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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine^{*}, ^{**}

Summary

In the present report, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine continued to document the grave violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and corresponding crimes, in the context of the armed aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The Commission concludes that Russian authorities committed enforced disappearances and acts of torture constituting crimes against humanity. Both were perpetrated as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population and pursuant to a coordinated State policy.

In areas that came under their control, Russian authorities detained large numbers of civilians whom they perceived as a threat to their military objectives in Ukraine. They transferred many of them to multiple detention facilities in areas they occupied in Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation, where they subjected them to additional violations and crimes. Various Russian entities have systematically failed to communicate the fate or whereabouts of those detained, leaving families in unbearable anguish. Many disappearances have lasted for months and years and some of the victims have died.

In detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, Russian authorities have systematically used torture against certain categories of detainees to extract information and coerce and intimidate them. The most brutal forms of torture were used during interrogations, which were often led by the Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation. The evidence shows that, when Federal Security Service personnel were present in detention facilities, they exercised the highest authority over all other services and forces, including heads of facilities, and gave orders.

Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture against male detainees. The report details additional cases of war crimes of rape and sexual violence, committed as a form of torture, against female detainees.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.

** The annexes to the present report are circulated as received, in the language of submission only.



The Commission examined a growing number of incidents concerning the killing or wounding by Russian armed forces of Ukrainian soldiers who were captured or attempted to surrender, which constitutes a war crime. Testimonies of soldiers who deserted from the Russian armed forces show multiple situations where commanders gave orders not to take prisoners but to kill them instead, which indicates that those commanders have acted pursuant to a policy to kill surrendering or captured soldiers, in violation of international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, both parties to the armed conflict committed war crimes by killing or wounding injured soldiers, who were thus hors de combat, using drones.

The report also describes some violations of human rights law committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons they accused of collaboration with Russian authorities.

After three years of armed conflict, the profound scars left on the victims are increasingly visible. Many have endured a combination of violations and crimes, in addition to other consequences of the armed conflict. They view the physical and psychological harm caused to them, their families and their communities as irreparable. The redress, accountability, rehabilitation, reparation and reintegration into society, to which they are entitled, is particularly complex. In that context, the Commission underscores again the need for justice to be done and to ensure that perpetrators of violations and crimes are held to account.

I. Introduction

1. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine submits the present report to the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-eighth session, pursuant to resolution 55/23. The comprehensive report reflects the Commission's findings during its third mandate and is to be read in conjunction with the Commission's report to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.¹ The Commission is composed of Erik Møse (Chair), Pablo de Greiff and Vrinda Grover.
2. The principles of independence, impartiality, objectivity and integrity and a victim-centred approach guide all aspects of the Commission's work.²
3. Since its establishment, the Commission has interviewed 929 women and 851 men and examined documents, expert and forensic reports, photographs and videos. During the current mandate, the liquidity crisis at the United Nations has severely affected the staffing of the secretariat of the Commission and its ability to travel. Nevertheless, it has been able to continue its investigations, relying on limited travel and remote interviews, while maintaining its usual standard of proof.
4. The Commission extends its deep gratitude to the victims and witnesses for sharing experiences and to organizations for the information provided.
5. It appreciates the cooperation of the Government of Ukraine. The Russian Federation continues not to recognize the Commission, and 31 written requests made thereto for access, information and meetings remain unanswered.

II. Violations of international law

6. Three years of armed conflict in Ukraine have led to over 12,654 civilians killed and more than 29,392 injured, as at 24 February 2024, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The actual number of casualties is likely considerably higher. The toll on civilian lives has been devastating. The Commission has continued to document a wide array of violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and corresponding crimes, committed by Russian authorities during their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The present report focuses on enforced disappearances, torture, rape and sexual violence and the killing or wounding of soldiers hors de combat.
7. The Commission's most important findings during its third mandate are that Russian authorities have committed the crimes against humanity of torture and enforced disappearances. Both crimes were perpetrated pursuant to a coordinated State policy, in a widespread and systematic manner, in all oblasts of Ukraine of which areas came under Russian control, and with the aim of furthering the military objectives of the Russian Federation. In the commission of the crimes, Russian authorities have targeted categories of persons whom they perceived as a threat or who refused to cooperate with them.

A. Enforced disappearances

1. Overview

8. Large numbers of civilians and military personnel have disappeared since the outset of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in 2022.³ The Commission previously highlighted a pattern of widespread unlawful confinement in areas that came under the control of Russian authorities, often followed by deportations or transfers, with

¹ See [A/79/549](#).

² Conference room paper of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, available at https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/A_HRC_52_CRP.4_En%20%28003%29.pdf, paras. 7–25.

³ According to the Government of Ukraine, 9,425 civilians and 40,447 military personnel had disappeared as of July 2024 ([CED/C/UKR/RQ/1](#), para. 46).

many persons reported missing.⁴ It has examined in detail and corroborated a sample amounting to almost 100 cases in which Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances, on a widespread scale, in all areas that came under their control in Ukraine (see map in annex I). Many persons have been missing for months or years. Some have died. The Commission has concluded that Russian authorities committed enforced disappearances constituting crimes against humanity.

9. As they took control of localities in Ukraine, Russian authorities detained numerous civilians, including representatives of local authorities, civil servants, journalists, and persons expressing pro-Ukrainian views, during comprehensive searches of houses and public spaces. Most victims were civilian men of fighting age. They held them for indefinite periods of time and transferred many of them to well-established official detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation. In most cases, the authorities carrying out the detention and a wide range of Russian entities systematically refused to disclose the whereabouts of those missing when contacted by their families.

10. Consequently, many families remained without information on their loved ones. They described the anguish of seeing them being taken away and not receiving even basic information about them. The considerable efforts of the families at the local level to locate those disappeared, as well as appeals to various institutions in the Russian Federation, involved risks to their personal safety and expense. Their searches mostly resulted in either incomplete information provided months or years after the initial detention or no information at all.

11. The Commission has analysed over 280 letters from various entities of the Russian Federation in response to inquiries by the families. The majority provided no information on the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared. Some response letters from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation acknowledged that the victims were being detained, but failed to disclose information on their whereabouts, invoking confidentiality.

12. An enforced disappearance is a continuing violation, lasting as long as the fate and whereabouts of the victim remain undetermined. At the time of writing the present report, many victims were still missing. The systematic refusal to disclose information about those who had disappeared placed them outside of the protection of the law and exposed them to the risk of additional violations and crimes.

