

# **ARTICLE 15**

# **SUBMISSION**

***TO THE OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
CONCERNING THE ALLEGED CRIME  
OF TORTURE COMMITTED  
BY THE RUSSIAN MILITARY  
IN UKRAINE***

*prepared  
by the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group*

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as part of the SOS Ukraine initiative.  
The content of the publication does not necessarily coincide with their position

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND CLARIFICATION OF TERMS

**T4P** — a global initiative of human rights organizations of Ukraine, '*Tribunal for Putin*', established for the purposes of atrocity crimes documentation following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

**ATO** — anti-terrorist operation.

**Database** — a T4P general database.

**KHPG database** — a separate database of the KHPG.

**Russian military** — Russian Armed Forces, other military formations of the Russian Federation, affiliated armed groups under the control of the Russian Federation (the so-called "DPR" and "LPR"), private military companies (PMC), groups of mercenaries and other armed units participating in the armed conflict on the side of the Russian Federation.

**VP** — police department.

**VK** — penal colony.

**GRU RF** — Central Intelligence Agency of the Russian Federation.

**GUNP** — Main Department of the National Police of Ukraine.

**SU GUNP** — Investigative Department of the Main Department of the National Police of Ukraine.

**RuAF** — Russian Armed Forces.

**UAF** — Ukrainian Armed Forces.

**ITT** — Temporary Detention Facility.

**KPP** — Checkpoint.

**ICC** — International Criminal Court.

**ICRC** — International Committee of the Red Cross.

**MoD RF** — Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

**PTSD** — Posttraumatic Stress Disorder.

**Rosgvardiya** — National Guard of Russia.

**OTP ICC** — Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

**RS ICC** — Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**RF** — Russian Federation.

**SSU** — Security Service of Ukraine.

**SIZO** — pre-trial detention center.

**SC RF** — Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.

**Cmt.** — village.

**"DPR"** — the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic".

**"LPR"** — the so-called "Luhansk People's Republic".

**"SMO"** — the so-called "special military operation", a term used by Russian officials to describe Russia's aggressive war against Ukraine.

**T.O.T.** — temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine by Russian forces.

**FSB** — Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

**KHPG** — Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group.

**RRCS** — Russian Red Cross.

**URCS** — Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

The terms "interrogate", "interrogation" are not assigned a criminal law meaning but refer to the unlawful questioning practices of the Russian military of Ukrainian civilians who were often tortured or subjected to inhumane treatment throughout the process.

# SUMMARY

1. On March 2, 2022, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, announced the opening of an official investigation into the situation in Ukraine, which encompasses past and present allegations of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide committed on the territory of Ukraine by any person since November 21, 2013.
2. NGO “Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group” (KHPG) presents this Article 15 Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (OTP ICC), which contains information about alleged incidents of torture committed by the Russian military in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine following the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022. Since the beginning of Russia’s all-out war, the KHPG, together with its partners, prepared and sent to the OTP ICC several Article 15 communications related to the alleged atrocity crimes committed by the Russian forces, including: (1) alleged shelling of civilian objects and the civilian population, (2) alleged genocide in Mariupol, (3) alleged extrajudicial executions, (4) alleged severe deprivation of liberty, (5) alleged forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia, and (6) alleged enforced disappearances.
3. **Chapter 1**, “*Introduction*”, provides a brief background on the KHPG and expresses gratitude to the international donors who supported its atrocity crimes documentation efforts. It also acknowledges the work of partner organizations that participated in collecting information about incidents of torture following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
4. **Chapter 2**, “*Methodology*”, describes the procedures for collecting, processing, analysing, and storing information obtained from various sources. It outlines the process of compiling information of evidentiary value for the purpose of preparing this submission to the ICC OTP.
5. **Chapter 3**, “*Analytical information about the patterns of torture*”, and **Chapter 4**, “*Analytical information about inhumane detention conditions*”, contain analytical information about the documented incidents of torture and inhuman treatment committed by the Russian military. The general analysis of the collected information is based on the data collected by the partners of the “T4P” initiative, which was entered into the database in the period between February 24, 2022 and February 1, 2024.
6. **Chapter 5**, “*Information about alleged perpetrators of torture*”, provides details about members of the Russian military and its affiliated militia groups mentioned in the testimonies of victims and witnesses, which are included in Appendix 2 of this submission. The information in this section is organised by t.o.t regions of Ukraine where the events described by the victims or witnesses took place, and by the personal identification information of individual members or groups (in cases where the alleged crimes were committed by a group of Russian soldiers) of the Russian military.
7. **Chapter 6**, “*Preliminary legal qualification of alleged crimes*”, provides a legal analysis of the presented evidence, and submits that the documented incidents of torture committed by the Russian military and its affiliated militia groups constitute both war crimes and crimes against humanity within the legal framework of the Rome Statute.
8. **Chapter 7**, “*Conclusions*”, summarizes major findings of this submission.
9. The **appendices** include depersonalized testimonies of torture victims and witnesses (66 testimonies in total) and their summaries, as well as standard forms used by documentators in their work, including an informed consent form to share evidence with the ICC OTP.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

10. KHPG was founded in 1993. Prior to that, it was operating as a human rights group of the Kharkiv ‘Memorial’ society. KHPG work is aimed at 1) protecting human rights in specific instances where human rights violations have occurred, handling over 3,000 individual requests annually; 2) informing the Ukrainian state and society about the human rights situation in Ukraine; and 3) analysing human rights compliance in Ukraine. KHPG strives to improve the human rights situation in Ukraine by ensuring the respect for the fundamental human rights, such as the right to life, freedom from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, freedom from arbitrary arrest and detention, freedom of expression and information, as well as protecting the rights of the vulnerable groups of the population, which include prisoners, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons suffering from substance abuse, internally displaced persons and others.
11. Established in 2023, the KHPG Strategic Litigation Centre (SLC) is handling over 200 individual cases per year, which are heard by national courts or communicated to the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR). KHPG lawyers submitted **635** individual applications to the ECtHR and won **185** cases, in which the violations of Articles 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13 and other provisions of the European Convention of Human Rights have been established. More than **400** individual applications submitted by the KHPG lawyers are still pending before the ECtHR (**85 cases** are awaiting determination on the merits), with more than half of those cases concerning conflict-related atrocity crimes in eastern Ukraine. KHPG cooperates with the UN treaty bodies and other accountability mechanisms, such the UN Human Rights Committee, UN special rapporteurs, the UN Committee against Torture (CAT), the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention etc. In addition to legal assistance and legal representation of victims in various international and national fora, KHPG provides humanitarian and psychological support to direct victims of atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine.
12. Prior to Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, KHPG submitted an Article 15 communication<sup>1</sup> to the OTP ICC, covering a broad range of alleged atrocity crimes committed in the territory of Donbas.<sup>2</sup>
13. Following Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine (2022–2024), KHPG has been documenting alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian military, its authorities and affiliated militia groups on the territory of Ukraine. KHPG atrocity crimes documentation is based on witness/victim testimonies, documentary evidence, digital evidence, observations during monitoring visits to de-occupied territories or the areas close to the contact line and open source information. KHPG is one of the co-founders of the global initiative “Tribunal for Putin” (T4P) whose main goal is to bring perpetrators of atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine to justice through atrocity crimes documentation work.
14. On March 24, 2022, in response to Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, KHPG, together with other partner NGOs, namely, the Center for Civil Liberties (CCL) and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union (UHHRU), founded the global initiative “Tribunal for Putin” (T4P). The participants of the initiative document alleged atrocity crimes that fall within the jurisdiction of the ICC, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes commit-

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<sup>1</sup> The Art 15 Communication was submitted to the OTP ICC on January 9, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> The OTP ICC acknowledged receipt of the Art 15 Communication on March 27, 2019 in its letter (No. OTP-CR-9/19).

ted in the entire territory of Ukraine. The initiative aims to utilise existing international accountability mechanisms within the UN, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the EU, and the International Criminal Court, to bring perpetrators of atrocity crimes committed in Ukraine to justice through atrocity crimes documentation work.

15. The authors of this communication are Vladyslav Dolzhko. Iryna Marchuk and Gennadiy Tokarev, general edition by Iryna Marchuk.
16. KHPG is grateful to the international charitable institutions and partners that supported its operation in the difficult wartime circumstances, and its work in collecting information for the purposes of preparing this communication, in particular the European Union, the Danish Institute against Torture 'DIGNITY' (Denmark), the Czech charitable foundations "People in Need" and the Prague Civil Society Center, and the "Panorama Global" fund (USA).

## 2. METHODOLOGY

17. This section outlines major aspects of the methodology underlying the collection and processing of information obtained during personal contacts with torture victims/witnesses and from open sources. It also details the process of preparing this submission.

### 2.1. DATABASES

#### 2.1.1. Database (DB) of the T4P initiative

##### *General information about the database*

18. The database of the global initiative T4P is a relational database specifically designed for collecting, processing, and analyzing information about atrocity crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the ICC.<sup>3</sup>
19. The database was developed in 2016–2017 and significantly improved during 2022–2024. The database contains tools for collection, verification, and systemic analysis of data, which was entered into the database. It was built on the free MySQL database management system. When documenting events/incidents, members of partner organizations use information that comes directly from witnesses and victims, as well as corroborating information from open sources (e.g. social media, media news, official reports etc). The filtering tools help to search for information about a specific event which may qualify as a crime within the jurisdiction of the ICC.
20. After verification, the data is entered into the KPHG database as a specific case. Priority is given to media files and personal data that can subsequently be verified through open-source intelligence information and/or through direct contact with victims and witnesses. Whenever possible, members of the T4P partner organizations document events during field missions, where they photograph the extent of destruction using drones; establish contact with witnesses and victims of the events; and record first-hand victim/witness accounts.
21. Third parties do not have access to the information in the database. Personal data and, if necessary, media files are additionally encrypted. However, statistical data, which is updated daily, is open and available for viewing online on the website of the T4P initiative.<sup>4</sup>
22. Atrocity crimes documentation process takes place according to the regional principle: different regions of Ukraine are assigned to different partner organizations. As a general rule, the organisations are assigned the regions where they have worked for years and understand the geographical and other local peculiarities.

##### *Technical characteristics of the database*

23. Until February 24, 2022, the database was a simple MySQL database located on an internal server in the KHPG office. It was intended to convert data from spreadsheets, manually edit and enter data using a simple web interface. The database also enabled to produce statistical reports based on prepared queries. When personal data was entered into the database, it was encrypted (AES\_ENCRYPT<sup>5</sup>) using a key that could be changed at any time.

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://t4pua.org/en/1202>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://t4pua.org/en/stats>.

<sup>5</sup> See <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/encryption-functions.html>.



24. After February 24, 2022, the database was moved to an external server in order to enable remote access for multiple documenters. A user authorization module was created for this purpose, with different levels of access rights (guest, documenter, editor, lawyer, and administrator, with rights to view and edit personal data and without such rights). The database was hosted on Mirohost's<sup>6</sup> server, a Ukrainian company, with the servers physically located in Europe. The choice of hosting was based on the convenience and speed of interaction for documenters working in Ukraine.
25. Upon the launch of the database, several factors limiting its use in wartime circumstances were identified. Consequently, both the database and the web interface have been continuously improved and developed to address the new challenges facing atrocity crimes documentation. The database has been adapted to the realities of wartime atrocity crimes documentation work, data security threats, and the frequent need for various classifications and statistical processing of entered data.
26. Several technical improvements have been implemented to protect personal data and enhance the operation of the database:
  - free access to the folder where media files and documents belonging to the “testimony” section are stored was removed. The files can only be viewed or downloaded after logging into the database and entering a personal data encryption key;
  - access to media files and documents located in the “Case” section of each episode is strictly prohibited to any person other than the lawyer handling the case;
  - “hard binding” of the types of data to database tables was changed. Instead, it became possible to expand the categories entered in the database without altering the structure of the database itself, by changing the configuration parameters through the introduction of a simple “category constructor” for the entered data;
  - a log history, which automatically records all changes in data records made by documenters, was added. The log history cannot be altered through the database interface. It is stored in the database in an encrypted form in accordance with the ‘black box’ principle;
  - a browsing history was created to automatically record all views of individual episodes and personalities when they were viewed by a documenter who did not make the database entry or another person, other than a lawyer who handles the “Case”. The browsing history is saved according to the “black box” principle;
  - a two-factor authorization mechanism was added. It requires an additional identification code to be entered, which is sent to the user's email address, after the usual login details (i.e. a name, password, and personal data encryption code) were entered;
  - a login history for registering all login attempts with failed authorization was added. If the limit of authorization attempts has been reached, the user's IP address is blocked from any further login attempts. The time intervals between the authorization attempts have increased. The IP address can only be unlocked by the administrator;
  - To enhance security and data protection, a periodic analysis of the usage of software modules in the database interface and the removal of outdated modules that have lost their relevance were implemented. Additionally, the periodic removal of inactive database users and/or changes to user passwords were also carried out;
  - all technical recommendations by the Security Laboratory regarding database protection against potential hacker attacks have been implemented.

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<sup>6</sup> See <https://mirohost.net>.

27. At the time of preparing this submission, the database is an online MySQL database with a web interface that can be viewed in any Internet browser. Requests and commands to the database from the server side are executed using scripts in the PHP-8 programming language. The database is created and operated by KHPG. Therefore, access to the source code of the database and the ability to change its organizational structure are exclusively reserved for KHPG's technical specialist.

### *Access to the database*

28. Ordinary users have two types of access to the database. Editing rights are granted only to authorized documenters of the T4P initiative, who always document in person. This list is exhaustive. Temporary access, which allows users to review the information in the database, is granted only with KHPG's permission and is limited to a list of individuals with a clearly defined purpose (e.g., "guest" access for members of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies).
29. Access to the database is granted exclusively by the KHPG technical specialist upon the directive of the organization's director. The rules for using the database stipulate that access may not be transferred to any third party. Work with the database must always be conducted personally.
30. Access to the database requires entering a login name, password, and encryption key, which also protects personal data. Additionally, access to the database is protected through two-factor authentication.
31. If suspicious activity related to logging into the database is detected, the KHPG technical specialist may track the source of such activity and block it.

### *Documenters*

32. Database operators are documenters of individual organizations of the T4P initiative (about 50 people) who have previously undergone group and personal trainings on using the database. Instructions on the work with the database have been developed and integrated into the database interface in order to ensure correct and uniform entry of data.
33. Given that atrocity crimes documentation requires not only technical skills but also the basic knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international criminal law (ICL), the documenters have acquired such knowledge, including on the evidentiary standards in the ICC, through the specialized trainings. They have also undergone training on the new ICC atrocity crimes documentation standards for non-governmental organizations (2022 ICC-Eurojust Guidelines). Following the training, the documenters must perform their work in compliance with such international standards.<sup>7</sup>
34. Information entry into the database is supervised by experienced supervisors with extensive knowledge of IHL and ICL. This ensures that errors are minimized during data entry and allows for the correction of any mistakes in the database.

### *Entering information into the database*

35. Information stored in the database for each incident of unlawful deprivation of liberty, combined with torture and inhuman treatment, is called an "episode." Each episode satisfies the legal elements of the respective crimes as outlined in the ICC Elements of Crimes. The episode includes the date of the event (or the interval/period if the exact date is unknown), the

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<sup>7</sup> See Appendix 4 'Instructions for Atrocity Crimes Documentation in the Database'.

place, circumstances of the event, type of event, its preliminary legal qualification under the RS ICC, and the personalities/individuals associated with the event (i.e., victims, witnesses, and/or perpetrators of crimes).

36. Each episode in the database has the following properties:
  - a unique number; it is associated with the date of the event (or approximate date or period), as well as the place where the event had taken place or the object that was affected (address, coordinates);
  - it is accompanied by a testimony (if available), which may include textual information and/or media files (i.e. photos, videos, documents, etc.);
  - each piece of evidence has its unique number and can be attached to any episode or a set of episodes;
  - a “personality”, which includes personal data of a specific person, can be attached to any episode, while specifying the role of that person in the given episode;
  - It contains notes selected by the documenter from the list, including with regards to the type of event, the affected object, the preliminary legal qualification, and the estimated damages, as well as keywords. This data is used in the compilation of statistical reports.
  - it may include an optional section with information regarding the progress of the legal case opened in connection with that episode, which may contain information and files with restricted access;
  - it always contains information about the source of obtaining information about the specific incident of torture.
37. The software developed by KHPG allows users to check the correct spelling of geographical locations/addresses, find duplicates of the same episode, and protect personal data by automatically encrypting and storing it in the database in an encrypted form. After entering the access key, all personal data is decrypted and can be processed.

