carried out for the purposeful destruction and terror of the population, to force civilians to leave the disputed territories.

⁴² The UAF left Avdeyevka: what are they saying in Ukraine and how has Zelensky reacted? (published on 17.02.2024) DW in Russian” YouTube channel URL: https://youtu.be/xYmYfBaVCv4?si=oz_LSZatOvt1mAHr (accessed on 04.04.2024)

LEGAL QUALIFICATIONS

Purposeful and systematic attacks against non-military targets constitute a crime for which liability is provided both by the norms of the national legislation of Ukraine and the norms of international law.

Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions provides: *“The civilian population as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attack.”*

In compliance with Art. 3 common to all Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, extending its effect to all types of armed conflicts, *“persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed ‘hors de combat’ by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria”*.

To this end, violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds and mutilation, are prohibited inter alia with respect to the above-mentioned persons.

Also, **Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I** to the 1949 Geneva Conventions prohibits *“acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population”*.

The practice of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia allows us to assert that deliberate terror of civilians includes:

- deliberate and indiscriminate firing at civilian targets;
- illegal firing at civil assemblies;
- prolonged shelling and sniping in civilian areas.

The latter also includes systematic attacks against non-military targets usingUCAVs.

In compliance with **Art. 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine**, for *“... use of methods of the warfare prohibited by international instruments, or any other violations of rules of the warfare recognized by international instruments consented*

to be binding by the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, and also giving an order to commit any such actions”, shall be punishable by imprisonment for **a term of eight to twelve years**, and if the same acts accompanied with an intended murder, shall be punishable by imprisonment for **a term of ten to fifteen years, or life imprisonment**.

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ANNEXES

Annex 1

Table 2 – Civilians of the DPR who suffered from attacks by UkrainianUCAVs from 01.01.2023 to 18.03.2024.