13. Some victims have died during their enforced disappearance. Even then, Russian authorities failed to provide information to the families at the time of death. In a well-known case, 27-year-old Ukrainian journalist Viktoriia Roshchyna disappeared in August 2023 during a visit to Russian-occupied areas of Zaporizhzhia Oblast. After multiple inquiries, her family received a response from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation acknowledging for the first time her detention in the Russian Federation in April 2024, but without providing details of her whereabouts. In October 2024, in response to further inquiries, the Ministry of Defence sent a new letter stating that Ms. Roshchyna had died a month earlier, without any other explanation. At the time of writing the present report, the family had received neither information on the cause of death, nor her remains.

14. In another case, Yevhenii Matveev, former mayor of the city of Dniprorudne in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, disappeared in March 2022 after having been detained by Russian authorities. Despite multiple inquiries, his family did not receive any information from Russian authorities on his fate or whereabouts. Former detainees attested to his presence in at least two Russian detention facilities. In 2023, Ukrainian authorities were able to confirm that he was being detained in the Russian Federation. The family received a handwritten letter from him a year later. Without further news, in November 2024, the family was informed by Ukrainian authorities that the victim's body had been returned from the Russian Federation as part of an exchange. The death certificate stated that the victim died due to a blunt injury to the torso with multiple fractures. The Commission has documented other cases in which victims of enforced disappearance have been executed, have died or are presumed dead.

⁴ Conference room paper of the Commission of Inquiry, paras. 484, 519–520, 983–988 and 995 (e).

2. Prolonged detention and victims placed outside of the protection of the law

15. Russian authorities detained civilians from different categories during searches of houses and public buildings and verifications at checkpoints and filtration points, mainly during the initial stages of their operations in various Ukrainian localities, but also subsequently. Persons targeted include current and former representatives of local authorities, civil servants, law enforcement personnel, journalists, persons whom they suspected of supporting the Ukrainian armed forces or authorities or who are related to members thereof, those who expressed pro-Ukrainian views and volunteers helping civilians amid ongoing hostilities.

16. Families described the anguish of seeing their loved ones being detained by Russian soldiers, without knowing the reason, where they would be held or how they would be treated. For instance, in March 2022, as Russian armed forces occupied a village in Kyiv Oblast, they searched houses and detained a man and his 20-year-old son. The wife and mother of the victims cried, pleading for an explanation, ran after the military vehicle that took them away and implored the soldiers to release them or to share some information with her, but they ignored her. She has not seen them since that day nor received any information on their whereabouts. In another case, during a house search that occurred around the same time and in the same oblast, Russian soldiers detained a man and his adult son, a journalist, in a local makeshift detention facility. After a few days, a Russian soldier took the son away. When his father asked where he was taking him, the soldier responded, “when the war is over, your son will come back”. The family has received no information on his whereabouts since then.

17. Many of the victims were men who stayed behind in operational areas to continue their work and take care of their properties, while women and children had fled. Families recounted how they lost telephone contact with their loved ones, subsequently learning from neighbours that their relatives had been detained. They were forced to carry out complex searches from afar, relying on indirect and limited information, while fearing that their efforts could complicate their situation. The wife of one man who disappeared in an area marked by hostilities explained: “I feared that if the Russians found out that someone was searching for him, they might retaliate. ... It felt like a game of roulette – you never know if your efforts will improve or worsen the situation for your loved ones in captivity.”

18. Victims have disappeared for prolonged periods of time. From the above-mentioned sample of verified cases (see para. 8 above), more than half of the disappearances have lasted for over two years. Russian authorities further transferred many of the victims to detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation. In some cases, multiple transfers between various Russian-held detention facilities followed. Transfers and deportations of civilians are war crimes. Moreover, Russian authorities committed violations and crimes against victims additional to the enforced disappearance, including wilful killings, torture, sexual violence and forced labour.

3. Failure to provide information to the families

19. The initial detentions were mainly carried out by locally deployed Russian armed forces, but also by the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. They confined persons in various detention facilities held by Russian authorities in occupied areas of Ukraine and transferred or deported many of them to well-established official detention facilities run by the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation (referred to as “FSIN” in Russian). At the highest level, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation was the authority competent to address requests concerning missing persons (see para. 26 below).⁵

20. Russian authorities systematically failed to inform the families of those they were detaining of their fate and whereabouts. Various civil and military authorities based in

⁵ For example, one decision of a Russian court states that issues concerning detention in the framework of the “special military operation” pertain to the competence of the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Ministry of Defence; another decision of a Russian court notes that the registration, maintenance and transfer of detainees are carried out by the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Ministry of Defence.

occupied areas generally dismissed requests for information and referred families to other services, who dismissed them again, and at times provided erroneous or contradictory information. In one case, where a local Ukrainian official was missing and his relative went to inquire about his whereabouts at the office of the relevant Russian commandant, an officer of the Federal Security Service told her, “if you are here to negotiate your uncle’s release, you are wasting your time, as your uncle was a local official and might be useful to us”.

21. Multiple transfers of the victims to different detention facilities in occupied areas or in the Russian Federation made searches by families particularly complicated. In the absence of official responses, families relied on information they could obtain from released detainees. At times, they managed to confirm the presence of the victim in one facility, but subsequently discovered that the person was no longer there and were forced to start searching again. In the case of a Ukrainian local official who had disappeared in June 2022, former detainees released from six different detention facilities informed the family that they had been detained with him at a given time. Russian authorities have not communicated his whereabouts to the family.

22. The Commission has documented cases where Russian authorities not only failed to inform the families of those disappeared, but also concealed the whereabouts of the victims and subjected them to further violations and crimes. Starting in late 2022, Russian authorities transferred several civilians they had detained to a military base in the village of Verkhnia Krynytsia in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. According to testimonies, with respect to at least five such former detainees, the perpetrators first staged a transfer to areas under the control of the Government of Ukraine, which they filmed or photographed: in reality, they instead transferred the victims to an operational area under their control, where they held them with over a dozen civilians and forced them to dig trenches for hours, cook and do washing. Two of the victims were employees of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, previously confined at their workplace. According to witnesses, after one of them started coughing up blood, instead of providing medical care, Russian soldiers took both employees of the plant to the trenches. They were never seen again. Their families have not been able to trace them, despite multiple search efforts. The Commission determined that, in these cases, in addition to enforced disappearances, Russian authorities committed acts of unlawful confinement and transfers constituting war crimes, endangered civilians by forcing them to stay in an operational area and subjected civilians to forced labour, in violation of international humanitarian law.⁶

23. As for the direct communication of detainees with their families, while some letters reached their destination in a timely manner, others arrived after a considerable delay or not at all. Former detainees told the Commission that they were generally not allowed to contact their relatives and, when such contact was permitted, they were instructed not to disclose their place of detention.