#### ***Database security***

38. The database includes tools to prevent unauthorized changes, deletion, or distortion of the entered information.
39. The database records all actions related to adding or editing previously entered information. Access to the log history and changes is restricted exclusively to the KHPG technical specialist. Only the KHPG technical specialist has the authority to delete entered episodes. Other database users, including those with editing access rights, do not have the authority to delete previously entered episodes.
40. All media files uploaded to the database are simultaneously stored on two hosting servers: the main server, operated by the Ukrainian company ‘Mirohost’ with servers in Europe, and a backup server located in Germany, operated by the company ‘IONOS’. The database is backed up daily, and the backups are stored in four repositories.
41. The database is equipped with two-factor user authentication for users.

#### ***Information filtering***

42. Analysis of the collected information regarding incidents of torture can be performed using database tools, particularly through pre-created specific queries that filter episodes based on specific field values.
43. The list of specific requests for the DB users is static: no user, except for the administrator, can create new requests, or edit or delete existing requests.

44. New specific queries are developed, tested, and implemented exclusively by the database administrator, (the KHPG technical specialist) when there is a need to obtain specific combinations of data, which are impossible or difficult to obtain through the use of existing queries. Following the creation and introduction of a new specific query, it is added to the list of queries.
45. A specific query entails counting or outputting the values of certain database fields, which are selected from all the episodes, by applying specific filters. The fields that can be used for filtering purposes can be any database fields, among others, the place, the date of the event (filtering is possible both by a specific date and a specific interval period), the type of event, a preliminary legal qualification, etc.
46. The use of specific queries enables to perform advanced research with vast amounts of data. For example, the database has a tool for cluster research of episodes based on a variable combination of input parameters.
47. The database also allows to carry out a search by episode(s), which accepts input data in the form of text or code (e.g. episode numbers). The episode search can also process information by taking into consideration user data; a specific interval period for the event, the entry of data about the event in the DB, or the editing history of the event in the DB.
48. The search can also be carried out by 'personalities', which allows to filter information in the respective field. The availability of such search tool is contingent on the existence of access rights and the use of encryption key. This also reduces the probability of creating duplicate entries of the same personalities.
49. The database also allows to access information related to database users and database service, which can be used to track database user activity, the history of data changes in a specific episode, and the process of entering data in the DB. These tools can be used if there is a need for retrospective search and correction of data entered by database users.
50. In addition to the database tools specified in this subsection, which are available to database users, the database administrator has access to the back-end of the data and the database structure. Therefore, the administrator can perform more advanced tasks, such as creating new specific queries, ensuring data security, and overseeing the correct use of the database by its users.

### **2.1.2. Separate KHPG database**

51. In addition to the T4P DB, another database is used by KHPG, which holds information on ongoing criminal proceedings involving victims of torture who are legally represented by KHPG lawyers. The only users of the KHPG DB are lawyers who represent victims and cooperate with KHPG.
52. Three employees of DIGNITY, a Copenhagen-based NGO, who advise KHPG on atrocity crimes documentation standards and preparation of Art 15 communications to the ICC, have a guest (view-only) access to the KHPG DB.
53. The KHPG DB was built on a platform identical to the T4P database and includes all above-mentioned technical features, with some additional features as outlined below.

#### ***Technical features of the KHPG DB***

54. The KHPG DB contains a field entitled 'Case', which includes information about the progress of legal proceedings both at the national and international levels, an overview of legal actions undertaken in the case, as well as accompanying legal documents (e.g. protocols of investigative activities, forensic reports, media files, etc.).

55. All confidential personal data is stored in the 'Case' field. Therefore, the KHPG DB is organized in such a way that only the lawyer handling the case, and the DB administrator (the KHPG technical specialist) have access to field 'Case' in each individual episode of alleged crime. Other DB users have limited access to a brief description of the event ('summary testimony'), which allows them to form a general impression of the event, but does include any information on associated legal proceedings, the details of torture, and personal data of victims and witnesses.
56. The KHPG DB also contains service functions that allow users to determine, which lawyers handled specific cases at a particular procedural stage, as well as the chronology of their legal actions.
57. To ensure confidentiality of personal data, a lawyer handling the legal case can independently encrypt individual files uploaded to the field 'Case' through the DB interface. The encryption prevents unauthorized access to the content if an attacker gains physical access to the servers, which host the KHPG DB.
58. After the file is encrypted, it is stored in the KHPG database in an encrypted form and needs to be decrypted before it can be further used. Decryption is carried out independently by a lawyer handling the legal case through the DB interface.

## 2.2. METHODOLOGY OF GATHERING EVIDENCE FROM OPEN SOURCES

59. The information provided in this submission derives from various sources: (1) witness testimony; (2) results of monitoring trips; (3) open-source information. Within the latter category, all open source sources can be divided into official and non-official sources. **Official sources** include governmental publications or statements. **Non-official sources** include various Internet or other open sources, such as media reports, online articles, social media information, reports, etc.
60. The process of collecting information depends upon the source, from which such information was obtained. When collecting information from open sources, documenters single out information about the specific episode, which may fulfill the legal elements of international crime(s), and store it in the DB. They archive the source of such information through saving it or taking a screenshot, in a manner which allows to identify the source and preserve date, time and/or associated metadata. Once entered into the DB, such data cannot be altered or deleted.
61. All documenters are obliged to verify data they obtain from open sources. The verification process includes searching for corroborating information from other open sources. Another way of verification is through contact with victims or witnesses who can confirm a specific event in their testimony.

## 2.3. METHODOLOGY OF GATHERING EVIDENCE DURING PERSONAL CONTACTS AND FURTHER PROCESSING OF DATA

62. The interviews are conducted in accordance with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for witness interviewing,<sup>8</sup> which have been jointly developed by KHPG and DIGNITY in compliance with the ICC-Eurojust Guidelines for civil society organizations on docu-

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<sup>8</sup> Annex A: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for witness interviewing.

menting international crimes and human rights violations for accountability purposes, the Méndez Principles on Effective Interviewing, the Istanbul Protocol, and best practices in trauma-informed interviewing.

63. The witness interviewing procedure includes several stages: (1) preparation and planning for the interview; (2) taking the account (interviewing); (3) documenting person's account; and (4) post-interview.
64. During the first stage of **preparation and planning**, KHGP interviewers do the following: obtain background information on the person whom they intend to interview; carry out a risk assessment both in relation to the interviewer and the interviewee; define objectives of questioning and identify relevant topics that they intend to cover during the interview; arrange the logistics, choose the interview format and create a safe, caring and private environment. At this stage, KHGP interviewers will seek to obtain informed consent from the interviewee. They will also inquire whether the interviewee is represented by a lawyer, and whether he/she earlier provided testimony to representatives of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies or the ICC OTP.
65. The second stage of **taking the account** begins with a mandatory explanation of the interview format and its purpose. Following this, the interviewee is required to fill out the Informed Consent form in **Appendix 3** (Form 3) and is served with a Privacy Notice as provided in **Appendix 3** (Form 2).<sup>9</sup> The KHGP interviewer is obliged to take the person through major aspects of the consent form (i.e. purpose of the consented activity; consent withdrawal procedure; privacy safeguards) and answer any questions that the person might have.
66. This is followed by the interview itself, which employs a trauma-informed approach. The interview can only be recorded with the interviewee's consent. The KHGP interviewer may take notes during the interview to avoid the need for re-interviewing and retraumatizing the person. If necessary, the KHGP interviewer may involve a psychologist in the interview process, who is usually part of the field team. At the interviewee's request, an appointment with the KHGP psychologist can be made for the future.
67. If the obtained testimony demonstrates the legal elements of international crimes, the KHGP interviewer will suggest the interviewee to report the alleged crime to Ukrainian national law enforcement agencies and/or the ICC OTP. The interviewee will be asked to fill out the respective Legal Aid Request form as provided in **Appendix 3** (Form 1). The document serves as a basis for any legal action undertaken in such person's interests at the national and/or international levels.
68. In exceptional circumstances, the interview may be conducted remotely when in-person interviews are difficult or inconvenient to arrange. In such cases, KHGP interviewers have to ensure the availability of the secure communication channel for conducting the interview. The documents, which must be physically signed by the interviewee, may be sent to them either electronically (if the person has the opportunity to print them) or by mail. The latter requires the interviewee to return the completed form to the interviewer in the most convenient way.
69. During the third stage of **documenting the person's account**, which takes place after the return of the documenters from the field trip to the KHGP office, the collected information is securely stored, digitized (if necessary) and transferred to the KHGP DB operators.

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<sup>9</sup> According to the practice of the KHGP, an informed consent form is required when the information will be used in international proceedings. If the obtained information is used exclusively in national proceedings, it is sufficient to obtain consent for processing of personal data in accordance with the national legislation.



70. KHPG DB operators obtain access to a general brief description of the event, basic personal details of victims and witnesses, legal aid requests,<sup>10</sup> completed informed consent forms to be used in national <sup>11</sup> and/or international proceedings.<sup>12</sup> The operators do not have access to criminal case files, complete interview records, and other sensitive information. Such information can only be exclusively shared by documentators with lawyers.
71. The work of the KHPG DB operators involves creating a new episode in the KHPG DB, which includes basic information (i.e. the place of the event, time, a brief event summary, basic personal details of victims, witnesses and perpetrators). The new episode entry also includes relevant procedural documents (e.g., legal aid request form, completed informed consent form(s)).
72. The operator must inform the documenter, who provided information about a specific episode, about having completed the task of entering data in relation to the episode into the KHPG DB.
73. The documenter prepares a list of persons who requested to receive legal aid from the KHPG. The legal assistance may include providing legal aid at the national or international levels, the transfer of information about a person's case to the ICC OTP by means of including it in the Art 15 communication, etc. A mandatory prerequisite for obtaining legal aid is that a person completed the Legal Aid Request form, and filled out Informed Consent forms both for national and/or international proceedings.
74. The KHPG management reviews the list. It further distributes cases among its lawyers or partner lawyers based on the requested type of legal assistance by victims.
75. After being assigned to a specific case, the lawyer makes a note of it in the KHPG DB, marking the case with his/her last name. From that moment, all materials in the 'Case' field automatically become unavailable to other DB users.
76. Following this, the lawyer will contact the documenter who must hand over confidential materials and/or other information obtained during communication with the victim. After receiving confidential and sensitive information, the lawyer will automatically upload such materials to the 'Case' field of the corresponding episode in the DB.
77. During the final stage, the KHPG interviewer conducts **post-interview assessment**. The interviewer will inquire if the interviewee has any security concerns following the interview; whether the person received any direct or indirect threats to him/her or his/her family members; whether the person feels safe in the place where he/she resides. If necessary, the interviewer will advise the person to contact the KHPG psychologist.

## 2.4. PREPARATION OF THE ARTICLE 15 COMMUNICATION TO THE ICC

78. For the purpose of writing this submission, KHPG conducted a number of preparatory activities, which are described in this subsection. KHPG lawyers carried out 'case mapping', which involves the selection of individual cases of torture that contain a complete account about the used methods of torture; the places of torture and/or unlawful detention; information about other victims who were also held captive and tortured; and information about the

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<sup>10</sup> Appendix 3, Form 1. Legal Aid Request Form.

<sup>11</sup> Appendix 3, Form 2. KHPG Informed Consent Form for Processing Personal Data in National Proceedings.

<sup>12</sup> Appendix 3, Form 3. KHPG Informed Consent for International Proceedings.

alleged perpetrators (particular attention was paid to testimonies, in which the victims could identify alleged perpetrators), etc.

79. For each selected case through ‘case mapping’, a detailed description of the incident of torture was written, which provides a full account of the episode of torture that the person was subjected to or witnessed.
80. When preparing a testimony account, all personal data was redacted, including surnames, first names, patronymics and specific geographical locations. The redacted information was saved separately and can be provided to the OTP ICC upon request. Depersonalized victim/witness accounts can be found in **Appendix 2** of this submission.
81. Following this, the obtained information was analysed. Victim/witness summaries were prepared based on the full testimony accounts. The summaries enable to organise data in the form of “case mapping” and facilitate the analysis of the obtained evidence. Victim/witness summaries can be found in **Appendix 1** of this submission.
82. Chapters 3, 4, and 5 of the submission were written based on the information provided in selected testimonies and the available open-source information. The information is organized in the three different themes: torture (Chapter 3), inhuman treatment (Chapter 4), and alleged perpetrators (Chapter 5). The chapters refer to the victim/witness accounts provided in **Appendix 2**.
83. Section 6 provides a preliminary legal qualification of the alleged crimes based on the legal analysis of selected cases and other sources of evidentiary value. The legal analysis is guided by the RS ICC and the ICC Elements of Crimes, which outline the constitutive elements of crimes provided for in Articles 7(1)(f) and 8(2)(a)(ii) of the RS.
84. The summary and introduction provide a general overview of the submission, explain the underlying methodology and summarise major findings.
85. **Appendix 3** includes form templates used by KHPG during the victim/witness interviewing: (1) a legal aid request form; (2) an informed consent form for processing personal data in national proceedings; and (3) an informed consent form for the use of information in international proceedings.



### 3. ANALYTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PATTERNS OF TORTURE

86. This part of the submission provides analytical information about the patterns of torture. The authors of the submission distinguish between torture and inhuman treatment, with the information about the latter being provided in **Part 4**.
87. The information presented in this part of the submission is guided by the legal definition of torture as an underlying war crime and an underlying crime against humanity as stipulated in the ICC Elements of Crimes. The legal qualification is preliminary and is used solely for the purposes of systematizing the obtained information.

#### 3.1. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

88. During the period between February 24, 2022, and February 1, 2024, a total of **580** incidents related to torture were documented in the T4P database by partner organisations. These incidents include information about at least **283** victims and **74** deceased individuals.
89. The highest number of torture-related incidents was recorded in the occupied Kharkiv region, with a total of **353** incidents. The remaining incidents were recorded in other occupied territories: Chernihiv region — **58**, Kyiv region — **49**, Kherson region — **37**, Zaporizhzhia region — **23**, Donetsk region — **17**, Mykolaiv region — **16**, Sumy region — **16**, and Luhansk region — **9**.

#### 3.2. METHODS OF TORTURE

90. Based on the collected testimonies from victims and witnesses of torture, several patterns have been identified concerning the most frequently used methods of torture. The list of the methods used by the Russian military is non-exhaustive but indicates the presence of criminal patterns across different geographical locations where the alleged crimes were committed.
91. KHPG submits that the information below demonstrates the presence of consistent patterns in the criminal conduct of the Russian military. Despite occurring in different circumstances, the acts are characterized by the same *actus reus*.

##### Beatings

92. Almost every testimony contained in **Appendix 2** mentions the beating of civilian victims by the Russian military. Therefore, beating can be considered the most common form of torture.
93. This category of torture includes documented incidents of beatings with hands and feet, as well as beatings with the use of improvised means such as sticks, automatic weapon butts, rubber batons, etc.
94. Beatings with hands are the most common form of torture. This form of physical abuse was used against victims at various 'stages' of unlawful detention:

- During the capture/abduction of the victim (e.g., PERSON\_26 testifies that cars marked with “Z” and the Russian flag drove up to the house, from which seven men in military uniform got out and began to beat him with their hands, feet, and the butts of machine guns).
  - During the so-called “searches” (e.g., PERSON\_8 testifies that during the “search”, Russian soldiers beat him whenever they found items with Ukrainian symbols in his apartment).
  - During the transport transfer (e.g., PERSON\_5 testifies that when the Russian military took him into the car following the abduction, the car suddenly stopped. The Russian soldier who was the driver punched him several times in the face with his fist in a tactical glove. As a result, PERSON\_5 sustained a hematoma under the eye; his upper and lower lips were broken. Following the beating, the Russian military drove PERSON\_5 further).
  - During the so-called “interrogations”.
  - During the period of unlawful detention (e.g., PERSON\_144 testifies that Russian soldiers, who were guarding the captured civilians in the premises of the ITT, often entered the cells to beat the detainees).
95. There are also cases when Russian soldiers beat prisoners with their feet. In total, out of the **66** testimonies that are provided in Appendix 2, in at least **15** testimonies, the victims mention about being beaten with the feet.<sup>13</sup>
  96. These beatings, according to victims’ testimony, differed by greater force than beatings with hands. In particular, in his testimony, PERSON\_80 recalls how two Russian soldiers brutally kicked him all over his body. In doing so, they injured his left eye and broke his rib, which made it difficult for him to breathe.<sup>14</sup>
  97. PERSON\_143 testifies that when, after another beating, the Russian soldier tried to put a bag over his head and twisted his arms, he lost his balance and fell, while at the same time knocking the Russian soldier to the ground. This angered the Russian soldier who severely beat PERSON\_143 with his legs on the victim’s torso and head.<sup>15</sup>
  98. In some cases, beatings were so severe that the victims lost consciousness. For example, PERSON\_98 testifies that the Russian soldier kicked him on various parts of the body for up to two or three minutes, after which he began to beat him on his head, sometimes on the stomach and the ribs. PERSON\_98 lost consciousness due to such brutal beating, and later regained his consciousness at home.<sup>16</sup>
  99. However, beatings with objects were undoubtedly the most brutal. The items, which were used for torture, include butts from automatic weapons,<sup>17</sup> rubber sticks and batons,<sup>18</sup> a metal-plastic pipe and a belt,<sup>19</sup> a bag with sand,<sup>20</sup> a pickaxe and a hammer,<sup>21</sup> a ramrod,<sup>22</sup> a wooden bat,<sup>23</sup> a whip<sup>24</sup>, etc.
  100. Such beatings were usually the most painful and caused the most severe consequences for victims. For example, in his testimony, PERSON\_12 recalls how Russian soldiers beat him with rubber batons on his torso, head, and hands. He appears to have been beaten for

<sup>13</sup> See Testimony No. 1, 3, 7, 10, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 22, 31, 36, 40, 59.