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
1	26.02.2023	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
2	04.03.2023	a woman born in 1953,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
3	04.03.2023	a man born in 1966;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
4	11.03.2023	a man born in 1994;	wounded	Staromikhailovka		civilian
5	13.03.2023)	a man born in 1981;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
6	13.03.2023)	a man born in 1982;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
7	14.03.2023)	a man born in 1982;	wounded	Staromikhailovka		civilian
8	16.03.2023)	a man born in 1974;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
9	16.03.2023)	a woman born in 1941,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
10	26.04.2023)	a woman born in 1989,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
11	26.04.2023)	a woman born in 1953,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
12	26.04.2023)	a man born in 1972;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
13	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1953,	killed	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
14	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1954,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
15	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1958,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
16	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1959,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
17	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1967,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
18	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1983,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
19	16.06.2023	a woman born in 1984,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
20	16.06.2023	a man born in 1978;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
21	16.06.2023	a man born in 1978;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
22	06.10.2023)	a man born in 1972;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
23	10.10.2023	a man born in 1945;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
24	01.11.2023	a man born in 1998;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
25	01.11.2023	a man born in 1966;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	DMS worker
26	01.11.2023	a man born in 2001;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
27	02.11.2023	a man born in 1979;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
28	05.11.2023	a man born in 1957;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
29	08.11.2023	a man born in 1984;	wounded	Telmanovo		During road repair works
30	08.11.2023	a man born in 1976;	wounded	Telmanovo		During road repair works
31	08.11.2023	a man born in 1968;	wounded	Telmanovo		During road repair works
32	08.11.2023	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Telmanovo		During road repair works
33	09.11.2023	a man born in 1962;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
34	09.11.2023	a man born in 1969;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
35	09.11.2023	a man born in 1988;	wounded	Makeyevka.		civilian
36	09.11.2023	a man born in 1991;	wounded	Makeyevka.		civilian
37	09.11.2023	a man born in 1992;	wounded	Makeyevka.		civilian
38	13.11.2023	a man born in 1996;	killed	Koloski (Starobeshevo)		civilian
39	17.11.2023	a man born in 1960;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
40	18.11.2023	a man born in 1974;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
41	18.11.2023	a man born in 1962;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Ambulance worker
42	18.11.2023	a woman born in 1972,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Ambulance worker
43	20.11.2023	a man born in 1986;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
44	22.11.2023	a woman born in 1982,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
45	22.11.2023	a girl born in 2009;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
46	22.11.2023	a girl born in 2009;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
47	24.11.2023	a girl born in 2013;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
48	24.11.2023	a man born in 1995;	wounded	Donetsk	Voroshilovskiy	civilian
49	24.11.2023	a woman born in 1986,	wounded	Donetsk	Voroshilovskiy	civilian
50	25.11.2023	a woman born in 1974,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
51	25.11.2023	a man born in 1989;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
52	02.12.2023	a man born in 1955;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
53	02.12.2023	a woman born in 1974,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
54	03.12.2023	a woman born in 1956,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
55	03.12.2023	a woman born in 1963,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
56	03.12.2023	a man born in 1960;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
57	03.12.2023	a woman born in 1991,	wounded	Donetsk	Kuibyshevskiy	civilian
58	03.12.2023	a man born in 1955;	wounded	Donetsk	Kuibyshevskiy	civilian
59	03.12.2023	a boy born in 2005.	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
60	06.12.2023	a woman born in 1996,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
61	06.12.2023	a man born in 1962;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
62	06.12.2023	a man born in 1985;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
63	06.12.2023	a woman born in 1959,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
64	06.12.2023	a woman born in 1946,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
65	06.12.2023	a woman born in 1981,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
66	06.12.2023	a man born in 1969;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
67	06.12.2023	a man born in 1967;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
68	07.12.2023	a woman born in 1970,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
69	07.12.2023	a woman born in 1979,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
70	09.12.2023	a woman born in 1942,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
71	09.12.2023	a man born in 2003;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
72	09.12.2023	a man born in 1983;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
73	09.12.2023	a man born in 1997;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
74	09.12.2023	a man born in 1972;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
75	09.12.2023	a man born in 1978;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
76	09.12.2023	a woman born in 1982,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
77	12.12.2023	a man born in 1977;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
78	13.12.2023	a man born in 1967;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
79	13.12.2023	a man born in 1966;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Donbassgas employee
80	13.12.2023	a man born in 1984;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Donbassgas employee
81	13.12.2023	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Donbassgas employee
82	13.12.2023	a man born in 1988;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Donbassgas employee
83	13.12.2023	a man born in 1977;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
84	14.12.2023	a woman born in 1980,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
85	14.12.2023	a man born in 1975;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
86	19.12.2023	a man born in 1973;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	DMS worker
87	19.12.2023	a man born in 1998;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	DMS worker
88	20.12.2023	a man born in 1968;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Ambulance worker
89	21.12.2023	A man	wounded	Verkhnetoetskoye		Ambulance worker
90	21.12.2023	Ambulance worker	wounded	Verkhnetoetskoye		Ambulance worker
91	21.12.2023	Ambulance worker	wounded	Verkhnetoetskoye		Ambulance worker