4. Letters of response from the Russian authorities

24. Many families sent written communications to a wide range of entities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation to inquire about their loved ones, including to security services, prosecutors’ offices, penitentiary institutions and ministries. The Commission analysed over 280 letters from various Russian authorities, all of which had been sent only in response to requests for information from relatives of the victims. Most letters reached the families months or even years after the initial disappearance and provided either incomplete or no information. A number of lawsuits filed before the Russian courts by relatives or lawyers of disappeared victims against the inaction of Russian authorities concerning their repeated appeals were rejected. The decisions of the courts used the same formulations as the letters from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation described below (see para. 26).

⁶ Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict (Protocol I), art. 58; Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention), art. 51.

25. In response letters to families, the Federal Penitentiary Service, under whose authority most victims were held, typically denied that the disappeared persons were present in the detention facilities under its control. These responses either asserted a lack of competence or redirected families to other services. Other institutions of the Russian Federation also largely failed to provide relevant information to the families, some of them invoking lack of competence or confidentiality.

26. The Commission has analysed 50 replies to families from the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, the highest competent institution in this matter (see para. 19 above). Some of the letters contained a standard formulation denying the detention of the disappeared person in the Russian Federation, noting that he or she was not on the lists of persons “detained for countering the special military operation”. Other letters acknowledged that the victim was detained in the Russian Federation. However, none of the letters from the Ministry of Defence that were reviewed revealed the whereabouts of the missing persons and many of them mentioned that the detention location of individuals held for countering the special military operation was confidential and could not be disclosed to third parties. Many of these letters cite the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Geneva Convention), which is not applicable to civilians but to prisoners of war. Depriving civilians of their protected status is unlawful.⁷

27. Some of the communications received from Russian authorities were inconsistent with one another. For instance, in one letter, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation denied the presence of a missing person on the above-mentioned lists (see previous paragraph), contradicting information provided in three different letters from Russian authorities in occupied areas of Ukraine confirming that person’s detention. In another case, the Russian-run Ministry of the Interior of the occupied area of Kherson Oblast stated that a missing person was detained in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea,⁸ which was denied by the Russian-run Ministry of the Interior of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea one month later.

28. In a few rare cases, Russian authorities eventually informed the families of the whereabouts of those disappeared when charges or a conviction had been issued. Nevertheless, even then, such information usually reached the families weeks or months after the initial disappearance. The Russian authorities had thus committed the violation of enforced disappearance until they disclosed the fate and whereabouts of the victim to the family. However, after such official acknowledgement, some victims went missing again.

5. Denial of the right to truth of the families

29. The denial of information has violated the right to truth of the families of those missing, who are recognized as victims of torture under international law. Families made considerable efforts to search for their relatives. They approached various Russian authorities stationed in occupied areas and visited different places of detention. They wrote multiple letters to different Russian authorities and hired lawyers, and some travelled to Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine or to the Russian Federation. They also appealed to Ukrainian authorities and non-governmental organizations. During their searches, families undertook significant risk and expense. In one case, a woman was subjected to heavy beatings and gang rape when she went to the local police to inquire about her relative (see para. 50 below). A young man was detained and beaten when he went to a police station to inquire about his missing girlfriend.

30. Despite strenuous efforts, many families found no trace of their missing relatives. They sent letters and parcels, often without knowing if they reached their loved ones. They described this uncertainty as unbearable. The wife of a man who had been missing for over two years, stated: “The despair is killing me. I don’t know what to do or how to help my husband. There are so many other civilians detained ... I don’t understand why the Russians keep them there.” The majority of missing victims being men, the cases highlight some of

⁷ Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, art. 50 (1) and 51 (3); see also conference room paper of the Commission of Inquiry, para. 500.

⁸ Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

the gendered dynamics and impact of enforced disappearances. Women often bore the emotional and logistical burden of searching for missing male relatives, while navigating complex bureaucratic systems. The inability to visit some of the conflict-affected areas, the poor communication infrastructure and the proximity to active conflict further compounded these challenges, leaving these women isolated and reliant on hearsay to trace their loved ones. Moreover, the missing men were often the main breadwinners for their families. Consequently, women had to single-handedly meet multiple challenges, such as managing the household and taking care of children, while coping with limited resources and facing the hardships relating to the unfolding of the armed conflict.

6. Concluding observations

31. The evidence demonstrates that Russian authorities have committed widespread enforced disappearances against large numbers of civilians and prisoners of war in the context of their full-scale invasion of Ukraine. They detained civilians from different categories whom they perceived as a threat to their military effort. Many of the victims have disappeared for months and years and their fate and whereabouts remain unknown, which left their families in agonizing uncertainty.

32. The cases documented by the Commission demonstrate the involvement of Russian authorities at different levels. In areas that came under their control in Ukraine, the authorities carrying out the initial detentions have systematically failed to provide information on the fate and whereabouts of those detained to family members. Often, they transferred the victims to multiple detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine or deported them to the Russian Federation. There, they subjected them to additional, grave violations and crimes, notably torture and sexual violence. Many of those who disappeared in March 2022 are still missing.

33. At all the stages of enforced disappearances, Russian authorities generally took no steps to inform the families of the fate and whereabouts of the victims. Multiple response letters from different authorities also failed to provide such information. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, the competent authority in the matter, sent standard response letters. While in some letters, the Ministry denied that the disappeared persons were being detained in the Russian Federation, in others it acknowledged their presence but refused to provide any information on their whereabouts.

34. The widespread and systematic nature of the enforced disappearances; the successive involvement of various entities of the Russian Federation allocating and directing resources and efforts to detain large numbers of civilians in various facilities for prolonged periods of time; and the provision to families of standard responses that systematically failed to communicate the fate or whereabouts of those disappeared during the three years of the armed conflict point to a coordinated State policy. The failure to disclose the whereabouts of the victims further shows the intention of Russian authorities to deprive them of the protection of the law.