<sup>14</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>15</sup> See Testimony No. 59.

<sup>16</sup> See Testimony No. 36.

<sup>17</sup> See testimony No. 12, 18, 20, 21, 22, 58, 66.

<sup>18</sup> See testimony No. 3, 6, 25, 37, 38, 40, 43, 61, 62, 63.

<sup>19</sup> See Testimony No. 26.

<sup>20</sup> See Testimony No. 7.

<sup>21</sup> See Testimony No. 13.

<sup>22</sup> See Testimony No. 3.

<sup>23</sup> See Testimony No. 4, 5.

<sup>24</sup> See Testimony No. 5.

approximately three minutes non-stop. The Russian military broke his ribs on the left side and caused a hematoma in both eyes. The victim sustained a cut near the left eye, as well as bruises all over the body. As a result of the beating, PERSON\_12 began to suffocate.<sup>25</sup>

101. The beatings differed in their method. From victim testimonies, it can be inferred that some Russian soldiers who tortured civilians mastered specific techniques that increased/amplified the pain from beating, or knew about certain body parts, the blows to which were perceived as particularly painful. PERSON\_117 testifies that the Russian military made him take off his pants and hit him repeatedly with a rubber club on his buttocks and the back of his legs, and also struck him on the back of his head once. Also, PERSON\_112, who was tortured by the same Russian soldiers, recalls that the Russian soldier with the call sign “Rambo” hit him with a rubber stick on his legs first and then gradually hit him higher. He then hit PERSON\_112 in the stomach until he bent over in pain. “Rambo” began to deliver blows starting from the head and moving to the lower back. Then he began to go up again with his blows until he reached the head. Such beatings were repeated during the subsequent so-called “interrogation”.
102. In many cases, beatings with the use of objects were so severe that victims lost consciousness, which was the reason for the Russian military to stop such beatings. In his testimony, PERSON\_8 repeatedly recounts how he lost consciousness many times due to the brutal torture by beating. Similar, PERSON\_120 recalls that during his capture, the Russian military brutally beat him, put a bag on his head, and hit him on the head with a pistol butt, which made him lost consciousness. As a result, PERSON\_120 sustained a closed craniocerebral injury and concussion, which were confirmed by the conclusion of the forensic medical examination. As the long-term effects of torture, PERSON\_120 suffers from constant headache and dizziness.
103. PERSON\_112 testifies that one of his fellow detainees PERSON\_114, who was kept in the same cell on the premises of the Balakliya VP and refused to cooperate with the Russian military, was beaten so severely that he felt very sick and had to call a doctor. Although PERSON\_114 was subsequently released home, he died at home from the sustained injuries.
104. PERSON\_123, a victim of gang rape, testifies that she was repeatedly raped and beaten in the face and kidneys by the Russian military.<sup>26</sup>
105. To sum up, beatings were the most common form of torture, characterised by the extreme cruelty. Victims who were tortured, through the use of beatings, suffered from severe physical and mental disorders, which will be discussed separately in this submission.

### Electric shock

106. The most widespread method of torture was the use of electric shock. The Russian military used stun guns and special devices for electric shock torture.
107. Victims testimonies reveal that the Russian military applied electric shock devices to various parts of the body: chest and near the ribs,<sup>27</sup> neck,<sup>28</sup> back of the head,<sup>29</sup> genital area,<sup>30</sup> side,<sup>31</sup> thighs,<sup>32</sup> legs,<sup>33</sup> etc.

<sup>25</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>26</sup> See Testimony No. 48.

<sup>27</sup> See Testimony No. 1, 43.

<sup>28</sup> See Testimony No. 27.

<sup>29</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>30</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>31</sup> See Testimony No. 16.

<sup>32</sup> See Testimony No. 16.

<sup>33</sup> See Testimony No. 27, 33.

108. Electric shocks were used repeatedly by the Russian military. It caused unbearable pain and led to various bodily disfunctions for the detainees who were subjected to it. PERSON\_80 testifies that the Russian military beat him with a stun gun on the back of his head after soaking the back of his head with water. Although he was frail, the Russian military repeatedly hit him with a stun gun. During the second round of torture, PERSON\_80's legs began to twitch and he wet himself.<sup>34</sup> In the testimony of PERSON\_90, the victim describes how the Russian military hit him with a stun gun approximately fifteen times in his legs above the knee and one time applied electric shock to his the hand. His legs became numb from the electric current.<sup>35</sup>
109. It can be inferred from victim testimonies that electric shock torture was very prolonged; used against a significant number of victims, which caused stun guns to run out of battery. PERSON\_75 testifies that the Russian military stopped beating him and used a stun gun until it ran out of battery. Upon charging it again, the Russian military continued to torture PERSON\_75. Similar, PERSON\_57 testifies that during the so-called "interrogations", the Russian military applied electric shock with a stun gun approximately 40–50 times. It was used for every word that PERSON\_57 uttered in the Ukrainian language.
110. Electric shock torture was widespread and carried out with the use of special devices, during which electrodes (wires) were attached to various parts of victim's body and the electric current was administered. These devices have been repeatedly discovered by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and journalists in the locations where the Russian military had unlawfully detained and tortured people.
111. Victim testimonies reveal that the Russian military applied electrodes to various sensitive parts of the body, in particular, earlobes,<sup>36</sup> nose,<sup>37</sup> fingers,<sup>38</sup> genitals<sup>39</sup>, legs,<sup>40</sup> etc.
112. Victim testimonies describe how electric shock torture with the use of special devices was characterized by the unbearable pain and often led to the loss of consciousness during "interrogations". PERSON\_105 testifies that the Russian military put wires on his little finger and applied electric shock. Following this, they attached clips to PERSON\_105's ears and used electric shock again. The victim was electrocuted twice through his little fingers and once through his ears. The victim testifies that the pain was unbearable.<sup>41</sup> Similar, PERSON\_78 testifies that the Russian military attached wires to him and applied electric shock three times, which led to the loss of consciousness. He only regained consciousness when a bucket of water was poured over him.<sup>42</sup>
113. There are a few recorded cases of water being used during electric torture to improve the contact of the electrodes with the body, increasing the sensation of pain during torture. PERSON\_26 testifies that the Russian military attached wires to his ears and genitals, knocked him down on the wet floor, and tortured him with the use of electric shock. In his testimony, PERSON\_78 recounts that prior to being tortured, he was stripped down to his underwear and put into an iron chair. The Russian military poured water on him, took the

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<sup>34</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>35</sup> See Testimony No. 33.

<sup>36</sup> See Testimony No. 5, 40, 59.

<sup>37</sup> See Testimony No. 5, 60.

<sup>38</sup> See Testimony No. 60, 29, 40.

<sup>39</sup> See Testimony No. 7.

<sup>40</sup> See Testimony No. 39.

<sup>41</sup> See Testimony No. 40.

<sup>42</sup> See Testimony No. 29.

wires for charging the battery, attached one wire to the victim's little left finger and the another one to his little toe, and applied electric shock.

114. The Russian military also applied electric shock to children. PERSON\_17, who was 17 years old at the time of his capture, testifies that the Russian military tortured him with electric shock. PERSON\_17 describes how they attached electric contact plugs to his fingers and applied electric shock: the first time for about 5 seconds and the second time for about 30 seconds.
115. As for the consequences of electric shock torture, PERSON\_145 recounts how the Russian military brought a man to the basement, where he and other people were held. The man told them about something being stuck in his nose and the burning sensation inside. When the detainees untied the man, he began to suffocate and died about 40 minutes later in front of them. It is not possible to establish accurately the cause of the man's sudden death. However, this episode and testimony of PERSON\_145, in which he describes how he heard the man had been tortured with electric shock, give reasonable grounds to believe that such death may be connected to electric shock torture.
116. The analysis of the collected evidence demonstrates that electric shock torture was a widespread method used by the Russian military against the Ukrainian civilian population, which caused unbearable pain to victims, and has had negative effects on the health of the victims, with a number of recorded cases where victims lost consciousness during electric shock torture. Documented evidence shows that the Russian military electrocuted even minors, as well used various methods to increase the painful effects of electric shock torture through pouring water over victims, placing them into an iron chair, stripping them of clothes, connecting electrodes to sensitive places on the body, etc.).

### **Oxygen deprivation (through drowning and strangling)**

117. This method of torture encompasses the use by the Russian military of drowning or strangling. The method was usually used in combination with other methods of torture, including beatings and electric shock, which caused even more severe physical and mental trauma to victims.
118. PERSON\_103 testifies that during the so-called "interrogation", the Russian military beat him with their hands, feet, and the butts of machine guns for approximately one hour and a half. They brought a bucket of water and lowered his head into it, while forcibly holding it in the water. After that, the Russian military attached wires to the victim's legs and applied electric shock. The Russian military alternated their methods of torture between drowning the victim and the use of electric shock.
119. The Russian military used improvised means for the purposes of strangulation. PERSON\_16 testifies that during the so-called "interrogation", he was ordered to strip down to the waist, after which one of the men beat him all over his body with a whip and baton, strangled him with a rope, and wounded his head with a hard object, which looked like a household soap bar. The knife was put to the victim's neck from behind and the lobe of his left ear was cut. Strangulation as a method of torture can also be found in the testimony of PERSON\_75, who recounts that during his detention on the premises of the agricultural complex, the Russian military beat him on the back, stomach, chest, groin area; used a stun gun on him; and strangled him.
120. There are also documented cases when the Russian military used torture by strangulation on women who were held captive. In her testimony, PERSON\_148 describes how during the

period of captivity, the Russian military strangled her several times by putting a bag on her head. The strangulation continued until she lost consciousness.

#### **Cutting**

121. This method of torture involves inflicting open wounds (cuts) on the victim's body and/or attempted cutting of the victim's body parts. Such method of torture does not only cause severe pain, but is also associated with poor healing of the inflicted wounds in the future due to the inhumane and unsanitary conditions of the unlawful detention, in the context of which such torture had normally taken place, and the lack of medical assistance.
122. Victim testimonies often reveal that the Russian military tried to cut (or cut off) their ears and fingers. Similar to the abovementioned method of torture through strangulation, victim testimonies reveal that torture by cutting (or attempted cutting) was used together with other methods of torture, such as beatings and electric shock.
123. It can be inferred from victim testimonies that the Russian military used torture through cutting as a sadistic method not only to inflict pain but also to humiliate victims. When the Russian military brutally tortured PERSON\_8, the husband of the local history museum director, they repeatedly spoke in a degrading manner about Ukrainians (e.g., "the Ukrainian nation must be slaughtered like pigs"). After that, they took one of the museum's exhibits (a scimitar) and tried to cut off the victim's ear with it. However, they failed to do so because the exhibit was not sharp enough. Similarly, PERSON\_57 testifies that the Russian military mocked him, calling him "Bandera", asking him whether Bandera was a hero, after which they beat him. Then they offered PERSON\_57 to post their propaganda videos on his YouTube channel. When the victim refused to do so, they threatened to cut off his other fingers (one of PERSON\_57's fingers was missing for a long time).
124. Victim testimonies of PERSON\_35 and PERSON\_16 describe torture through incisions during the most brutal "interrogations". This method of torture was used with the purpose of forcing the victims to provide the Russian military with information about the whereabouts of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) or reveal their prior affiliation with the UAF. The victims were forced to endure inhuman pain, as they did not possess the information, which was sought by the Russian military.
125. PERSON\_143 describes that when the Russian military failed to torture him with electric shock due to the failure of the torture device, they tore the wire holder from his ear so hard that they injured his earlobe. Given that the wire holder had already had blood and remnants of other people's skin, the victim's wounded ear became infected in a couple days and did not heal well.

#### **Mock executions**

126. This method of torture, which includes deliberate but false threats to execute a victim, can be classified as psychological torture. Given its widespread use and the extreme distress that it caused to victims, this method of torture is discussed separately from other physical threats.
127. Mock executions were staged by the Russian military in different circumstances. The most commonplace scenario is as follows: the Russian military threatens a captive during the so-called "interrogation" or simply when addressing the victim that he/she will be shot now. After that, the captive is loaded into a car and taken somewhere in the forest or to some pit



(taken out into the street, put against a wall, etc.). The Russian military would offer the captive to perform his/her “last wish” (e.g. have a smoke, go to the toilet, etc.) or force them to “pray” before death. In some cases, the captives would dig a grave for themselves, deep enough for a human body to be placed there. The Russian military would aim the weapon, usually at the victim’s head, start a count down, and fire a shot, however, would move the gun aside at the last minute. At the same time, the victim might be pushed or hit to increase the stun from the shot. After that, the victim is returned to the place of detention.

128. Victim testimonies reveal that torture through mock execution is always planned in detail and is carried out so convincingly that the victims believe until the last moment that they will be executed. Some victims cannot believe for a while that they did not die.
129. This method of torture has also been used in relation to victims’ close relative(s). The Russian military simulated the shooting of PERSON\_136, who is the son of PERSON\_135, to force his father to reveal certain information. After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_135 to the place where his son had been allegedly ‘shot’, tried to force him to “pray” on a book with the image of Holy Mary, and afterwards, performed a mock execution on him by putting a machine gun to his head and firing a shot above his head. At the same time, the Russian military forced PERSON\_136 to hide and watch as they performed a mock execution of his father.
130. Mock executions were sometimes carried out much faster and without firing a shot, however, the frightened victims still experienced extreme shock from the psychological effect of it. PERSON\_143 testifies that a Russian soldier approached him from behind, reloaded his weapon, and hit him in the head. At first, PERSON\_143 did not understand what had happened and thought that he had been shot, but then he realized that it was a blow. However, at that moment, PERSON\_143 was petrified.<sup>43</sup>
131. During mock executions, the Russian military could bring the captives to pits where the corpses had already been lying. The victims testify how such exposure convinced them even more of the intention of the Russian military to carry out executions and, therefore, petrified the victims. During the simulated shooting of PERSON\_12, the Russian military put a bag on his head and brought him to the forest, where they hit PERSON\_12 on the head with the butt of a machine gun, forced him to kneel and removed the bag from his head. PERSON\_12 saw that he was standing near a pit in the forest, in which lay the two corpses of unknown men. The Russian military fired several shots from a machine gun near his head, after which he was picked up and taken back to the cell.<sup>44</sup>
132. To sum up, torture through mock executions was characterized by severe fright, shock, and the mental trauma for the victims. The nature and manner in which these mock executions were carried out made captives genuinely believe they were about to be executed.

### Threats of physical violence

133. Another method of psychological torture was threats of physical violence. Similar to the abovementioned information, threats of physical violence were convincing enough to keep captives/detainees in a constant state of fear.
134. Threats of physical violence often included threats to kill, maim, or use physical torture, in particular, beatings, electric shock or sexual violence. In his testimony, PERSON\_120

<sup>43</sup> See Testimony No. 59.

<sup>44</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

describes that the Russian military constantly forced captives to perform physically exhausting and dirty work, such as loading firewood into cars, fetching water, cleaning dog enclosures, and washing toilets, degradingly called detainees “negroes”, and threatened victims with mutilation, electric shock and murder.