92	22.12.2023	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
93	22.12.2023	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
94	22.12.2023	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
95	22.12.2023	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
96	22.12.2023	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
97	22.12.2023	a man born in 1969;	Wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
98	22.12.2023	a man born in 1968;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
99	22.12.2023	a man born in 1981;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
100	22.12.2023	a woman born in 1953,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
101	22.12.2023	a man born in 1972;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
102	22.12.2023	a man born in 1957;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
103	22.12.2023	a man born in 1969;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
104	22.12.2023	a man born in 1963;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	“Donbass Water” employee
105	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1966,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
106	23.12.2023	a man born in 1970;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
107	23.12.2023	a man born in 1970;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
108	23.12.2023	a man born in 1972;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
109	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1966,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
110	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1947,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
111	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1936,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
112	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1980,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
113	23.12.2023	a man born in 1986;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
114	23.12.2023	a woman born in 1964,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
115	27.12.2023	a man born in 1963;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
116	27.12.2023	a man born in 1989;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
117	30.12.2023	a woman born in 1968,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Ambulance worker
118	30.12.2023	a woman born in 2002,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Ambulance worker
119	30.12.2023	a man born in 1986;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Ambulance worker
120	31.12.2023	a man born in 2004;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
121	31.12.2023	a man born in 1993;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
122	31.12.2023	a woman born in 1983,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
123	03.01.2024	a woman born in 1990,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
124	04.01.2024	a man born in 1958;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
125	04.01.2024	a man born in 1964;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
126	06.01.2024	A man	killed	Horlivka		civilian
127	07.01.2024	a woman born in 1948,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
128	10.01.2024	a woman born in 1972,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
129	12.01.2024	a man born in 1975;	wounded	Horlivka		DMS worker
130	12.01.2024	a man born in 1975;	wounded	Horlivka		DMS worker
131	12.01.2024	a man born in 1976;	wounded	Horlivka		DMS worker
132	12.01.2024	a man born in 1979;	wounded	Horlivka		Ambulance worker
133	12.01.2024	a man born in 1956;	wounded	Horlivka		Ambulance worker
134	12.01.2024	a woman born in 1978,	wounded	Horlivka		Ambulance worker
135	12.01.2024	a man born in 1969;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	Ambulance worker
136	12.01.2024	a woman born in 1966,	killed	Horlivka		Ambulance worker
137	12.01.2024	a woman born in 1967,	killed	Horlivka		DMS worker
138	13.01.2024	a man born in 1969;	wounded			Ambulance worker
139	15.01.2024	a man born in 1965;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
140	21.01.2024	a man born in 1990;	wounded	Donetsk	Kuibyshevskiy	During road repair works
141	23.01.2024	a man born in 1949;	killed	Yasinovataya		civilian
142	23.01.2024	a woman born in 1952,	killed	Yasinovataya		civilian
143	24.01.2024	a man born in 1951;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
144	24.01.2024	a woman born in 1968,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
145	25.01.2024	a woman born in 1960,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
146	25.01.2024	a woman born in 1978,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
147	28.01.2024	a man born in 1979;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
148	28.01.2024	a woman born in 1964,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
149	29.01.2024	a woman born in 1994,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
150	29.01.2024	a man born in 1984;	wounded	Yasinovataya		civilian
151	29.01.2024	a woman born in 1983,	wounded	Yasinovataya		civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
152	31.01.2024	A man	killed	Panteleymonovka		civilian
153	31.01.2024	A man	killed	Panteleymonovka		civilian
154	31.01.2024	a man born in 1968;	wounded	Panteleymonovka		civilian
155	31.01.2024	a man born in 1976;	wounded	Donetsk	Kyivskiy	Driver of the municipal bus No. 70
156	01.02.2024	a woman born in 1977,	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
157	01.02.2024	a man born in 1960;	killed	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
158	02.02.2024	a man born in 1996;	wounded	Yasinovataya		civilian
159	04.02.2024	a man born in 1971;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
160	06.02.2024	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
161	06.02.2024	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
162	06.02.2024	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
163	06.02.2024	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
164	06.02.2024	A man (Federal Rescue Service)	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	Federal Rescue Service employee
165	08.02.2024	a man born in 1970;	wounded	Vladimirovka		civilian
166	13.02.2024	a man born in 1956;	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
167	13.02.2024	a man born in 1963;	killed	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	civilian
168	15.02.2024	a man born in 2004;	wounded	Donetsk	Kuibyshevskiy	civilian
169	15.02.2024	a woman born in 1993,	wounded	Donetsk	Kuibyshevskiy	civilian
170	19.02.2024	a man born in 1978;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
171	20.02.2024	a man born in 1977;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
172	24.02.2024	a man born in 1994;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
173	02.03.2024	a woman born in 1963,	killed	Horlivka		civilian
174	02.03.2024	a man born in 1994;	killed	Horlivka		civilian
175	05.03.2024	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Verkhnetoetskoye		civilian

No.	Date	Injured persons	Killed/wounded	Populated area	District	Category
176	10.03.2024	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Horlivka		Nikitovskiy Bread LTD employee
177	10.03.2024	a man born in 1967;	wounded	Horlivka		Nikitovskiy Bread LTD employee
178	10.03.2024	a man born in 1980;	wounded	Horlivka		Nikitovskiy Bread LTD employee
179	10.03.2024	a man born in 1964;	wounded	Horlivka		Nikitovskiy Bread LTD employee
180	11.03.2024	a woman born in 1992,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	DMS worker
181	11.03.2024	a woman born in 1973,	wounded	Donetsk	Petrovskiy	DMS worker
182	11.03.2024	a woman born in 1963,	wounded	Blagodatnoye		civilian
183	12.03.2024	a woman born in 1963,	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
184	12.03.2024	a man born in 1984;	wounded	Horlivka		civilian
185	12.03.2024	a man born in 1981;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian
186	12.03.2024	a man born in 1989;	wounded	Donetsk	Kirovskiy	civilian