35. The combination of these elements has led the Commission to conclude that Russian authorities have committed enforced disappearances for a prolonged period of time as part of a widespread and systematic attack against civilian populations, pursuant to a coordinated policy, which amounts to a crime against humanity.⁹

B. Torture as a crime against humanity: Russian authorities involved in torture

1. Overview

36. Based on investigations carried out since its establishment, the Commission concluded during its third mandate that Russian authorities have used torture pursuant to a coordinated State policy and that acts of torture they committed constitute crimes against

⁹ Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, art. 7 (1) (i) and (2) (i).

humanity.¹⁰ They deployed personnel who acted in a coordinated manner and according to a division of labour when committing the crimes. Regular personnel and special purpose units (referred to as “Spetsnaz” in Russian) of the Federal Penitentiary Service were the main perpetrators of torture in well-established detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation, during violent “admission procedures”, daily brutal practices and punishments, and interrogations.¹¹ Russian armed forces were the main perpetrators of torture in medium-sized and makeshift detention facilities in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine.¹²

37. In all detention facilities investigated, some of the most brutal forms of torture have been used during interrogations. These included severe beatings, electric shocks, burns, strangulation, suffocation, hanging, rape and other forms of sexual violence and other acts. In addition to the personnel running the detention facilities, officials referred to as “investigators” by former detainees often led interrogations. They were principally personnel from the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation and, to a lesser extent, from the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.¹³ The present report provides further information on the role of these services in the use of torture.

38. As highlighted previously, perpetrators have targeted certain categories of civilians and prisoners of war.¹⁴ The Commission has documented new cases in which military personnel from Mariupol who were captured by Russian armed forces, including members of the Azov brigade and associated personnel, were subjected to particularly harsh forms of torture, including rape and sexual violence, as punishment, and to extract false confessions or testimonies implicating others. The Commission has updated the map of areas and the list of detention facilities where Russian authorities committed torture (see annexes II and III).

2. Investigators’ involvement in torture

(a) Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation

39. The evidence gathered demonstrates that personnel of the Federal Security Service have played a significant role in the systematic perpetration of torture in the context of detention in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. It has set up offices in occupied areas and carried out investigations concerning specific categories of persons, involving searches, arrests and interrogations accompanied by torture, and issued decisions on their detention and release. According to multiple former detainees, when personnel of the Federal Security Service were present in detention facilities, such personnel exercised the highest authority over all other services and forces, including heads of facilities, and gave orders.

40. Victims’ accounts show that many of the initial arrests were carried out by personnel of the Federal Security Service as they searched for specific persons or categories of persons in their homes, during checks at filtration points or in public places or buildings. In some cases, they immediately used torture or ill-treatment. For example, a civilian woman whose brother had died fighting for the Ukrainian armed forces recounted that, in September 2023 in a village in Luhansk Oblast, a large group of Federal Security Service personnel stormed her house and informed her that she was under arrest. Without further explanation, they immediately started beating her and then blindfolded her and took her away. During a subsequent interrogation, the same group of Federal Security Service personnel administered electric shocks to her using a field telephone, while asking questions about her connections to the Ukrainian armed forces. Another young civilian woman stated that, in June 2022, four men intercepted her in a park in the city of Berdiansk in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, told her that they were from the Federal Security Service and immediately started beating and kicking her, saying: “This is for what you did. You, bitch, were informing *khokhols*¹⁵ about the Russian

¹⁰ A/79/549, paras. 72–78.

¹¹ Ibid., paras. 59–67.

¹² Ibid., para. 68.

¹³ Ibid., paras. 66–67.

¹⁴ A/HRC/52/62, paras. 71–72.

¹⁵ “*Khokhol*” is a derogatory Russian term for Ukrainians.

armed forces' positions, and our military bases." They placed a bag over her head, dragged her to their vehicle and took her to a detention facility.

41. The Commission also investigated situations involving the detention of several employees of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant at their workplace. One of them recounted that, in September 2022, two men who introduced themselves as personnel of the Federal Security Service arrested a senior staff member, took him to his home, beat him, suffocated him and applied a hot iron to his body while questioning him.

42. Furthermore, personnel of the Federal Security Service were the main interrogators in detention facilities. In many cases, they inflicted torture themselves, to extract information from victims or coerce or intimidate them, or used threats of violence to cause them distress. In other cases, they ordered employees of the Federal Penitentiary Service or their special purpose units to commit torture. Detention personnel also perpetrated torture to prepare the detainees for interrogation by the Federal Security Service. In some instances, the release of detainees was at the discretion of the Federal Security Service. Interrogations were directed at obtaining information about Ukrainian authorities and armed forces, targeting persons with pro-Ukrainian positions and those supporting protests, as well as persons suspected of passing information to the Ukrainian armed forces. In one case, a civilian man held in several detention facilities reported that, in two such facilities, officers of the Federal Security Service had, during repeated interrogations, administered electric shocks to him using wires connected to his fingers and toes, while questioning him about his connections with Ukrainian authorities.

43. Personnel of the Federal Security Service also ordered the use of torture to coerce detainees into confessing to participation in crimes or naming others as participants. One former prisoner of war recounted that, during interrogations involving recurrent beatings targeting various parts of his body, an interrogator of the Federal Security Service demanded that he confess to crimes committed in Mariupol. When he denied having committed crimes, the interrogator replied, "incorrect answer – I need a response that satisfies me and my superiors", and prompted the guard of the detention facility to resume the beatings. A civilian woman recounted how, during an interrogation, guards beat her with a baton on her chest until she had difficulty in breathing. Officers of the Federal Security Service pressured her to confess that she was a spy, promising to stop the beatings if she complied. Personnel of the Federal Security Service also forced detainees to sign documents that they did not have the opportunity to read and to make false declarations while being filmed.

(b) Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation

44. The Investigative Committee answers directly to the President of the Russian Federation. In the framework of the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation, it has set up offices in Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and was tasked with "documenting crimes committed by the Ukrainian regime against the civilian population" of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts.¹⁶ Personnel of the Investigative Committee interrogated detainees and formulated charges against them for such offences as attempted coup d'état, terrorism, high treason, espionage or sabotage. Their interrogations focused on identifying persons responsible for alleged crimes. During some of the interrogations, members of the Investigative Committee ordered the personnel of the Federal Penitentiary Services to commit torture to extract confessions and at times committed violence themselves. They also exerted psychological violence, threatening that a refusal to cooperate would result in torture. In one case, an Investigative Committee member asked a former detainee, "are you sure you've told me everything you know, or do you need some treatment in the neighbouring office?", from which screams could be heard.