135. The Russian military also often threatened to shoot captives in the knee or leg,<sup>45</sup> set dogs on them,<sup>46</sup> or destroy the villages where the captives came from,<sup>47</sup> etc.
136. In addition to the abovementioned methods of physical torture, the Russian military sometimes used downright sadistic methods to frighten victims. During the so-called “interrogation” of PERSON\_93, one Russian soldier held the victim, while the second soldier inserted a syringe into his right index finger and threatened to inject a yellow liquid, which allegedly contained urine. The Russian military tried to find out from PERSON\_93 some information about “bio-laboratories”.
137. Threats of sexual violence were not only directed at men and women but also at children. During the so-called “interrogation” of a minor, PERSON\_17, the Russian military (a group of 10 soldiers) threatened the victim to insert a glass bottle into his anus, however, they did not act on their threats.<sup>48</sup> In PERSON\_80’s testimony, the victim describes how the Russian military threatened to insert a kettle into his anus<sup>49</sup>. During the “interrogation” of PERSON\_93, the Russian soldier threatened the victim with rape. Later, another Russian soldier threatened to rape the wife of PERSON\_93.<sup>50</sup>
138. In her testimony, PERSON\_148 describes how on several occasions the Russian military demanded her to undress entirely in the presence of unknown men who mocked her, stared at her, and threatened with rape.<sup>51</sup> In another testimony, PERSON\_107 recounts how the Russian military threatened to pour industrial foam into her anus.<sup>52</sup>
139. Threats to kill close relatives of detainees were widespread. In his testimony, PERSON\_63 mentions that during the so-called “interrogation”, that the Russian military threatened to kill his pregnant wife.<sup>53</sup>
140. It can be inferred from victim testimonies that the Russian military threatened victims with the use of various forms of violence, which, in combination with physical violence, frightened the victims even more and caused them severe psychological trauma.

#### **Other methods of torture**

141. The information provided in this subsection describes methods of torture, which have not been previously covered in the abovementioned sections.
142. PERSON\_120 testifies that the Russian military forced detainees to undergo medical manipulations by inexperienced Russian military medics who trained their medical skills on the detainees. In particular, PERSON\_120 testifies that detainees only received food if they were subjected to medical manipulations by Russian military medics. The military nurses

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<sup>45</sup> See Testimony No. 38, 48.

<sup>46</sup> See Testimony No. 41.

<sup>47</sup> See Testimony No. 60.

<sup>48</sup> See Testimony No. 6.

<sup>49</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>50</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>51</sup> See Testimony No. 63.

<sup>52</sup> See Testimony No. 42.

<sup>53</sup> See Testimony No. 18.



trained to give injections and drips on detainees, including injections of unspecified solution into the victims' veins.<sup>54</sup>

143. PERSON\_107 describes the use of sexualized torture by the Russian military. In particular, during the "interrogation", the Russian military put a machine gun barrel to the inner side of PERSON\_107's thigh and began to apply pressure. After each "wrong answer", or when PERSON\_107 took time to answer, the Russian military pressed harder and moved the muzzle higher and higher on the thigh. As a result, the Russian military moved the machine gun to the victim's groin and pressed very hard against it.
144. To sum up, the Russian military used the combination of various methods of torture, which caused severe pain and inhuman suffering to the victims.

### **3.3. PURPOSES OF TORTURE (*DOLUS SPECIALIS*)**

145. The purposes of torture pursued by the Russian military can be inferred from various victim testimonies.

#### **Obtaining information**

146. The purpose of obtaining information during the "interrogations" involved acquiring information about specific facts or people. When the victim had no knowledge of such information, perpetrators often assumed that the victim was withholding such information. The "interrogations" carried out by the Russian military have nothing to do with interrogations as understood in criminal procedural law. The victim who was subject to such "interrogations" was not afforded any basic procedural rights. On the contrary, the victim was brutally tortured with the purpose of obtaining information that the Russian military believed the victim possessed.
147. One of the most common questions, the answers to which the Russian military tried to extract from civilians, was about the deployment of the UAF. However, given that the "interrogations" took place in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and the victims were civilians, they could not have possessed such information. The victims had to endure prolonged, cruel torture until the Russian military was convinced that the detainees did not know anything.

#### **Coercing to confess**

148. One of the purposes of torture pursued by the Russian military was to coerce victims into confessing to providing assistance to the UAF. 'Suspensions' about victims' assistance to UAF, in particular with respect to the adjustment of fire, served as a pretext for conducting "interrogations". However, such suspicions were groundless and used as a justification for the unlawful detention and subsequent torture of civilian victims.

#### **Coercing to publicly pledge loyalty to Russia**

149. One of the commonplace purposes of torture pursued by the Russian military was to coerce victims, who had a clear pro-Ukrainian position and enjoyed respect among local residents,

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<sup>54</sup> See Testimony No. 46.

to publicly pledge their loyalty to Russia and renounce their pro-Ukrainian views. One victim in his interview with KHPG documenters recounted: “Until I started shouting “Glory to Russia” and singing the Russian national anthem, they didn’t stop abusing me... Otherwise, I guess I would have died”.<sup>55</sup>

#### **Coercing to cooperate with the Russian military**

150. In his testimony, PERSON\_57 describes that during his captivity, the Russian military demanded that he publish scripted videos on his YouTube channel. When the victim refused, the Russian military threatened to shoot him. Two weeks later, the Russian military offered PERSON\_57 to film a video in exchange for freedom and threatened to cut off one of his remaining fingers (one of the victim’s fingers had already been missing for a long time).<sup>56</sup> PERSON\_12 testifies that during the “interrogations”, the Russian military offered him to cooperate with them. Given that PERSON\_12 was held in respect by local residents, the Russian military ordered him to walk around the city with the Russian flag the next day, which he refused.<sup>57</sup>

#### **Abusing victim(s)**

151. In many instances, torture was committed with the purpose of abusing victim(s). In particular, there are documented cases when the victims were beaten by the Russian military without any reason, just “for fun”. One documented testimony describes the beatings of detainees, including a minor, by the so-called ‘battalion commander’ of the ‘LPR’, who appeared to be intoxicated.

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<sup>55</sup> See <https://khp.org/1608811182>.

<sup>56</sup> See Testimony No. 15.

<sup>57</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

## 4. ANALYTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT INHUMANE DETENTION CONDITIONS

152. In most cases, torture was associated with the unlawful deprivation of liberty and the unlawful detention of victims. The available information reveals the Russian military unlawfully detained civilians both in specifically designated places (e.g., premises of police stations, temporary detention centers, colonies, etc.), as well as in various unsuitable premises (e.g., basements, cellars, enterprises, etc.).
153. It can be inferred from victim testimonies that the appalling conditions in which the Russian army unlawfully detained and held civilians constituted inhumane treatment tantamount to torture.

### 4.1. INHUMANE DETENTION CONDITIONS

154. In many testimonies provided in Appendix 2, victims draw attention to the suffering, exhaustion, and humiliation that they experienced while being held in the inhumane detention conditions. The following aspects of detention conditions, which can be inferred from documented victim testimonies, demonstrate that such conditions constituted inhumane treatment tantamount to torture.

#### Overcrowding

155. Many victims were kept in cells where the number of detainees in relation to the area of the premises clearly exceeded the internationally recognised standards for prisons.<sup>58</sup> In his testimony, PERSON\_16 describes how he and his two fellow villagers were held in the basement of the Kozacha Lopan railway station, where approximately 8 detainees had already been held in the basement, which measured approximately 3×3 meters.<sup>59</sup> PERSON\_39 testifies that 20 people were held in a cell measuring 3×5 meters; there was not enough oxygen, which caused the detainees to suffocate<sup>60</sup>. Similarly, PERSON\_73 testifies that 8 other people besides him were held in a cell measuring 2.5×3.5 meters.<sup>61</sup>
156. Overcrowding in the unlawful detention facilities forced the detainees to sleep sitting up or taking turns. PERSON\_101 testifies that he was held captive in the premises of the Balakliya VP, where he was kept in a cell designed for 2 people, but 7 people were detained there. They had to sleep in turns because there was not enough space to sleep for seven people.<sup>62</sup> PERSON\_144 testifies that he was held in the Olenivska correctional colony (No. 120). He was initially held in a cell designed for 6 people, where a total of 20 detainees were held, and then transferred to another cell, which was designed for 6, but accommodated 57 persons. The detainees had to sleep sitting and taking turns, as there was not enough room for everyone.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> See CPT/Inf (2015) 44. Living space per prisoner in prison establishments: CPT standards. Effective from 2015-12-15. Official edition. Strasbourg. URL: <https://rm.coe.int/16806cc449> (access date: 04/14/2023).

<sup>59</sup> See Testimony No. 5.

<sup>60</sup> See Testimony No. 10.

<sup>61</sup> See Testimony No. 25.

<sup>62</sup> See Testimony No. 37.

<sup>63</sup> See Testimony No. 61.

157. Women were also kept in overcrowded conditions. In her testimony, PERSON\_148 describes how she was kept in a cell, which was a small room with an area of no more than 8 square meters, where from 4 to 10 women were detained. The detainees had to sleep in turns due to the lack of space.<sup>64</sup>

#### **Lack of daylight and suffocation**

158. Victim testimonies reveal that a significant number of the unlawful detention facilities, in which they were detained, were basement or semi-basement rooms that saw little or no daylight. In his testimony, PERSON\_129 recounts that for the entire period of the detention in the basement, the detainees were forced to be in complete darkness; it was only at the end of the month that the Russian military brought one candle, mocking the detainees that they could finally see each other.<sup>65</sup> PERSON\_145 notes that during captivity, the detainees tried to keep the track of time, but it was nearly impossible, as there were no windows and complete darkness in the room where they were kept.<sup>66</sup>
159. As mentioned in the previous sub-section, the overcrowding in the unlawful detention premises made breathing difficult for the detainees due to the lack of oxygen. The premises were usually basements or semi-basements and very cramped. PERSON\_39 testifies that in a cramped cell where 20 detainees were held, there was the lack of oxygen, which made them suffocate.<sup>67</sup>
160. PERSON\_73 testifies that there was no daylight and the lack of oxygen in the cell, where 8 other people were held besides him. The detainees were rarely taken out for a walk and only with black bags placed over their heads.<sup>68</sup> PERSON\_77 recounts that he was detained in horrible conditions in a basement with the wet ground. The basement was very stuffy, with no light and no toilet; the detainees were taken to the toilet with bags placed over their heads<sup>69</sup>. PERSON\_8 testifies that the Russian military beat him and another man because they asked to be taken out for some fresh air.<sup>70</sup>
161. KHPG submits that keeping detainees without daylight in extremely overcrowded premises, which was consistently carried out by the Russian military, is absolutely prohibited by Article 118 of the Geneva Convention IV.

#### **Absence or insufficient amount of food and water**

162. In their testimonies, many victims complained about the low quality of food, its insufficient quantity, or its absence. PERSON\_35 recounts that the prisoners were given food once a day in a bucket.<sup>71</sup> Similarly, PERSON\_93 testifies that the Russian military gave the detainees food in a bucket without plates and cutlery, while the food itself was cold oatmeal mixed with leftovers.<sup>72</sup> PERSON\_95 describes that the Russian military gave the detainees (12 men in total) food once a day; the detainees were given 2 loaves of bread and a can with pearl barley and peas.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> See Testimony No. 63.

<sup>65</sup> See Testimony No. 50.

<sup>66</sup> See Testimony No. 60.

<sup>67</sup> See Testimony No. 10.

<sup>68</sup> See Testimony No. 25.

<sup>69</sup> See Testimony No. 28.

<sup>70</sup> See Testimony No. 3.

<sup>71</sup> See Testimony No. 9.

<sup>72</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>73</sup> See Testimony No. 35.

163. Some detainees were starved for several days or given minuscule quantities of food to keep them from starving to death. PERSON\_8 testifies that the Russian military did not provide detainees with food for several days and gave them only one bottle of water for the entire cell.<sup>74</sup> Similarly, in his testimony, PERSON\_129 describes how the Russian military practically did not feed the prisoners and gave only 120 grams of bread and 2 liters of grain mixture for four people once per day. By the end of the month, the detainees could no longer move due to being starved.<sup>75</sup>
164. The available evidence demonstrates that the detainees were provided with insufficient drinking water. PERSON\_93 testifies that the Russian military gave 30 prisoners a total of 5 bottles of 1.5 liters per day.<sup>76</sup> PERSON\_144 details that the detainees were given about 10 liters of water per day: they drank it, washed themselves, and flushed the toilet with this water. PERSON\_144 testifies that it was barely enough water to quench his thirst.<sup>77</sup>

### Improper toilet conditions

165. Victim testimonies detail the use of toilet was one of the most intolerable detention conditions. The most cruel treatment was the ban on using the toilet during a specific period of time, which could vary in length from several hours to several days. PERSON\_40 testifies that the Russian military did not allow detainees to use the toilet.<sup>78</sup> PERSON\_48 describes that he was not taken to the toilet for about a day.<sup>79</sup> In his testimony, PERSON\_80 recounts how it was impossible to go to the toilet often, as the detainees were only taken together in groups.<sup>80</sup>
166. In places where victims were detained for an extended period of time, the Russian military placed a bucket in an overcrowded cell, which the detainees were supposed to use as a toilet. This made the cramped cell to stink intolerably when the bucket was filled. PERSON\_93 describes that approximately all 30 detainees in the cell used one bucket as a toilet, which was taken out once daily.<sup>81</sup> PERSON\_80 testifies that during detention in the store premises, all detainees were forced to use the bucket as a toilet, which was placed in the middle of the room and was taken out once a day.<sup>82</sup> In his testimony, PERSON\_64 describes that he was not given water or food during the entire day, and was forced to use the bottle as a toilet.<sup>83</sup>
167. In many cases where detainees were forced to use the bucket as a toilet, they had to do it in front of other detainees, which were sometimes of the opposite sex. PERSON\_58 testifies that in the store premises where he was detained, both women and men used the bucket as a toilet.<sup>84</sup> Also, in her testimony, PERSON\_95 describes that everyone was forced to use the bucket instead of a toilet in the room where she was detained. She had to go to the toilet in front of men, which she found humiliating and degrading. Due to the fact that the

<sup>74</sup> See Testimony No. 3.

<sup>75</sup> See Testimony No. 50.

<sup>76</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>77</sup> See Testimony No. 61.

<sup>78</sup> See Testimony No. 11.

<sup>79</sup> See Testimony No. 12.

<sup>80</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>81</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>82</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>83</sup> See Testimony No. 19.

<sup>84</sup> See Testimony No. 16.

windows of the room were sealed and the bucket smelled badly, it was difficult to breathe.<sup>85</sup> PERSON\_120 also testifies that both men and women were forced to use one bucket as a toilet in the old store premises where he was detained.<sup>86</sup> Similarly, PERSON\_107 testifies about a single bucket that both men and women used instead of a toilet in the same room.<sup>87</sup>

### **Blindfolding and handcuffing**

168. Some victims testify that during the period of captivity (mostly in places of a short-term unlawful detention), they were handcuffed and blindfolded at all times. PERSON\_74 testifies that during his captivity in the basement, the Russian military did not give him water or food; kept him with his hands tied and the black bag placed over his head. Therefore, he did not see daylight and could not satisfy his personal needs like using the toilet. He was helped by other detainees who were also detained in the basement.<sup>88</sup> PERSON\_8 testifies that on the day of his detention, the bag over his head and the handcuffs were not removed.<sup>89</sup>
169. Some victims were subjected to the “interrogations” while being blindfolded or the sack being placed over their heads. As a result, the victims could not see what was happening around them, but only felt a sudden pain when the Russian military unexpectedly beat or tortured them with electric shock. The Russian military repeatedly “interrogated” PERSON\_124 with the bag placed over his head. During the “interrogations”, he was beaten in his stomach, kidneys, shoulders, and hands, while also being tortured with electric shock. PERSON\_101 testifies that when he was being led with the bag placed over his head, the Russian soldier named Bogdan punched him four times in the face.

## **4.2. DURATION OF UNLAWFUL DETENTION**

170. Many victims of torture were unlawfully detained for a long period of time. Some victim testimonies indicate several months of detention in inhumane conditions, while many more victims continue to be unlawfully detained in undisclosed locations on the territory of Russia.
171. The Russian military held PERSON\_26 in captivity for more than three months.<sup>90</sup> In his testimony, PERSON\_145 recounts that he lost 22 kilograms during 69 days in captivity.<sup>91</sup> PERSON\_147 was unlawfully detained for a total period of 10 months.<sup>92</sup> PERSON\_154 was held captive for three months.<sup>93</sup>
172. There is a documented case of a third-year student of one of the Kharkiv higher educational institutions who was captured by the Russian military on March 29, 2022 and taken to the territory of Russia. His family started a large-scale campaign to find their child and involved a lawyer from the KHPG and a Russian lawyer based in Russia, however, Russian authorities refused to return the student and denied the fact of his capture for a long period of time. During the time of the victim’s detention, Russia “recognized” him as a prisoner

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<sup>85</sup> See Testimony No. 35.

<sup>86</sup> See Testimony No. 38.

<sup>87</sup> See Testimony No. 42.

<sup>88</sup> See Testimony No. 26.

<sup>89</sup> See Testimony No. 3.

<sup>90</sup> See Testimony No. 7.

<sup>91</sup> See Testimony No. 60.

<sup>92</sup> See Testimony No. 62.

<sup>93</sup> See Testimony No. 65.

of war, then withdrew such status, and finally, the Russian court rendered a decision, which found that the student was detained for “illegal actions”. However, no criminal charges were brought against the student, and no formal investigation was conducted. Therefore, the court concluded that the victim had no procedural rights, including the right to a lawyer. To date, the student continues to be held captive in Russia, while the KHPG is working towards his return.<sup>94</sup>

173. The KHPG submits that the mass and prolonged detention of Ukrainian civilians by the Russian military in inhumane conditions is of a systematic nature and bears hallmarks of ‘passive torture’, which reflects Russia’s deliberate policy. A significant number of the unlawful places of detention with similar inhumane conditions, the involvement of various units of the strictly hierarchical Russian military in the organization of the unlawful detention process, point towards the presence of Russia’s coherent and centralized actions aimed at targeting Ukrainian civilians.

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<sup>94</sup> See <https://t4pua.org/en/1792>

## 5. INFORMATION ABOUT ALLEGED PERPETRATORS OF TORTURE

174. Victim testimonies and corroborating open-source information reveal personal details and distinguishing features of individual members of the Russian military who directly tortured the victims or gave orders to carry out torture.

### 5.1. TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF THE KHARKIV REGION

#### 5.1.1. Russian soldier with the call sign “Irbis”

175. Victim testimonies (PERSON\_8,<sup>95</sup> PERSON\_112,<sup>96</sup> and PERSON\_12<sup>97</sup>) mention a Russian soldier with the call sign “Irbis”.
176. PERSON\_8’s testimony mentions a Russian soldier with the call sign “Irbis” together with a Russian soldier with the call sign “Ali”. “Ali” was of Chechen appearance and tried to cut off PERSON\_8’s ear with a scimitar from the museum collection. They captured PERSON\_8 and subjected him to the “interrogation”, during which the victim was brutally tortured. The testimony reveals that “Irbis” was the leader in the group. The actions involving the victim took place in Balakliya in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region.
177. In the testimony of PERSON\_112, a Russian soldier with the call sign “Irbis” features during the repeated “interrogations” together with the two other Russian soldiers with the call signs “Tyson” (aka “Rambo”), “Surik” and the third Russian soldier, whom the victim could not identify. Given that the “interrogations” were conducted by “Irbis” and the behavior of other Russian soldiers in his presence, it can be inferred that “Irbis” was the leader in the group. The actions involving the victim took place in Balakliya, in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region. The “interrogations” were conducted on the premises of the Balakliya VP.
178. PERSON\_112, in his testimony, describes that “Irbis” conducted the “interrogations” without wearing a balaclava, and therefore, he remembered his appearance in detail whom he describes as follows: *“a man of non-Slavic appearance, short stature (about 1.65 meters), black hair, a black beard, dark eyes, was of a slender build, no distinct anatomical features on his face, spoke with a Caucasian accent.”*
179. PERSON\_12, in his testimony, mentions that during his detention on the premises of the Balakliya VP, a Russian soldier called Bogdan with the call sign “Irbis” entered his cell. The victim describes him as follows: *“without balaclava on his head, Asian appearance, similar to a Kazakh, stocky build, height about 165 cm”.*
180. The publicly available information reveals that the Russian soldier with the call sign “Irbis” is most likely a Russian FSB officer.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>95</sup> See Testimony No. 3.

<sup>96</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>97</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>98</sup> See <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/articles/2023/03/13/7393096/> (date accessed: 12.22.2023).



### 5.1.2. Russian soldiers who conducted the so-called ‘interrogations’ on the premises of the Balakliya VP

#### ***Russian soldier with the call sign “Surik”***

181. Victim testimonies (PERSON\_112,<sup>99</sup> PERSON\_12,<sup>100</sup> and PERSON\_117<sup>101</sup>) mention a Russian soldier with the call sign “Surik”. They mention his name together with a Russian soldier with the call sign “Tyson” (aka “Rambo”) and another Russian soldier, whose identity is not known to the three victims.
182. Victim testimonies reveal that “Surik” repeatedly conducted the “interrogations” with “Tyson” and the third soldier. “Surik” was probably ‘senior’ to “Tyson” in the military hierarchy, given that “Tyson” was following his orders. It can be inferred from the testimony of PERSON\_112 that “Surik” was hierarchically subordinate to the Russian commander with the call sign “Irbis” (see above).<sup>102</sup>
183. During the “interrogations”, “Surik” gave orders to “Tyson” to torture civilian detainees. There is also available evidence that “Surik” himself tortured detainees.
184. In his testimony, PERSON\_112 describes the physical appearance of “Surik” as follows: *“Slavic appearance, short height, approximately 1.70 meters, strong build but a little chubby, was wearing a balaclava, blue eyes, there were no visible scars or tattoos on the face, the speech was clear.”*
185. PERSON\_112 also testifies that “Surik” was injured as a result of shelling. He was wearing a balaclava when the shelling occurred, which melted into his face due to the high temperature and was subsequently removed along with his skin in the hospital; as a result, he was left with a significant burn on the right side of his neck).
186. PERSON\_12 describes in his testimony that “Surik” was *“round-faced, had blue eyes, a stocky build, was approximately 165 cm tall, and had a characteristic Russian accent”*. He also testifies that “Surik” was wearing a *“beige uniform”* and received *“a burn on the right side of his neck”* as a result of shelling.
187. PERSON\_117 also mentions a Russian soldier with the call sign “Surik”. He describes him as *“round-faced, with blue eyes, wearing a beige uniform”*.

#### ***Russian soldier with the call sign “Tyson” (aka “Rambo”)***

188. Victim testimonies (PERSON\_112<sup>103</sup>, PERSON\_12<sup>104</sup>, and PERSON\_117<sup>105</sup>) also refer to a Russian soldier with the call sign “Tyson”.
189. PERSON\_112 describes “Tyson” as follows: *“he was not of Slavic appearance, tall, athletically build, broad-shouldered, was wearing a balaclava; a characteristic facial feature was cheekbones that prominently stood out and were not covered by a balaclava; he wore large black glasses; there were no scars or tattoos on the visible parts of the face”*. The victim testifies that it was primarily “Tyson” who tortured him by using the physical force.
190. PERSON\_12 testifies that “Tyson” always wore sunglasses in addition to a balaclava and had high prominent cheekbones. “Tyson” had a thin, athletic build, approximately 190 cm

<sup>99</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>100</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>101</sup> See Testimony No. 45.

<sup>102</sup> See Testimony No. 43, 44, 45.

<sup>103</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>104</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>105</sup> See Testimony No. 45.

tall, who wore a black uniform. PERSON\_117 fully corroborates PERSON\_12's testimony by describing that "Tyson" always wore sunglasses besides his balaclava, had characteristic high prominent cheekbones, and was dressed in a black uniform.

191. Victim testimonies reveal that "Tyson" was constantly given orders by the Russian commander with the call sign "Surik", and therefore it can be deduced that "Tyson" was hierarchically subordinate to "Surik". It was "Surik", according to the testimony, who, in most cases, gave orders to "Tyson" to torture detainees.

***Unknown third Russian soldier who conducted the so-called 'interrogations' on the premises of the Balakliya VP***

192. The unknown Russian soldier features in victim testimonies of PERSON\_112,<sup>106</sup> PERSON\_12<sup>107</sup> and PERSON\_117.<sup>108</sup> Each victim describes his physical appearance, however, none of them can provide a call sign or any additional identification data.
193. PERSON\_112 testifies that the Russian soldier *"had a Slavic appearance, tall, slim build, wearing a balaclava, had blue eyes, a dorsal hump nose, there were no scars or tattoos on the visible parts of his face, his speech was clear and distinct"*.
194. PERSON\_12 and PERSON\_117 testify that the soldier *"wore a black uniform"*.

***The Russian soldier who supervised the detainees in the Balakliya VP (Aleksandr aka "Uncle Sasha")***

195. Victim testimonies identify the Russian soldier called Aleksandr (aka "Uncle Sasha") who acted as a 'supervisor' of the detainees in the Balakliya VP. He appears in the testimonies of PERSON\_101,<sup>109</sup> PERSON\_112,<sup>110</sup> PERSON\_12,<sup>111</sup> and PERSON\_117.<sup>112</sup> According to the available evidence, "Uncle Sasha" was from the occupied Luhansk.
196. The victims testify that "Uncle Sasha" put sacks over the detainees' heads and took them to the so-called "interrogations" and then back to the cell. When captured civilians were brought to the premises of the Balakliya VP, "Uncle Sasha" wrote down the profile data of the detainees.

### 5.1.3. The Russian soldier with the call sign "Granit"

197. References to the Russian soldier with the call sign "Granit" can be found in various victim testimonies, which mostly concern the events taking place in the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. PERSON\_93<sup>113</sup> provides information that the Russian soldier with the call sign "Granit" acted as the so-called "commandant" in the village of Strilecha, which was temporarily occupied by the Russian forces. He further submits that the real name of "Granit" was Vyacheslav.
198. PERSON\_95<sup>114</sup> testifies that the Russian soldier with the call sign "Granit" lived in a room located above the semi-basement warehouse of a store in the village of Strilecha, where captured civilians, including PERSON\_95, were kept.

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<sup>106</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>107</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>108</sup> See Testimony No. 45.

<sup>109</sup> See Testimony No. 37.

<sup>110</sup> See Testimony No. 43.

<sup>111</sup> See Testimony No. 44.

<sup>112</sup> See Testimony No. 45.

<sup>113</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>114</sup> See Testimony No. 35.

199. The Kharkiv Regional Prosecutor's Office announced a notice of suspicion in the commission of violations of laws and customs of war, committed by a group of persons upon a prior agreement, to a 46-year-old Russian soldier with the call sign "Granit" in criminal proceedings *in absentia*.
200. According to the investigation, the suspect was a military commandant in Balakliya, and in his capacity signed orders and gave instructions to Russian soldiers to unlawfully detain and torture civilians. The suspect identified a number of 'justificatory' grounds for the unlawful detention of civilians, such as the prior participation of a civilian in the ATO; the presence of relatives in the UAF; expressing a pro-Ukrainian stance, etc.
201. According to the testimony of PERSON\_93, one of the 'deputies' of "Granit" was the Russian soldier with the call sign "Major". PERSON\_93 describes "Major" as follows: *"approximately 190 cm tall, of a dense build, around 37 years old"*.
202. Another "assistant" of "Granit", according to the testimony of PERSON\_95, was a soldier from the so-called "L/DPR" with the call sign "Kum", which he described as follows: *"age over 35 years old, thin build, 175 cm tall, gray eyes, a flat oblong nose, light blonde hair, short haircut"*. "Kum" carried out the "interrogations" of PERSON\_95.
203. PERSON\_93 mentions the Russian soldier with the call sign "Fizruk", who, during his captivity in the store premises, lined up all the detainees twice and beat the kidneys of every second person in the row. It appears that "Fizruk" was a subordinate of "Granit".
204. PERSON\_93 also mentions the Russian soldier, Yana Ruban, in the testimony. According to PERSON\_93, Yana Ruban was the head of the so-called "people's police of the LPR". She came to PERSON\_93's home with the three Russian soldiers, one of whom was named Sasha, and the other one with the call sign "Chapa". They put PERSON\_93 in a car and took him to the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. PERSON\_93 was allegedly "summoned to the commandant's office to talk about his activities." The victim was brought to the store premises, where the Russian soldier with the call sign "Major" ("Granit's" deputy) communicated with him.
205. PERSON\_95 also mentions the Russian soldier named Yana (about 24 years old), who headed a so-called "public office" in the "LPR", through which all volunteers passed. Yana, who was part of a group of the Russian soldiers (6 persons belonging to the so-called "LPR" military), captured PERSON\_95 and took him to the fire department of the village of Liptsi in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. The victim was subsequently transported further to Strilecha in the Kharkiv region, in particular, the store premises, with "Granit" living nearby. According to PERSON\_95, the "interrogation" was conducted by "Granit's" assistant with the call sign "Kum".
206. PERSON\_28<sup>115</sup> testifies that during his captivity, he heard various call signs used by the Russian military, namely, "Kaliningrad", "Granit", "Khan", and "Yarik".

#### **5.1.4. The Russian soldier with the call sign "Shaman" and other soldiers allegedly related to him**

207. Victim testimonies (PERSON\_48<sup>116</sup> and PERSON\_121<sup>117</sup>) mention the Russian soldier with the call sign "Shaman".

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<sup>115</sup> See Testimony No. 8.

<sup>116</sup> See Testimony No. 12.

<sup>117</sup> See Testimony No. 47.

208. PERSON\_48 testifies that “Shaman” was a “senior” in the group of the Russian military (about 20 soldiers) who broke into his house, ransacked it, took all the valuables, and captured him. The victim testifies that the rumours were spreading about “Shaman” being a deputy.
209. During the investigative actions of Ukrainian authorities, PERSON\_48 recognized “Shaman” from the photo, which was obtained from the Internet and included in the criminal case file.
210. In his testimony, PERSON\_48 describes that he saw how “Shaman” brutally beat Ukrainian soldiers. While in captivity, PERSON\_48 also saw how the Russian military tortured Ukrainian soldiers. PERSON\_48 notes that “Shaman” was accompanied by his “bodyguard” in a military uniform similar to that of Soviet paratroopers.
211. PERSON\_121 describes how the Russian soldier with the call sign “Shaman” took her home after being held captive. One week after “Shaman” brought the victim home, he returned accompanied by other Russian soldiers and forced her to recite a speech, in which she was supposed to say on camera that she was at home and that the Russian military did not beat her. “Shaman” recorded this speech on camera. Following this, “Shaman” informed the victim that she would be exchanged for “Shaman’s” daughter, who was detained in Kharkiv.
212. PERSON\_48 testifies that after the capture, the Russian military took him to the Russian soldier called “Combat”, who was most likely a battalion commander. PERSON\_48 describes “Combat” as *“a short young man”*. Other Russian soldiers called him by the call sign “Enemy”.
213. The Russian soldier called “Combat” also features in the testimony of PERSON\_86.<sup>118</sup> PERSON\_86 describes “Combat” as follows: *“his whole body was covered in tattoos, everyone called him “Combat”; he looked about 50 years old, of medium height, medium build, spoke Russian”*.
214. In the testimony of PERSON\_121, there are mentions of other Russian soldiers, in addition to “Shaman”, in particular, the Russian soldier with the call sign “Vityaz” (he was the “chief” in the group of Russian soldiers who captured PERSON\_121) and the Russian soldier with the call sign “Ara” (a “deputy” of “Vytyaz”). The group included 7 members of the Russian military.

#### **5.1.5. The Russian soldier with the call sign “Sarmat” and his alleged subordinates**

215. The testimony of PERSON\_62 mentions the Russian soldier with the call sign “Sarmat”. He conducted the “interrogations” of PERSON\_62, during which he tortured the victim and threatened to kill him. Physical and psychological violence against PERSON\_62 lasted for a month until “Sarmat” went to the city of Kupyansk, which was temporarily occupied by Russian forces.
216. PERSON\_62 describes the physical appearance of “Sarmat” as follows: *“average height, approximately 1.75 meters, black hair and beard, dark eyes, small nose, of an athletic build, dark skin”*. “Sarmat” told the victim that he is an ethnic Tatar and lives in Kazan in Russia.
217. The Russian soldier with the call sign “Sarmat” also features in the testimony of PERSON\_106. PERSON\_106 testifies that “Sarmat” was the leader of the group of the Russian military who detained and tortured him. “Sarmat” ordered other Russian soldiers to mistreat him.

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<sup>118</sup> See Testimony No. 32.

218. According to the testimony of PERSON\_62, one of “Sarmat” subordinates was called “Altai” who, in terms of physical appearance, was not tall but bigger than “Sarmat”. PERSON\_106 testifies that one of the “interrogations” was conducted by “Sarmat” together with two Russian soldiers who physically looked like Buryats.