45. Personnel of the Investigative Committee forced detainees to sign documents that they did not have the opportunity to read thoroughly or had not read at all. Some former prisoners of war from the Azov brigade held in Russian detention facilities told the Commission that they were compelled to undergo trials in Russian Federation courts after having been coerced into signing documents by personnel of the Investigative Committee under threat of torture.

¹⁶ Information from the meeting of the Chair of the Investigative Committee, 1 March 2022.

3. Concluding observations

46. The Commission's findings show that personnel of the Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee have played a prominent role in ordering torture during interrogations involving the most brutal forms of torture. Personnel of the Federal Security Service have been overwhelmingly cited by former detainees for their role in committing or ordering torture during various stages of detention. Their aim was to extract information from and coerce and intimidate the detainees. Personnel of the Investigative Committee have also ordered torture, albeit to a lesser extent, during interrogations that appear to have been aimed at resulting in the issuance of charges against the detainees.

47. The coordinated actions of these two services demonstrate how Russian authorities have used torture systematically as a method of social control ultimately designed to consolidate their hold over areas that they occupied in Ukraine. Both services have a position of authority with respect to other services and security forces involved in detention. These findings further show the extent to which Russian Federation services have acted pursuant to a policy and strengthen the Commission's previous conclusion that they have committed torture as crimes against humanity.

C. Sexual violence as a form of torture and gender-based violence

48. The Commission has previously described the systematic use of sexual violence as a form of torture by Russian authorities in detention facilities, mostly against men.¹⁷ In the present report, it focuses on new cases of rape and sexual violence amounting to torture against detained women. The actions of the perpetrators, aimed at humiliating and degrading women in detention, highlight the gendered manifestations of violence in detention.

49. A 26-year-old female prisoner of war, who was detained for over two years by Russian authorities after her surrender in May 2022, was subjected to multiple acts of violence in a detention facility in the Russian Federation. During interrogations, personnel of the Federal Penitentiary Service tied her hands and severely beat her for hours on various parts of her body. During one such session, they removed the clothing from the top half of her body, hung her by her arms and beat her in that position. During another session, they stripped her naked and placed her face down, blindfolded. They tied her hands and ankles and raped her with a rubber baton while telling her that she deserved everything that had happened to her. The victim was bleeding, lost consciousness and could not stand or walk after that. She stated: "It was just pain. I couldn't even breathe. I couldn't understand why they would do that to me, how they could do that to someone." The former detainee suffered other acts of abuse and humiliation and was ultimately placed in solitary confinement for eight months. After her release, she had to undergo medical rehabilitation and two surgeries and developed an additional serious medical condition.

50. In another case, in April 2022, a 40-year-old civilian woman went to the office of a commandant of the Russian authorities in Kherson to inquire about a missing relative (see para. 29 above). An officer of the Federal Security Service questioned her there. Dissatisfied with her answers, he stated that, since she had not cooperated, he would have to call "the professionals". He ordered three Russian soldiers to "talk to her normally, maybe she will remember something". The soldiers took her to another room, where they took turns raping her. They also raped her using a rubber baton. While questioning her, they beat her and struck her tailbone. Afterwards, the victim could barely walk and needed surgery.

51. In a further incident, a civilian woman who had been confined in March 2022 in a detention facility in Zaporizhzhia Oblast stated that, during the night, five intoxicated soldiers took her from her cell and brought her to the interrogation room, where they beat her, burned her foot with cigarettes and undressed her. All five raped her, including with batons and other objects. Another civilian woman, who had also been confined in March 2022 in another facility in the same oblast, recounted that, during the night, a soldier who appeared intoxicated came to her cell and ordered her to undress, touched various parts of her body and raped her. She screamed. Other soldiers who approached mocked her and encouraged

¹⁷ [A/HRC/52/62](#), paras. 80–85.

the assailant. The next night, two soldiers came to her cell, ordered her to remove her clothes from the waist up and to squat and jump on a table, while they threw lit cigarettes at her and poured water over her.

52. Personnel of certain detention facilities in the Russian Federation and in occupied areas of Ukraine forced nudity on groups of women. Former female prisoners of war reported that, upon their arrival at detention facilities, they were ordered to undress fully, after which they were examined thoroughly and photographed in the presence of numerous male guards. One of the detainees added that they were forced to squat repeatedly while naked. A woman who underwent such degrading treatment in several detention facilities stated: “I was helpless, hopeless, humiliated, tired. I felt like a little monkey at the zoo, while those men stared at us.”

53. Nudity was also imposed before and after showers. Several women detained together described how male guards, without any explanation, pushed a group of women, blindfolded, into the corridor. One of the guards remarked, “you will be executed now”, while others laughed. Unbeknownst to the women, this was the first time they were going to be allowed to shower in weeks of detention. The perpetrators forced them to undress fully while male guards and convicts lined the corridor and laughed and mocked them. After two minutes under boiling hot water, the women, still naked, were ordered to parade back through the same corridor full of male guards and convicts. One of the women stated: “It was such a horrible event ... I thought we were going to be executed, like in concentration camps.” Another detainee said that such treatment felt “as violating and degrading as rape”. Women who had been detained by Russian authorities in other detention facilities described similar practices, suggesting a common pattern. One of them recounted, in addition, that if they stayed in the shower for more than three minutes, guards accompanied by dogs electrocuted them and beat them on the way back to the cells.

54. In several detention facilities, female detainees were subjected to inhuman conditions, which affected them differently and disproportionately. Detention personnel refused to provide them with hygiene pads during their menstruation. Instead, they mockingly instructed them to tear up the mattresses, bedsheets or clothes to use as hygiene pads. Consequently, detained women suffered from reproductive health issues. A female detainee who suspected that she was pregnant and requested medical assistance was ignored by the guards. She collapsed and regained consciousness in a hospital. The Federal Security Service officer who escorted her remarked: “Why didn’t you tell us you were pregnant? Well, not anymore, and that’s your fault.”

55. The Commission has previously found that Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture in detention facilities, and that most of the victims were men. The newly documented cases outlined in the present report demonstrate the particular vulnerability of female detainees to forms of sexual violence and abuse that reflect the gendered nature and impact of the treatment of women during detention. The Commission concluded, in these cases, that Russian authorities committed the war crimes of rape or sexual violence as a form of torture. The violent practices and the inhuman conditions described caused long-term physical and psychological harm.