#### **5.1.6. A group of Russian soldiers involved in gang rape of PERSON\_123**

219. PERSON\_123 testifies that she survived multiple gang rapes and torture committed by the Russian military. The victim describes that Russian soldiers raped her anally, orally, and vaginally, as well as videotaped the rape, beat her, and threatened to kill her.
220. PERSON\_123 remembered personal identification information and the distinguishing features of the Russian military who raped her. Also, she remembered others who did not stop the illegal actions and unlawfully detained her, which enabled the commission of rape. The victim remembered six Russian soldiers who are described below.
221. One of the perpetrators was the Russian soldier named Sasha: *“thin, 180–185 cm tall, had a tattoo on his chest in the form of a swastika, and the eagle tattoo next to the swastika”*. He was the leader of the group of Russian soldiers. The perpetrator joined the group that raped the victim at least twice; he also initiated the rape of the victim by forcibly dragging her into a room and starting to rape her. The perpetrator also threatened the victim that the Russian military would stab, kill, and bury her if she did not obey them.
222. Another perpetrator was the Russian soldier also named Sasha with the call sign “Cat”: *“height up to 170 cm, fat, other Russian soldiers mentioned that Sasha was from Lipetsk in Russia”*. “Cat” raped the victim at least once as part of the group of Russian soldiers.
223. Another perpetrator was the Russian soldier named Ilya: *“24 years old, very aggressive, moody, thin, red-haired with a beard”*. He joined the group of Russian soldiers who raped the victim at least twice. He filmed the rape, beating and threats directed at the victim on camera. During the second episode of rape, Ilya, together with “Red” and Sasha (with a tattoo), beat PERSON\_123 on her face and kidneys.
224. Another perpetrator was the Russian soldier with the call sign “Redhead”: *“redhead, about 30–35 years old, stocky, of medium height”*. He joined the group of Russian soldiers who raped the victim at least once. During the rape, “Redhead”, together with Ilya and Sasha (with a tattoo), beat the victim on the face and kidneys, and threatened her with a machine gun and a bayonet knife.
225. The information about the Russian soldier with the call sign “Redhead” also features in the testimony of PERSON\_90. When, following the unlawful detention and torture, PERSON\_90 returned to ask about the equipment that the Russian military took away from his house, he heard that one of the Russian soldiers had a call sign “Redhead”. Also, while in captivity, PERSON\_90 heard that the Russian military said they were from the 46th motorized rifle brigade of the 3C of the Russian Federation.
226. Another Russian soldier who was part of the group was Oleg: *“36 years old, short 165–170 cm, fat, had a tattoo on his left hand in the form of a pizza, planets, and an astronaut, and on his right hand — an abstract tattoo”*. The victim’s testimony does not make a reference to Oleg’s direct participation in rape. The victim recounts that after one episode of rape, Oleg took her out of the room and told other Russian soldiers to stop. The next day, when other Russian soldiers went to dig trenches, Oleg forced the victim to drink beer. When the victim asked him to let her go home, Oleg replied that she should get used to it because now she would live with them.



227. Another member of the group was the Russian soldier with the call sign “Kuznets”: *“about 30–35 years old, thin, told he was from St. Petersburg in Russia”*. The victim testifies that he “did not touch” her. “Kuznets” had heart problems and did not attend military trainings with other soldiers. “Kuznets” told the victim that Russian soldiers who raped her should be punished.
228. After the events mentioned in PERSON\_123’s testimony, she never saw those Russian soldiers again. However, PERSON\_123 testifies that she can recognize all the Russian soldiers by their facial features.

### 5.1.7. Information about other perpetrators in victim testimonies

229. Victim testimonies identify other Russian soldiers who unlawfully detained and tortured civilians. This subsection contains information about the Russian military, which was not included in the previous subsections.
230. PERSON\_86<sup>119</sup> mentions the Russian soldier with the call sign “Mir”. He had a Chechen appearance, tall and large build. “Mir” took part in the “interrogations” of PERSON\_86 on the premises of the “Kharkivenergozbut” subdivision in the village of Liptsi on March 5, 2022.
231. PERSON\_86 also testifies that when he and other detainees were taken for forced labor during their detention, they were supervised by the Russian soldier named Serhii (*25 years old, short, medium build, spoke Russian, told that he was from Donbas*).
232. PERSON\_15<sup>120</sup> and PERSON\_16<sup>121</sup> testify that during their captivity, the so-called “battalion commander” of the “LPR”, who was heavily intoxicated, came to the cell with a wooden bat in his hands. First, he beat a 17-year-old boy, PERSON\_17, and then he beat PERSON\_15 until he was unconscious. One of the guards called a doctor who administered adrenaline to PERSON\_15.
233. The testimony of PERSON\_17 (a minor)<sup>122</sup> mentions the Russian soldier called “Beliy” who had the same name inscription on his t-shirt. “Beliy”, together with other Russian soldiers, “interrogated” the victim.
234. During the capture of PERSON\_58,<sup>123</sup> the Russian soldier named Ramazan was part of the group of Russian soldiers. He was Dagestani and boasted that he had his family in Russia, and his three brothers wore “maroon berets”. Ramazan and other Russian soldiers twisted the victim’s arms, took him out into the yard, and laid him face down on the ground, after which they began to ask who else was present on the territory of the enterprise.
235. PERSON\_80<sup>124</sup> mentions several Russian soldiers in his testimony, whose distinguishing features he remembered. During the capture, a Russian commander was the first to enter the victim’s yard: *“he was without a balaclava, spoke Russian, and was approximately 45 years old”*. Around March 10, 2022, another Russian commander (*“50–60 years old had a gray beard, a knife made of white ivory, and a pistol”*) “interrogated” the victim on the premises near the barn next to the “Slavutych” store.
236. PERSON\_90<sup>125</sup> testifies that on May 5, 2022, two Russian soldiers entered the cell where he was unlawfully detained on the premises of the Vovchansky VP. When the Russian mili-

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<sup>119</sup> See Testimony No. 32.

<sup>120</sup> See Testimony No. 4.

<sup>121</sup> See Testimony No. 5.

<sup>122</sup> See Testimony No. 6.

<sup>123</sup> See Testimony No. 16.

<sup>124</sup> See Testimony No. 31.

<sup>125</sup> See Testimony No. 33.

- tary allowed PERSON\_90 to remove his cap for a few seconds, he managed to see them. *“One Russian soldier was 190 cm tall, weighed approximately 120 kg, and had dark hair. The second Russian soldier was 170–180 cm tall, thin, with blonde hair. They spoke Russian without an accent.”* The Russian military was armed with a Makarov pistol. They “interrogated” the victim by using physical violence and psychological pressure.
237. Another Russian soldier appears in the testimony of PERSON\_93.<sup>126</sup> During the “interrogation”, the soldier introduced himself as “an investigator of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the LPR” named Pavlo. He threatened the victim with rape and, together with another Russian soldier, stuck a syringe into the victim’s finger, threatening to inject urine.
238. On June 10, 2022, in the gym of the school in the village of Liptsi in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, the Russian military brutally beat PERSON\_98,<sup>127</sup> which led to the victim’s loss of consciousness. The Russian soldier kicked PERSON\_98 on various parts of his body for two to three minutes, after which he began to beat him on his head, sometimes on the stomach, and the ribs. PERSON\_98 sustained numerous bodily injuries and only regained consciousness at home. According to the victim’s testimony, the Russian soldier who beat him could be described as follows: *“30–40 years old, had an athletic build, a curly beard and mustache, a very short haircut, black hair, medium-dark skin, a snub nose, dark eyes, and a deep voice. He was about two meters tall and wore a T-shirt and a black round watch. He had a modern machine gun and pistol and was wearing a full uniform”*.
239. The testimony of PERSON\_101 mentions several Russian soldiers who unlawfully detained and tortured him. The victim describes how on May 29, 2022, around 9:00 a.m., Russian FSB employees in a black uniform named Bohdan, Kazakh (*“slender build, 176–180 cm tall, had a thin mustache, athletic, muscular”*) entered the garage near the premises of the village council in Savyntsi in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region. Bohdan hit PERSON\_101 several times in his face, after the victim was taken to the premises of the Balakliya VP.
240. Around June 26–27, 2022, about 9:00, PERSON\_101 was brought for the “interrogation” on the premises of the Balakliya VP. During the “interrogation”, PERSON\_101 met (1) a Russian FSB officer in a green uniform (*about two meters tall*); (2) a Russian FSB officer (*not of Slavic appearance, with a beard, muscular, athletic build, height about 167–170 cm, black hair, a dorsal hump nose*); (3) a Russian FSB officer (*Russian, slender, straight red hair, height about 190 cm*); and (4) a Russian FSB officer named Bohdan. Throughout the “interrogation”, the Russian military tortured the victim by beating and threatening him.
241. PERSON\_124 testifies that he was unlawfully detained and tortured on the premises of the Balakliya VP. He describes that on June 2, 2022, he was “interrogated” by the Russian soldier in a green uniform who can be described as follows: *“under 30 years old, about 2 meters tall, athletic build, had dark hair, dark round eyes, and spoke Russian without an accent”*.
242. According to the testimony of PERSON\_107,<sup>128</sup> at the time of her capture, the Russian soldier who was taking her to the armored personnel carrier *“looked about 30 years old, had an average build, and was approximately 1.70 meters tall”*. She was “interrogated” by the Russian officer who the victim believes was the FSB agent and can be described as follows: *“of medium height, medium build, black hair, brown eyes, about 30 years old, oval face, wide black eyebrows, spoke pure Ukrainian”*. He wrote down the victim’s answers in his notebook.

<sup>126</sup> See Testimony No. 34.

<sup>127</sup> See Testimony No. 36.

<sup>128</sup> See Testimony No. 42.

243. According to the testimony of PERSON\_120,<sup>129</sup> on August 17, 2022, three Russian soldiers paid him a visit: one with the call sign “Yurga” (*“approximately 30 years old, braces on his teeth, about 170 cm, thin build”*), another one belonging to the so-called “LPR” military with the call sign “Belka” (*“female, red hair, thin build, about 170 cm tall, had a tattoo on her neck”*). The Russian military searched the victim’s apartment and the apartments of his neighbors, pillaged the properties and beat the victim. They put a bag over the victim’s head, hit him on the head with a butt of the gun, which caused the loss of consciousness, and subsequently, captured him.

## 5.2. TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE CHERNIHIV REGION

244. In his testimony, PERSON\_137<sup>130</sup> recounts that the Russian military, who held him captive on the premises of the former psychiatric hospital in the village of Levonky in the Chernihiv District (Chernihiv region), mentioned the villages of Lukashivka and Sloboda where the UAF defeated them. Also, the Russian military mentioned that they fought in Syria. PERSON\_137 believes that they were from Russian military brigade No. 74.
245. Among the Russian soldiers who accompanied PERSON\_135<sup>131</sup> and other detainees to the premises of the psychiatric hospital, PERSON\_135 recalled that there was a captain *“with one eye (he had a plate instead of an eye)”* who was a commander. The commander constantly complained that his whole family fought the war and his mother was sick with cancer. Also, during his captivity, PERSON\_135 heard the story of a Russian soldier named Eldar, who mentioned that he was from the north.
246. PERSON\_135 also testified that when the Russian military asked him where he served in the army, he replied that he had served in the Soviet army. The Russian military asked about a specific location where PERSON\_135 was stationed, to which he replied that he was stationed in Ussuriysk. The Russian military said that it was their “homeland”, and asked again about a more specific location, to which PERSON\_135 replied “Rozdolne”. The Russian military repeated it was their “homeland”. After that, PERSON\_135 realized that those Russian soldiers were from Ussuriysk.<sup>132</sup>
247. According to the testimony of PERSON\_136,<sup>133</sup> on March 31, 2022, the Russian military came to his house and started checking documents. The two men introduced themselves as Russian soldiers. Later, PERSON\_136 learned that those soldiers were from Siberia. PERSON\_136 also testifies about *“a Russian commander who was missing one eye”*. Also, PERSON\_136 mentions another Russian soldier who introduced himself by the surname Beryoshin”, and described him to be *“over 30 years old, maybe about 32”*. According to the testimony of PERSON\_136, the Russian soldiers said they were signallers.
248. In his testimony, PERSON\_141<sup>134</sup> mentions the Russian commander who introduced him to the so-called “commandant” of the Russian army named Armen. Armen was the Russian “commandant” in the temporarily occupied village of Andriivka for 10 days prior to the departure of the Russian military from the village. After the deoccupation of Andriivka,

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<sup>129</sup> See Testimony No. 46.

<sup>130</sup> See Testimony No. 53.

<sup>131</sup> See Testimony No. 55.

<sup>132</sup> See Testimony No. 55.

<sup>133</sup> See Testimony No. 56.

<sup>134</sup> See Testimony No. 57.



*Armen was identified by the Security Service of Ukraine as the commander of the 74th separate motorized rifle brigade, namely Armen Abgharyan, born in 1990, originally from the Kemerovo region in Russia.*

### **5.3. TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE KYIV REGION**

249. In his testimony, PERSON\_152<sup>135</sup> recounts that on March 25, 2022, a Russian soldier called Pyotr ordered him and his son, PERSON\_153, to leave the house. Following this, he ordered his subordinates to shoot PERSON\_153 for looking through the window of the building where the Russian military was stationed at that time. The Russian military put a bag over PERSON\_153's head and tied his hands with tape. They forced the victim to kneel and put him against the wall of the house, and fired several shots from an automatic weapon over his head. After that, the Russian military beat him and hit his neck with a knife.

### **5.4. TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE ZAPORIZHZHIA REGION**

250. PERSON\_154,<sup>136</sup> a minor at the time of his capture, testifies that the Russian military did not let him through at the checkpoint on the way to Zaporizhzhia and ordered him to get out of the car. The Russian soldier who was checking his documents called an unknown person. In about five minutes, the Russian soldier with the call sign "225<sup>th</sup>" arrived at the scene and took PERSON\_154 to the inner courtyard of the "Chumatsky Shlyah" cafe and seated him in one of the pavilions. The victim's documents and phone were confiscated. The Russian soldier asked the victim about his attitude to the war, and whether he considers Russians "fascists" and "orcs".
251. During PERSON\_154's captivity, his father, PERSON\_157, was contacted by a man named Murad Saidov who began negotiations regarding the exchange of PERSON\_154 for his son who was in Ukraine. Later, Murad Saidov took PERSON\_154 from the premises of the Vasylivskiy VP, where the victim was held, to a hotel in Melitopol, where the victim continued to be unlawfully detained.<sup>137</sup>

### **5.5. TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN THE SUMY REGION**

252. In his testimony, PERSON\_160 indicates that after the de-occupation of the city of Trostyanets in the Sumy region, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies commenced a pre-trial investigation, during which investigative actions were carried out, such as the inspection of the crime scene where torture had taken place, a forensic examination of blood samples from the surfaces of the basement. During the investigation, it was also established which army units of the Russian forces were stationed in the temporarily occupied city of Trostyanets.

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<sup>135</sup> See Testimony No. 64.

<sup>136</sup> See Testimony No. 65.

<sup>137</sup> See Testimony No. 65.

## 6. PRELIMINARY LEGAL QUALIFICATION OF ALLEGED CRIMES

253. This Communication presents evidence of the crime of torture committed by members of Russian armed forces and affiliated militia groups since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, which qualifies both as an underlying crime against humanity under Art 7(1)(f) of the Rome Statute and a grave breach of GC IV under Art 8(2)(a)(ii) of the Rome Statute. Both crimes encompass same criminal conduct (*actus reus*), which is committed either by act or omission, that entails “infliction of severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon one or more persons”. However, the crimes differ on the basis of contextual elements and the requisite *mens rea*. Torture as a crime against humanity presupposes that it is committed in the context of a widespread or systematic attack against the civilian population, whereas torture as a grave breach of GC IV signifies that a crime was committed in the context of international armed conflict against protected persons. The evidence presented in this Communication satisfies constituent elements of torture both as a crime against humanity and as a war crime.

254. The ICC Elements of Crimes stipulate the following elements for the crime of torture under Article 7(1)(f) of the Statute:

1. The perpetrator inflicted severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon one or more persons.
2. Such person or persons were in the custody or under the control of the perpetrator.
3. Such pain or suffering did not arise only from, and was not inherent in or incidental to, lawful sanctions.
4. The conduct was committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population.
5. The perpetrator knew that the conduct was part of or intended the conduct to be part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against a civilian population.

As for the war crime of torture as a grave breach to GC under Article 8(2)(a)(ii)-(1), it is necessary to prove the following elements:

1. The perpetrator inflicted severe physical or mental pain or suffering upon one or more persons.
2. The perpetrator inflicted the pain or suffering for such purposes as: obtaining information or a confession, punishment, intimidation or coercion or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind.
3. Such person or persons were protected under one or more of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.
4. The perpetrator was aware of the factual circumstances that established that protected status.
5. The conduct took place in the context of and was associated with an international armed conflict.
6. The perpetrator was aware of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict.

## 6.1. TORTURE AS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

### 6.1.1. Contextual elements

255. In order to prove crimes against humanity under the Rome statute of the ICC, it is necessary to demonstrate the existence of contextual elements in addition to the constitutive elements (*actus reus* and *mens rea*) of underlying offences. Torture constitutes crimes against humanity when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population committed with knowledge of the attack. As specified in the case law of the ICC, contextual elements of crimes against humanity, which derive from the chapeau of Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute and the definition of the attack, encompass the following legal elements: (i) an attack directed any civilian population; (ii) a State or organizational policy; (iii) an attack of a widespread or systematic nature; (iv) nexus between the individual act and the attack; and (v) knowledge of the attack.<sup>138</sup>
256. *Attack against the civilian population.* The term ‘attack directed against any civilian population’ provided for in Article 7(2)(a) of the Rome Statute is understood as “a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts referred to in paragraph 1 against any civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack”.<sup>139</sup> The ‘attack’ does not need to be necessarily military in nature, as it may involve any form of violence against a civilian population.<sup>140</sup> The case law of the ICC has construed ‘civilian population’ in line with the definition of civilian population as laid down in Article 50(1)-(2) of AP I that reads: “the civilian population comprises all persons who are civilians”.<sup>141</sup> The civilian population must be the primary target and not the incidental victim of the attack.<sup>142</sup> This communication presents evidence that Russian military, law enforcement, occupation authorities, and affiliated militia groups intentionally target civilians in occupied territories who are deemed ‘hostile’ or ‘dangerous’ to the Russian regime/occupying authorities by subjecting them to unlawful detention, torture and other forms of violence. It provides first-hand accounts of torture and ill-treatment, and includes information about other atrocity crimes committed in connection with torture (e.g. unlawful detention, inhuman treatment, rape, murder).
257. *State policy.* The ‘policy’ element, within the meaning of article 7(2)(a) of the Statute, “refers to the fact that a State or organization intends to carry out an attack against a civilian population, whether through action or deliberate failure to take action”.<sup>143</sup> The policy does not have to be formalized.<sup>144</sup> The Russian government — through its military, occupation authorities and affiliated militia groups — pursues a coordinated state policy aimed at quelling any form of resistance and protest in the occupied territories of Ukraine by terrorizing the Ukrainian civilian population, which is achieved through a wave of unlawful detentions, torture and ill-treatment, enforced disappearances and other serious violations of international humanitarian law directed against the civilian population.

<sup>138</sup> ICC, Katanga (ICC-01/04-01/07), Judgment pursuant to Article 74 of the Statute, Trial Chamber II, 7 March 2014, paras 1094–1100 (*Katanga* Art 74 Judgment); Bemba (ICC-01/05-01/08), Judgment pursuant to Article 74 of the Statute, Trial Chamber III, 21 March 2016, paras. 148–169 (*Bemba* Art 74 Judgment).

<sup>139</sup> ICC Elements of Crime, Art 7, Intro, para. 3.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.

<sup>141</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1102; *Bemba* Art 74 Judgment, para. 152.

<sup>142</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1104 (referring to ICTY *Kunarac* Appeal Judgment), para 91.

<sup>143</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1108.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

258. *Widespread or systematic attack*. The attack must be “widespread or systematic”, which means that the acts of violence are not spontaneous or isolated.<sup>145</sup> The two terms are disjunctive, not cumulative, meaning that it suffices to demonstrate the existence of one dimension of the attack. The case law construes the term ‘widespread’ through the prism “the large-scale nature of the attack and the number of victims”. The term ‘systematic’ signifies the organized nature of the acts of violence and the improbability of their random occurrence.<sup>146</sup> This evidence presented in this Communication demonstrates that the crime of torture has been committed both in the context of a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population. It includes **66 testimonies** of victims and witnesses about the incidents of torture and inhuman treatment committed by Russian military and affiliated militia groups during the period of unlawful detention. The T4P database encompasses information about **580 episodes** of torture which have been registered by KHPG and other partner institutions during the period between 24 February 2022 and 1 February 2024. The database contains information about at least **283 victims** and **74 deceased**. The communication demonstrates that torture has been used as a tactic to terrorize the civilian population across all occupied territories, including in the Kharkiv, Kyiv, Chernihiv and Zaporizhzhia regions. In addition, there are discernible patterns in the conduct of Russian military and affiliated militia forces concerning torture and ill-treatment committed in the context in occupied territories. These patterns pertain to 1) the categories of civilians who have been targeted; 2) location(s) of the places of unlawful detention; 3) methods of torture and ill-treatment. All these patterns combined demonstrate the systematic dimension of the attack pursued by Russian military and affiliated militia forces against the civilian population in occupied territories. The attack was carried out in a coordinated and organized fashion.
259. *Nexus*. A sufficient link must be demonstrated between the act falling within the ambit of Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute and the attack. Isolated acts that clearly differ in their context and circumstances from other acts that form part of an attack fall outside the scope of Article 7(1) of the Rome Statute.<sup>147</sup> Torture was committed by Russian military, law enforcement and affiliated militia groups specifically during the period of occupation, and was used specifically as a tactic to terrorize civilians in occupied territories.
260. *Knowledge*. The perpetrator must know that his/her act in question is part of the widespread or systematic attack against the civilian population. However, this should not be interpreted as requiring the proof that the perpetrator had knowledge of all of the characteristics of the attack or the precise details of the plan or policy of the State or organization.<sup>148</sup> The perpetrator’s motive is irrelevant to the proof of knowledge. It suffices to establish the perpetrator’s knowledge that his/her act formed part of the attack.<sup>149</sup> The perpetrators of torture include a wide range of actors, including members of Russian military, law enforcement (FSS) and affiliated militia groups who carried out unlawful detentions and subjected civilians. The perpetrators, both direct perpetrators and commanders, acted in the knowledge of the attack and that their acts formed part of it. The question of *mens rea* is to be dealt with by the ICC when individual suspects have been identified.

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<sup>145</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1123.

<sup>146</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>147</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1124; *Bemba* Art 74 Judgment, para. 165.

<sup>148</sup> ICC Elements of Crime, Art 7, Intro, para. 2.

<sup>149</sup> *Katanga* Art 74 Judgment, para. 1125; *Bemba* Art 74 Judgment, para. 167.

### 6.1.2. Severe pain or suffering

261. The severity element signifies an *important degree* of pain and suffering, which may be satisfied “by a single act or by a combination of acts when viewed as a whole”.<sup>150</sup> It is assessed on a case-by-case basis in light of all the circumstances of the case.<sup>151</sup> The pain and suffering may be either physical or mental. As evidenced by the case law of international criminal courts and tribunals, it is not necessary to prove that the pain or suffering resulted in a specific physical injury, impairment of a bodily function or death.<sup>152</sup> Likewise, the consequences of torture do not need to be visible, nor the injury has to be permanent.<sup>153</sup>
262. The Communication provides detailed testimony of the episodes of torture that satisfy the severe physical and/or mental pain and suffering threshold. The methods of torture have been used by the member of Russian forces and affiliated militia forces include beatings, electric shock, asphyxiation, cutting with sharp objects, mock executions, rape etc. The list of the methods used is non-exhaustive, however, it is representative of the criminal patterns of conduct carried out by the Russian military and its affiliated militia groups. The direct testimony of victims, which forms part of this Communication, confirms that they suffered from unbearable pain and suffering, especially during the so-called ‘interrogations’ conducted by Russian forces, FSB or other affiliated militia groups in the places of unlawful detention. In the course of those ‘interrogations’ many victims passed out and sustained serious physical injuries, which include broken bones (arms, ribs etc.), concussions, bruises, cuts etc. Some victims testified that they overheard other detainees screaming in pain during the ‘interrogations’ and witnessed other victims being brought back from the ‘interrogations’ who later died as the result of sustained injuries.
263. Apart from the severe physical pain and suffering inflicted on the victims, victims have endured serious mental trauma. Some testimonies, which form part of this Communication, are accompanied by the expert reports produced by psychologists who confirm the victims’ serious mental disorders as the result of torture and inhuman treatment. Such expert reports are not available in *all* cases, which form part of this Communication, due to the fact that the expert assessment of the victims’ mental state is still ongoing. Particular mental anguish has been caused to victims by mock executions and the threats of violence directed against their family members. In many instances, a combination of various torture methods has been used by the perpetrators amplifying the victims’ physical and mental pain and suffering.

### 6.1.3. Custody/control requirement (only for torture as a crime against humanity)

264. Torture as an underlying crime against humanity requires that victim(s) “were in the custody or under the control of the perpetrator”. The ICC definition of torture does not require that the perpetrator acted in an official capacity as compared to the definition provided in the human rights instruments, such as the CAT. The Trial Chamber in *Al Hassan* noted that the terms ‘custody’ and ‘under control’ should not be equated with ‘imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty. It further clarified that the terms should be construed broadly

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<sup>150</sup> Ongwen Trial Judgment, para. 2701.

<sup>151</sup> Ongwen Trial Judgment, para. 2701.

<sup>152</sup> Ongwen Trial Judgment, para. 2701 (original footnote omitted).

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

“in the sense that a person need not be in actual custody and some form of control is sufficient to establish this element”.<sup>154</sup>

265. Although the “custody/control” requirement is not always equated with imprisonment or other severe deprivation of liberty, the majority of incidents of torture enumerated in this Communication have taken place in the context of unlawful detention. The custody/control over the victims were established from the moment of the unlawful deprivation of liberty, which was carried out by the Russian military or affiliated militia groups. The victims were unlawfully detained at home, work or checkpoints. This was often accompanied by physical violence, with the Russian military tying up victims’ hands, placing the bag over the head, handcuffing etc. As a rule, the victims were subsequently driven away in an unknown direction and remained under the control/in the custody of the Russian military. The control/custody requirement is also evidenced by the fact that victims were forcibly held at the illegal detention centers without the right to leave or the opportunity to challenge such unlawful detention through administrative or other judicial means; and were fully dependent on the Russian military in obtaining food, water, as well as gaining access to the toilet.

#### 6.1.4. Lawful sanctions exception

266. To demonstrate torture as a crime against humanity, it is necessary to prove that the pain or suffering did not arise from, and was not inherent or incidental to, lawful sanctions.<sup>155</sup> Neither the Rome Statute nor the ICC Elements of Crime define what constitutes ‘lawful sanctions’. In *Al Hassan* case, the Trial Chamber noted that the interpretation of the term must be consistent with ‘internationally recognized human rights’ in accordance with Article 21(3) of the Rome Statute.<sup>156</sup> Having referred to the practices of human rights bodies, such as the IACtHR, the ACHPR and the ECtHR, the Trial Chamber acknowledged that “corporal punishment imposed by judicial and administrative authorities, such as ‘whipping’, or ‘floggings’ insofar as they caused either ‘serious’ or ‘severe’ physical or psychological suffering, amount to torture, cruel, inhumane, degrading treatment or punishment in contravention of international human rights law”.<sup>157</sup> Therefore, it found that corporal punishments, which satisfy the severe pain or suffering threshold of the crime of torture under Article 7(1)(f), cannot constitute ‘lawful sanctions’.<sup>158</sup>
267. The assumption of ‘effective control’ by the Russian military in the occupied territories of Ukraine did not confer them with powers to impose any sanctions against the Ukrainian civilian population. Although detention may be permitted for security reasons (internment) under IHL, the deprivation of liberty is an “exceptional measure of control” that an occupying power may take with respect to protected persons against whom no criminal process has been initiated.<sup>159</sup> The internment has to conform to the principle of legality meaning that the person is detained for reasons (substantive aspects) and in accordance with procedures (procedural aspect) outlined in GC IV.<sup>160</sup> Even if one assumes that individuals in

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<sup>154</sup> *Al Hassan* Trial Judgment, para. 1129.

<sup>155</sup> *Ongwen* Trial Judgment, para. 2703.

<sup>156</sup> *Al Hassan* Trial Judgment, para. 1141.

<sup>157</sup> *Al Hassan* Trial Judgment, para. 1142.

<sup>158</sup> *Al Hassan* Trial Judgment, para. 1144.

<sup>159</sup> ICRC, Contemporary challenges to IHL — security detention, 29 October 2010, <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/security-detention>

<sup>160</sup> GC IV, Art 42 (Grounds for Internment or Assigned Residence), Art 78 (Security Measures. Internment or Assigned Residence. Right of Appeal).



occupied territories were detained for security reasons, Russian authorities had not complied with procedural safeguards that are afforded to such persons in detention, e.g. the right to be informed about the reasons for internment, the right to be held in a recognized place of internment, the right to challenge the lawfulness of detention.<sup>161</sup> Given that none of these procedural safeguards have been complied with by Russian authorities, the detentions carried out by the Russian actors cannot be viewed as ‘lawful sanctions’ under international law.

268. Arbitrary detention of civilians has often been accompanied by the imposition of the severe physical and mental pain and suffering, which constitutes torture and inhuman treatment. OHCHR has noted “widespread practices of torture or ill-treatment by Russian armed forces, law enforcement and penitentiary authorities”.<sup>162</sup> Under no circumstances, well-documented cases of torture and inhuman treatment committed in the unlawful places of detention committed by the Russian military, FSS officers and members of affiliated militia groups can constitute ‘lawful sanctions’ under international law.

### 6.1.5. Mens rea

269. Torture as a crime against humanity has to be accompanied by the default *mens rea* of ‘intent’ and ‘knowledge’ as stipulated in Article 30 of the Rome Statute. Both direct and indirect forms of intent are included in the definition, while *dolus eventualis*, which is the lowest threshold for intentional crimes in selected continental law jurisdictions, falls outside the scope of the default rule in Article 30.

## 6.2. TORTURE AS A WAR CRIME

### 6.2.1. Contextual elements

270. Similar to crimes against humanity, war crimes presuppose the existence of a two-layered structure: contextual elements and underlying offences. The contextual elements of war crimes encompass (1) the existence of an armed conflict; (2) nexus between an armed conflict and alleged offence; (3) victims not directly taking part in the hostilities; and (4) awareness on the part of a perpetrator of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict. Torture may constitute an underlying war crime if accompanied by contextual elements of war crimes.
271. *Armed conflict*. Neither the Geneva Conventions nor Additional Protocols provide for a definition of an ‘armed conflict’. The term was assigned its meaning in the case law of the ICTY in the *Tadic Appeal Decision on Jurisdiction*, which was defined as “a resort to armed force between States or protracted armed violence between governmental authorities and organised armed groups or between such groups within a State”.<sup>163</sup> Therefore, in each case, it is necessary to distinguish between an international armed conflict (IAC) fought between two or more States, and a non-international armed conflict (NIAC) fought between a State and another non-state actor(s). This submission concerns alleged crimes

<sup>161</sup> Pejic, Jelena, “Procedural principles and safeguards for internment/administrative detention in armed conflict and other situations of violence”, *International Review of the Red Cross* 87.858 (2005): 375–391.

<sup>162</sup> 2023 OHCHR Detention Report, para. 88.

<sup>163</sup> ICTY, *Prosecutor v. Dusko Tadic, Decision on the Defence Motion for Interlocutory Appeal on Jurisdiction*, IT-94-1, 2 October 1995 (Tadic Appeal Decision on Jurisdiction), para. 70.



committed following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 in the context of IAC. This legal qualification of the conflict has been endorsed by the UN, regional organizations and various international judicial fora.<sup>164</sup> While Russia officially refers to the ongoing war with Ukraine as a SMO,<sup>165</sup> this does not alter the legal assessment of the conflict as IAC.

272. *Armed conflict nexus*: The nexus requirement is essential to demonstrate that the act or omission is sufficiently connected to an armed conflict. To demonstrate the nexus between an armed conflict, whether international or non-international, and the alleged offence, it is necessary to determine that the offence was closely related to the armed conflict as a whole.<sup>166</sup> However, this does not imply that alleged crime(s) must all be committed in the precise geographical region where an armed conflict is taking place at a given moment. To show the presence of the link, it suffices that "the alleged crimes were closely related to the hostilities occurring in other parts of the territories controlled by the parties to the conflict".<sup>167</sup> This submission illustrates that the alleged crimes were enabled by the armed conflict and the subsequent occupation of Ukrainian territories. The Russian military, in coordination with Russian occupying authorities, sought to identify 'disloyal' or pro-Ukrainian locals in the occupied regions. These civilians were often captured by the Russian military and subjected to torture and inhuman treatment to extract military-related information, which the civilians did not possess, or to force them to collaborate with the Russian military.
273. *Protected persons*: The war crime of torture must be committed against protected persons. Article 4 GC IV defines such category of persons as "those who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals". The provision was construed broadly to reflect the realities of modern inter-ethnic conflicts where perpetrators and victims might be of the same nationality. In such circumstances, victims are accorded a protected status under IHL. As described in witness summaries, alleged crimes were committed against civilians in occupied territories who qualify as 'protected persons' under IHL. They were only targeted by Russian forces because they were perceived as being 'disloyal', 'anti-Russian', 'dangerous' or 'suspicious'.
274. *Mens rea*: An additional requirement in the ICC, which is adjacent the contextual elements of war crimes, is the perpetrator's awareness of factual circumstances that established the existence of an armed conflict. Given that alleged crimes took place in occupied territories of Ukraine in the midst of the ongoing war, perpetrators cannot deny knowledge of the circumstances establishing the existence of an armed conflict, as well as the protected status of civilian victims.