D. Killing or wounding persons hors de combat

56. The Commission has investigated the killing or wounding by parties to the armed conflict of soldiers who were captured or injured or who attempted to surrender and were thus hors de combat.¹⁸ It has compiled video footage and photographs, and collected corroborating and contextual information. The Commission has also interviewed former soldiers of the Russian armed forces who described orders to kill surrendering Ukrainian soldiers. The incidents reviewed were of two types: the killing or wounding soldiers while they were surrendering or were already captured; and the killing or further wounding of already injured soldiers.

¹⁸ Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (b) (vi).

1. Killing or wounding captured or surrendering soldiers

57. Since the outset of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian authorities have conducted pretrial investigations in 57 criminal cases concerning the killing by Russian armed forces of over 196 Ukrainian soldiers. They have reported a sharp increase in the number of executions in 2024. The Commission has examined 32 incidents in which Russian soldiers killed or wounded 101 surrendering or captured Ukrainian soldiers in 2022, 2023, 2024, and early 2025, in Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts of Ukraine, as well as in Kursk Oblast of the Russian Federation. It has noted an increase in reports concerning such incidents since late 2023.

58. The Commission previously reported incidents in 2022 in which Ukrainian armed forces shot at Russian soldiers as they were surrendering or had been captured.¹⁹ It is not aware of further allegations of this nature. In most situations reviewed, Russian soldiers shot, with small-calibre arms and at close range, Ukrainian soldiers as they were surrendering. The soldiers targeted were in a vulnerable situation: unarmed, lying on the ground or kneeling and, in some cases, partially naked. For instance, video footage that circulated in February 2024, geolocated to Bakhmut District in Donetsk Oblast, shows eight Ukrainian soldiers as they climb out of a trench and lay on the ground in apparent surrender. While some of them were still coming out of the trench, five Russian soldiers – who had surrounded it and held them at gunpoint – shot at them multiple times, including with an automatic weapon. Other footage that circulated in October 2024, also geolocated to Donetsk Oblast, shows Russian soldiers shooting three Ukrainian soldiers after instructing them to lie down. In further incidents, Russian soldiers shot Ukrainian soldiers whom they had already captured and, in yet another incident, Russian soldiers appear to use three Ukrainian soldiers as human shields before shooting at least one of them.

59. The Commission also notes violent acts committed against Ukrainian soldiers or their bodies in some of the material circulated. For instance, photographs geolocated to Donetsk Oblast and dated between August and September 2024 show a dead Ukrainian soldier, covered in blood, with a spade bearing the writing “for Kursk” stuck in his chest. A video released by a Russian military unit and geolocated at the border crossing to Belgorod Oblast in the Russian Federation shows a severed head, said to be that of a Ukrainian soldier, impaled on a spike, with an audio message threatening that this will be repeated at every future encounter. A video with similar content was circulated on Russian Telegram channels in January 2025.

Perpetrators’ orders and instructions

60. The Commission has interviewed 48 former soldiers who have deserted from the Russian armed forces. The majority participated in combat operations in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts. Eleven of them described direct orders or instructions from their commanders not to take prisoners. In most cases, they also received orders to kill them instead. Another 15 of the soldiers interviewed had heard accounts from fellow soldiers concerning such orders, instructions or practices to not take prisoners.

61. The testimonies of the Russian soldiers who deserted show that, during meetings both prior to and during deployment to Ukraine, Russian unit commanders instructed large numbers of soldiers deployed not to take prisoners. One former soldier stated that, during such a meeting, a deputy brigade commander told a regiment, “prisoners are not needed, shoot them on the spot”. Another former soldier recalled that, in a staff meeting of the assault unit, the regiment commander had responded to a question about prisoners, stating, “don’t take them – shoot”. Yet another former soldier reported that, when answering a similar question, a battalion commander declared, “we don’t take prisoners – those Nazis should not be taken into captivity, they should be killed.” (“мы не берем в плен – этих нацистов нельзя брать в плен, их надо убивать”).

62. Similar orders were also given in operational situations, at times via radio communications. Two Russian soldiers deployed in different regions of Ukraine, who later deserted, heard similar orders over the radio. One of them spoke of general instructions from

¹⁹ [A/77/533](#), para. 87; conference room paper of the Commission of Inquiry, paras. 645–666.

the regiment commander to all the soldiers of the assault unit, saying, “when you go in the trenches, do not take prisoners” (“когда заходите в окопы, пленных не брать”). Another former soldier heard how the commander of the assault unit instructed, “take no prisoners, kill everyone, take everything” (“пленных не брать, всех убить, все отнять”). He also heard on the radio how, in response to reports that an unarmed Ukrainian soldier was attempting to surrender, waving a white cloth, a commander ordered a grenade to be dropped on him.

63. Some of those interviewed had witnessed fellow soldiers killing captured Ukrainian soldiers. One of them recounted that an officer ordered, “Zero him!” (“Обнулить!”), referring to a captured soldier. He later saw the captured soldier’s body. Finally, another Russian soldier who deserted heard over the radio, how, after the commander’s order to kill surrendered soldiers, one of them pleaded, crying, “I want to live”. Nevertheless, gunshots followed.

2. Killing or wounding injured soldiers

64. Videos and photographs of incidents where both parties to the conflict target injured soldiers have circulated widely. The soldiers who were hit often had visible, severe injuries and were unfit to continue combat. The perpetrators of these incidents mainly used exploding drones or explosives dropped by drones. Footage showing such incidents has circulated on Telegram channels run by soldiers of both parties or persons closely affiliated to them. Many of the videos are particularly disturbing, set to loud music and styled like a video game, with contemptuous comments accompanying images of killings, severe injuries and intense suffering.

(a) Killing or wounding of injured Ukrainian soldiers by Russian armed forces

65. The Commission has documented incidents in which Russian armed forces fired at injured Ukrainian soldiers. Footage that circulated on 27 September and 8 October 2023 of front-line developments in Luhansk Oblast shows an exploding drone targeting a group of three Ukrainian soldiers carrying an injured soldier on a stretcher, severely injuring one of them. One of the videos is titled, “Destruction of the evacuation crew of the enemy”. In another situation, videos disseminated on 16, 17 and 27 November 2023 of the front line in Donetsk Oblast show drones dropping explosives on six heavily wounded Ukrainian soldiers. Two of them appear to wear tourniquets. In yet another incident, footage dated 22 November 2023 of operations in Bakhmut District, Donetsk Oblast, shows drones repeatedly dropping explosives on seven apparently injured Ukrainian soldiers.

(b) Killing or wounding of injured Russian soldiers by Ukrainian armed forces

66. The Commission has also documented situations where Ukrainian armed forces targeted injured Russian soldiers. For instance, a video compilation on front-line developments on 24 May 2024 in Donetsk Oblast shows explosives being dropped by drone on four Russian soldiers with visible and life-threatening injuries. On 4 December 2024, a unit of the Ukrainian armed forces circulated a video, described as the aftermath of operations in Donetsk Oblast, which shows how drone operators allowed a severely wounded Russian soldier, wearing a tourniquet on one leg, to smoke a last cigarette before dropping explosives to kill him. The Commission reviewed other material about similar incidents, including a video compilation showing active combat and an explosive dropped from a drone on a visibly injured Russian soldier lying on a stretcher.

3. Concluding observations

67. Based on the cases documented, the Commission has concluded that both parties committed the war crimes of killing or wounding injured soldiers²⁰ and of committing acts constituting outrages upon their dignity by disseminating dehumanizing footage of injury and death, often accompanied by loud music and offensive comments.²¹

²⁰ Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (b) (vi).

²¹ *Ibid.*, art. 8 (2) (b) (xxi).

68. Furthermore, the Commission has found that Russian armed forces committed the war crime of killing or wounding soldiers who attempted to surrender or were captured. The dissemination of material concerning such incidents has increased significantly. The testimonies of former Russian soldiers, showing that commanders of various units, at different levels and in multiple locations, both prior to and during deployment or active operations, gave almost identical orders, combined with the wide number of incidents documented and their regular recurrence, indicate that the Russian armed forces have acted pursuant to a policy to kill surrendering or captured soldiers, in clear violation of international humanitarian law.²² Moreover, declaring that no quarter will be given is a war crime.²³

E. Violations committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons accused of collaboration with Russian authorities

69. The Commission has previously found that Ukrainian authorities have committed some violations of human rights against persons whom they have accused of collaboration with Russian authorities.²⁴ During the present mandate, the Commission has investigated four additional such cases, all concerning incidents in 2022, against male victims. The Commission concluded that Ukrainian authorities committed the human rights violations of arbitrary arrest and detention in all of these cases. It also determined that the human rights violation of torture was committed in two of them and the human rights violation of enforced disappearance in one of them.²⁵

70. In one case, on 31 March 2022, men in uniform arrested a civilian man near the settlement of Dymir, Kyiv Oblast, and immediately started beating him, fired shots in his vicinity and detained him on the premises of the Security Service of Ukraine in the centre of Kyiv. There, according to the victim, armed persons with masks interrogated him, beat and suffocated him, administered electric shocks and burned him with cigarettes, to force him to confess to collaboration with the Russian armed forces. His arrest was officially recognized by court decision only on 16 April 2022. From the day after his arrest, his parents had attempted in vain to locate him. They received information about his place of detention only on 19 April 2022.²⁶

71. In another case, on 27 July 2022, persons in uniform arrested a member of the Security Service of Ukraine near the building of the Security Service of Ukraine for Kharkiv Oblast, in Kharkiv, and immediately started beating him. The Security Service of Ukraine released a video partially showing the arrest. During subsequent detention, according to the victim, persons in uniform interrogated him, beat him and administered electric shocks to him to extract a confession and threatened him with sexual violence and mutilation. The Security Service of Ukraine records his date of arrest as 29 July 2022.

72. The Commission has previously referred to the legal uncertainty concerning the definition of “collaborative activity” and recommended that the legislation be aligned with international standards.²⁷ Since 2022, several draft amendments to the Criminal Code on this issue have been submitted to Parliament. In May and June 2024, the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine issued guidance letters concerning criminal prosecution for “collaborative activities”, instructing full compliance with the requirements of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, which is a positive development.

²² Protocol I Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, art. 41 (1); and Third Geneva Convention, art. 13.

²³ Rome Statute, art. 8 (2) (b) (xii).

²⁴ A/78/540, paras. 70–73; and A/HRC/55/66, paras. 82–84.

²⁵ The Security Service of Ukraine stated that the information presented on these cases is unfounded.

²⁶ The Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine has informed the Commission that it has conducted an investigation concerning the enforced disappearance of the victim, without providing further details.

²⁷ Conference room paper of the Commission of Inquiry, para. 855.

III. Conclusions and recommendations

73. During its third mandate, the Commission has concluded that Russian authorities committed the crime against humanity of enforced disappearance and the crime against humanity of torture. These crimes have been carried out as part of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population. Perpetrators have detained large numbers of civilians in areas that came under their control in Ukraine and further transferred or deported many of them to detention facilities in occupied areas of Ukraine or in the Russian Federation. They committed additional violations and crimes during these prolonged detentions. Many victims have been missing for months and years, and some have died in captivity. Various Russian authorities have systematically failed to provide information on their whereabouts. They include the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, which denied information on the whereabouts of detainees, invoking confidentiality. The elements documented demonstrate that Russian authorities have acted pursuant to a policy and with the intent to remove those disappeared from the protection of the law. Prisoners of war have also been victims of torture and of enforced disappearance, in violation of international humanitarian law.

74. The torture of detainees was particularly brutal during interrogations. The Federal Security Service and the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation have been among the main authorities leading interrogations. Personnel of both entities have participated in or ordered torture and have threatened violence against the victims. Evidence shows that the Federal Security Service had the highest authority when present in detention facilities and committed torture at various stages of detention.

75. Russian authorities have systematically used sexual violence as a form of torture against men in detention facilities. The Commission documented new cases in which the war crimes of rape and sexual violence were committed against female detainees.

76. The Commission also examined incidents involving Russian armed forces killing or wounding captured or surrendering Ukrainian soldiers, which constitute war crimes. The testimonies of soldiers from the Russian armed forces who had deserted indicate that there is a policy not to take prisoners but instead to kill them.

77. Both parties to the armed conflict have killed or wounded injured soldiers on the front lines using drones, incidents that also constitute war crimes.

78. Lastly, the Commission documented some human rights violations committed by Ukrainian authorities against persons accused of collaboration.

79. Three years of armed conflict have had a devastating impact on the civilian population. Victims have often suffered from a complex combination of violations and crimes, as well as from hardships owing to prolonged armed conflict. Many have endured deprivation of liberty, physical violence and inhuman treatment; the disappearance or death of loved ones, or separation from them; loss or destruction of homes; and, consequently, restrictions on their basic rights to housing, food, education and health. Family members have been subjected to excruciating anxiety and suffering, while coping with prolonged separation from their loved ones and searching and waiting for them. For many of the victims, the physical and moral losses are irreparable.

80. In that context, victims have faced numerous challenges in their recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The Commission thus reiterates the importance of non-judicial forms of accountability, including measures of truth, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. It also emphasizes that judicial accountability remains key to ensuring that perpetrators of violations and crimes are identified and held to account for their acts, and to ending the cycle of impunity.

81. The recommendations made in the previous reports of the Commission remain relevant. The Commission sets out below specific recommendations to address the issues set forth in the current report.

82. **The Commission recommends that the Russian Federation immediately:**

- (a) **Cease aggression and all acts of violence against civilians and prisoners of war committed in violation of international human rights law and international humanitarian law;**
- (b) **End the widespread and systematic use of torture and other forms of ill-treatment of civilian detainees and prisoners of war;**
- (c) **Take all measures possible to prevent sexual and gender-based violence against civilians and prisoners of war.**

83. **The Commission also recommends that the Russian Federation:**

- (a) **End enforced disappearance, notably by informing families of the fate and whereabouts of all persons in their custody and ensuring that all those detained are registered, and provide legal review of the grounds of their detention;**
- (b) **End transfers of civilians to Russian-occupied areas in Ukraine and deportations of civilians to the Russian Federation;**
- (c) **Release or return to Ukraine all Ukrainian civilians who have been deported to the Russian Federation and are detained there as a consequence of the armed conflict;**
- (d) **When a disappeared person dies, promptly return the remains of the deceased to the family and inform them of the circumstances of the death;**
- (e) **End the killing or wounding of prisoners of war and personnel hors de combat and ensure that all allegations thereof are duly investigated;**
- (f) **Ensure that all perpetrators, in particular commanders and other superiors and those ordering, soliciting or inducing the commission of crimes under international law, are held accountable in accordance with international standards;**
- (g) **Take the measures necessary to prevent the commission of such violations and crimes, in particular by issuing unequivocal instructions to all branches of the armed forces, the Federal Security Service, the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Investigative Committee, with a view to ensuring that discipline and respect for international human rights law and international humanitarian law are upheld, along with the principle of command responsibility.**

84. **The Commission recommends that Ukraine:**

- (a) **End the killing or wounding of injured personnel hors de combat and ensure that all allegations thereof are duly investigated and that those responsible are held accountable;**
- (b) **Take the measures necessary to prevent the commission of such violations and crimes, in particular by issuing unequivocal instructions to all branches of the armed forces;**
- (c) **Examine the various amendments proposed to its Criminal Code in order to clarify the crime of collaboration in accordance with international law, to ensure legal certainty and prevent social cohesion from being damaged;**
- (d) **Continue to address mental health and psychosocial needs resulting from the armed conflict comprehensively by ensuring access to the relevant services, allocating resources to those services and enhancing their institutional coordination, legal regulation, monitoring and evaluation.**

85. **The Commission recommends that other States and regional and international organizations:**

- (a) **Strengthen their support to judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms, the latter including measures of truth, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;**
- (b) **Provide comprehensive support for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violations and crimes, including healthcare, psychosocial support and housing.**

Annex I



UKRAINE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Areas where Russian authorities initially detained persons that became victims of enforced disappearances in the context of their full-scale invasion of Ukraine, according to the IICIU's investigations

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (IICIU)

March 2025



Created: 5 March 2025 Author: IICIU Sources: IICIU, UN Geospatial, OCHA Contact: coi-ukraine@un.org

Annex II



UKRAINE / RUSSIAN FEDERATION: Updated map of areas investigated by the ICIU where Russian authorities committed torture in the context of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (ICIU)

March 2025



Created: 5 March 2025 Author: ICIU Sources: ICIU, UN Geospatial, OCHA Contact: coi-ukraine@un.org

Annex III

Detention facilities in areas that were under Russian Federation control in Ukraine and in the Russian Federation

The list below enumerates the detention facilities held by Russian authorities where the Commission has confirmed the use of torture through investigations since its appointment. Additional detention facilities are under investigation.

In areas under Russian Federation control in Ukraine¹

Kherson Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Chonhar village
- Temporary detention centre, Kherson city
- Police department, Nova Kakhovka city
- Temporary detention centre, Hola Prystan city
- School (makeshift facility), Biliayivka village
- Sanatorium (makeshift facility), Hola Prystan city

Zaporizhzhia Provinc

- Correctional Colony No. 77 (aka Prymorsk Colony no.145), Berdiansk city
- Police department, Berdiansk city
- Police Department, Enerhodar city
- Police Department, Melitopol city
- District police, Vasylivka town

Donetsk Province

- Volnovakha Correctional Colony No.120, known as Olenivka, in Molodizhne village
- Kalinin Correctional Colony No. 4 (previously No. 27), Horlivka city
- Pre-trial detention centre, Donetsk city

Kharkiv Province

- Police Department, Izium city
- Railway Hospital (makeshift facility), Izium city
- Police Department, Balakliia town

Kyiv Province

- “Viknaland” metal plant (makeshift facility), Dymer village

Luhansk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre in Starobilsk city, Luhansk Province

Chernihiv Province

- Agricultural shed (makeshift facility), Vyshneve village

Mykolaiv Province

- Location near a water canal (makeshift facility), Novopetrivka village

Autonomous Republic of Crimea

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Simferopol city

¹ Russian authorities have lost control of some of the mentioned areas.

In the Russian Federation**Belgorod Province**

- Pre-trial detention facility No. 2, Staryi Oskol city
- Correctional colony No. 6, Valuyki town

Kursk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 1, Kursk city

Bryansk Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Novozybkov city

Rostov Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Taganrog city

Tula Province

- Correctional colony No. 1, Donskoy town

Tver Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Kashyn town

Ryazan Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Ryazhsk town

Vladimir Province

- Penal Colony No. 7, Pakino village

Volgograd Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2, Kamyshin city

Voronezh Province

- Pre-trial detention centre No. 2 Borisoglebsk town

Republic of Mordovia

- Correctional Colony No. 10, Udarnyi village
-