### 6.2.2. *Actus reus*

275. *Actus reus*. As mentioned above, the *actus reus* for the war crime of torture is the same as described for torture as an underlying crime against humanity.

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<sup>164</sup> See OHCHR Report (24 Feb — 15 May 2022), 29 Jun 2022, para. 15; I Marchuk & A Wanigasuriya, "The ICC and the Russia-Ukraine War", *ASIL Insights* (online), (Jul 5, 2022), at: <https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/26/issue/4>.

<sup>165</sup> Putin's Address of 24 February 2022.

<sup>166</sup> Tadic Appeal Decision on Jurisdiction, para. 70.

<sup>167</sup> Ibid.

### 6.2.3. *Mens rea*

276. *Mens rea*. Unlike torture as an underlying crime against humanity, the war crime of torture must be accompanied by an additional *mens rea* (*dolus specialis*). This means that in addition to the default *mens rea* standard in Article 30 of the Rome Statute, it has to be proved that the perpetrator inflicted the pain or suffering for such purposes as: obtaining information or a confession, punishment, intimidation or coercion or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind. The specific purpose “must be part of the motivation behind the conduct but it need not be the ‘predominant or sole purpose’”.<sup>168</sup> As evidenced by witness testimonies provided in this submission, the Russian military pursued various purposes behind torture, such as obtaining information, coercing to confess, coercing to publicly pledge loyalty to Russia, coercing to cooperate with the Russian military or abusing victims.

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<sup>168</sup> Al Hassan Trial Judgment, para. 1145 (original footnote omitted).

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

277. KHPG acknowledges the significance of the ongoing investigative efforts of the OTP ICC in Ukraine and welcomes the issuance of six arrest warrants against Russian senior political and military leaders. At the same time, KHPG wishes to draw attention of the OTP to the alleged crimes of torture committed in the context of the unlawful deprivation of liberty that have been committed on a large scale and in a systematic manner in Ukraine, especially in occupied territories. KHPG urges the OTP to prioritise the investigation of the crimes of torture in the context of the unlawful detention and to identify individual suspects at the highest levels of the Russian political and military hierarchy who are most responsible for the implementation of the policy of terrorizing the civilian population in occupied territories.

# ***ANNEXES***

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# Annex 1

## Summary of Testimony No. 1

PERSON\_1 testifies that between April 18, 2022, and April 28, 2022, he was held captive by the Russian military in the city of Balakliya, located in the Izyum district of the Kharkiv region. During his captivity, he was subjected to torture through beatings and electric shocks. PERSON\_1 was kept in inhumane conditions, including an overcrowded cell, inadequate amounts of water and food, starvation, and lack of access to a toilet. As a result of the injuries sustained, PERSON\_1 sought medical assistance after his release from captivity.

## Summary of Testimony No. 2

PERSON\_5 testifies that between April 23, 2022, and May 14, 2022, he was held captive and tortured by the Russian military and law enforcement officers on the premises of the Balakliya Police Department, located in the city of Balakliya in the Izyum district of the Kharkiv region. PERSON\_5 was beaten and subjected to psychological pressure, including threats with a gun and mock execution. He was kept in inhumane conditions. PERSON\_5 also testifies about the torture of other detainees who were held in the same cell with him. He recalls in detail the locations where he was captured, beaten by the Russian military (on the highway between the village of Yakovenkovo and the city of Balakliya), and subsequently, unlawfully detained (on the premises of the Balakliya Police Department).

## Summary of Testimony No. 3

PERSON\_8 testifies that he was captured twice by the Russian military and subjected to so-called “interrogations,” during which he was brutally tortured. The Russian military beat him all over his body with hands, feet, ramrods, rifle butts, a rubber stick, and other objects. As a result of these beatings, PERSON\_8 repeatedly lost consciousness. The Russian military also tortured him with electric shocks, staged mock executions, and attempted to cut off his ear with a scimitar. PERSON\_8 was held in captivity under inhumane conditions: he was not allowed to eat for several days; only one bottle of water was provided for the entire cell, and two buckets were given in place of toilet access. PERSON\_8 remembers the call signs of the Russian military who held him captive and tortured him.

## Summary of Testimony No. 4

PERSON\_15, a retired military officer born in 1976, served as a member of the ATO in 2015, after which he worked as a teacher at a military university until his retirement. The Russian military detained PERSON\_15, held him in the basement of the Kozacha Lopan railway station, and tortured him through repeated severe beatings, which caused him to lose consciousness. According to available information, the Russian military forcibly moved him to Russian territory, where they continue to detain him in an unknown location.

## Summary of Testimony No. 5

PERSON\_16, born in 1999, served in the State Border Service of Ukraine from 2018 to 2021. The Russian military captured him and held him on the premises of the Kozacha Lopan railway station. They conducted a so-called ‘interrogation,’ during which he was tortured by being beaten all over his body with a whip and a baton and strangled with a rope. The Russian military also

struck his head with a hard object similar to a household soap bar, cut his earlobe with a knife, and tortured him with electric shocks. Afterward, they took him to the premises of the Hoptivka checkpoint, where he was again tortured with electric shocks, but with greater force and the use of water (wet rags) to improve contact with the electrodes. PERSON\_16 testifies that he was held captive under inhumane conditions: he was deprived of food and water for an extended period and had to sleep on the concrete floor in an overcrowded cell. The Russian military also harassed the detainees.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 6**

PERSON\_17, a student at Kharkiv College, lived with his grandmother in the village of Kozacha Lopan, located in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region, which borders Russia. He was 17 years old during the events described in his testimony. The Russian military “investigated” him and conducted “interrogations,” during which he was tortured. They beat him on the head with a rubber stick, tortured him with electric shocks, and threatened to insert a bottle into his anus, although they did not follow through on this threat. After the so-called “interrogations,” the Russian military forced him to write an apology for “insulting the Russian military” and to answer questions from Russian propaganda journalists, with the answers later being published on the Internet.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 7**

PERSON\_26, born in 1964, was a resident of the Veteran Garden Association near Hlushkivka, located in the Kupyansk district of the Kharkiv region. He had previously participated in the ATO. The Russian military detained him and subjected him to so-called “interrogations,” during which he was brutally tortured. He was beaten with hands, feet, the butts of machine guns, a sandbag, a metal-plastic pipe, and a military belt. While being beaten, he was insulted and mocked for his participation in the ATO. The Russian military also tortured him with electric shocks.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 8**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_28 and detained him in a shed near the “Slavutych” store in the village of Cherkasy Tyshki. They repeatedly conducted so-called “interrogations,” during which he was brutally tortured. Specifically, PERSON\_28 was constantly beaten on his legs; the knee of his left leg was struck with the butt of a machine gun and kicked, and he was subjected to electric shocks. The Russian military threatened to shoot him and cut off his ears. He testifies that he was kept in inhumane conditions: he was deprived of proper food and water and was starved. Detainees used a bucket as a toilet and were kept in an unheated shed, causing the victim to suffer frostbite all over his body when the temperature outside dropped. The Russian military forced the victim to sign a document stating that he had no complaints against them and that they did not torture him.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 9**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_35 at his mother’s house in the village of Ruski Tyshki, located in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region, and detained him in a shed near the “Slavutych” store. They “interrogated” him several times a day, during which they tortured him. Specifically, they beat him with their hands and the butts of machine guns and cut his ears and fingers. The Russian military also took him to the Kozacha Lopan Air Force Base, where they conducted further so-called “interrogations,” during which he was tortured with electric shocks. They kept him in inhumane conditions: he slept on a concrete floor when it was about -5 to -1 degrees Celsius outside, and food was given once a day in a bucket.



**Summary of Testimony No. 10**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_39 and initially detained him in a shed near the “Slavutych” store in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki, located in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region, before moving him to the “Hoptivka” checkpoint. While in captivity, they repeatedly “interrogated” and tortured him, inflicting blows to his body and using electric shocks. They threatened him with execution and carried out mock shootings. The Russian military also forced him to perform labor for their benefit. He was held in inhumane conditions.

**Summary of Testimony No. 11**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_40 and kept her in a shed near the “Slavutych” store in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki, located in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region. While in captivity, the Russian military conducted the so-called “interrogation”, during which they repeatedly threatened to shoot the victim. PERSON\_40 testifies that she was kept in inhumane conditions tantamount to torture. The victim also testified that the Russian military tortured her boyfriend PERSON\_39.

**Summary of Testimony No. 12**

The Russian military detained PERSON\_48 in the yard of his house. During the capture, the Russian military beat PERSON\_48, ransacked his home, and took all the valuables they had found. The Russian military repeatedly “interrogated” and tortured the victim. In particular, they severely beat him with their feet and the butt of machine guns, which resulted in breaking the victim’s nose. They carried out the victim’s mock execution by shooting above his head. PERSON\_48 testifies that, while in captivity, he saw the Russian military torturing and killing detained members of the UAF. In his testimony, PERSON\_48 names the call signs of the Russian military who held him captive and tortured him.

**Summary of Testimony No. 13**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_53 in his house in the city of Vovchansk, located in the Chuguyiv district of the Kharkiv region. After the capture, the Russian military took PERSON\_53 outside the town, where they tortured him. In particular, they beat the victim all over his body with their feet, machine guns, and a pickaxe, knocking out the victim’s teeth; and shot him with blank cartridges, threatening to kill him. After that, the Russian military brought PERSON\_53 to the Russian military base in the city of Vovchansk, where they beat him again by hitting him several times with a hammer until he lost consciousness. The Russian military left PERSON\_53 on the street because they thought PERSON\_53 was dead.

**Summary of Testimony No. 14**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_56 and kept him on the premises of the Balakliya district police department. During captivity, the Russian military conducted the so-called “interrogation” and tortured him by beating him all over his body and threatening him.

**Summary of Testimony No. 15**

During the capture of PERSON\_57, the Russian military beat him, ransacked his dacha and apartment, and took all the valuables. While in captivity, the Russian military conducted the so-called “interrogations”, during which they tortured the victim. In particular, they beat him all over the body and head, applied electric shock until he lost consciousness, and threatened to shoot

him. A person who introduced himself as a “Russian investigator” tortured the victim. The Russian military held PERSON\_57 in inhumane conditions tantamount to torture for more than 100 days. The detention in inhumane conditions and brutal torture has had negative consequences for the victim’s physical and mental health, which was latter confirmed by medical records of the victim’s examinations.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 16**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_58 more than once and repeatedly carried out the so-called “interrogations”, during which he was tortured. In particular, they beat the victim on the head and ribs, applied electric shock, exerted mental pressure, and undressed him on the street. The Russian military kept PERSON\_58 in inhumane conditions. Specifically, they placed a sack over his head, kept him in a cellar where it was damp and dark. Another unlawful place of detention where PERSON\_58 was held was freezing at night and hot during the day, with the majority of detainees sleeping on the cold concrete floor. Food was brought once a day in a shared bucket. Instead of a toilet, there was a bucket that both women and men had to use. PERSON\_58 witnessed the torture of other civilian detainees and them being forced to carry out physical labor for the benefit of the Russian military. Detention in inhumane conditions and cruel torture has had negative consequences for the victim’s physical and mental health, which was latter confirmed by medical records of the victim’s examinations.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 17**

The Russian military unlawfully detained and tortured on PERSON\_62 on more than one occasion. While in captivity, the victim was subjected to physical violence (beating) and psychological pressure (threats to kill) for a month. PERSON\_62 remembered distinguishing features and personal identification details of the Russian military, who detained and tortured him, which he detailed in his testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 18**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_63, searched his house, and tortured him during the so-called “interrogations” in the garage. The Russian military brutally beat PERSON\_63 with hands, feet, and butts from machine guns. They carried out a mock execution and threatened to rape and kill the victim’s pregnant wife.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 19**

The Russian military captured and tortured PERSON\_64 by beating him on his head, back, and other bodily parts; they also placed his chest on a box and were throwing stones on his back in the area closer to his neck. The victim was unlawfully detained in inhumane conditions, in particular in a suffocating, overcrowded double cell, where he was held together with 8 other detainees. There was no light and no toilet in the cell. The detainees were rarely taken out for a walk, the food was not edible. The detainees had to use a bottle instead of a toilet.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 20**

The Russian military captured and tortured PERSON\_65 in the garage. In particular, the Russian military beat the victim with their hands, feet, and butts from machine guns. They kicked his knees with rubber boots with full force. They forced PERSON\_65 to kneel and carried out a mock shooting. The Russian military undressed the victim and looked for body tattoos. A few days after

the victim's release from captivity, the Russian military again came to his home, beat him, and took him away blindfolded. However, the victim was released an hour later.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 21**

The Russian military captured and tortured PERSON\_67 in the garage. In particular, the Russian military beat PERSON\_67 with hands, feet, and butts from machine guns; forced the victim to kneel, and carried out a mock shooting. The Russian military undressed the victim and looked for tattoos on his body, after which they took him undressed to the yard, forced him to kneel and carried out a mock shooting again.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 22**

The Russian military captured and tortured PERSON\_66 in the garage. In particular, the Russian military beat the victim with hands, feet, and butts from machine guns, forced him to kneel, and carried out a mock shooting. The Russian military undressed the victim and looked for tattoos on his body, after which they took him to the yard, forced him to kneel, and carried out a mock shooting again. During the so-called "interrogation", the Russian military threatened to kill the victim.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 23**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_68, conducted the so-called "interrogations", during which they beat him. In his testimony, PERSON\_68 describes the places of unlawful detention where he was held, and recalls the Russian army units that captured and 'interrogated' him.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 24**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_69, took him to the Russian checkpoint, where they tortured him by putting and removing grenades from his body and threatening to kill (mock execution), after which the victim was released. A few days later, the Russian military returned to the victim's home. They forced the victim's family into the street, including a 8-year-old granddaughter, and started shooting over people's heads for fun.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 25**

The Russian military captured and unlawfully detained PERSON\_73 for 50 days. During his captivity, the Russian military tortured him. In particular, they beat him with sticks on his head, back, and other parts of the body, which led to the loss of consciousness. While in captivity, PERSON\_73 was kept in inhumane conditions: an overcrowded, suffocating cell with no light and almost no opportunity to go out for a walk.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 26**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_74 and unlawfully detained him in a basement in inhumane conditions tantamount to torture. The victim was kept without water and food, with his hands tied, and a black bag placed over his head. Given that his hands were tied, PERSON\_74 was not able to use the toilet on his own and was assisted by other detainees.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 27**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_75 and his son PERSON\_76. Initially, PERSON\_75 was held on the premises of the agricultural complex, where he was brutally tortured by the Russian military. In particular, they beat him on the back, in the stomach, on the

chest, and in the groin area; they used electric shock and strangled him. Afterwards, the Russian military took PERSON\_75 to the premises of the Balakliya district police department, where they conducted the so-called 'interrogation', during which he was also brutally tortured. They beat him with rubber batons and used electric shock until PERSON\_75 repeatedly lost consciousness.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 28**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_77 and unlawfully detained him for 8 days in inhumane conditions, such as a stifling basement without light and a toilet. He was constantly tortured during the so-called "interrogations". In particular, he was beaten on the head, back, and other parts of the body, and was also threatened with execution.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 29**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_78 and brought him to their headquarters, where they tortured him with electric shock until he lost consciousness. After a bucket of water was poured on PERSON\_78 and he regained consciousness, the Russian military released him but threatened to kill him the next time.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 30**

The Russian military kidnapped PERSON\_79 from his house and unlawfully detained him in inhumane conditions for 10 days. While in captivity, the Russian military conducted the so-called "interrogations", during which PERSON\_79 was tortured until he lost consciousness. In particular, they beat him, broke his arm, and caused internal bleeding in his stomach. As a result of severe torture, PERSON\_79 was taken unconscious to the hospital.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 31**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_80 and unlawfully detained him in various places under inhumane conditions tantamount to torture, such as cold cells, no light, no places to sleep, terrible food, and no possibility to use the toilet, etc. While in captivity, the Russian military brutally tortured PERSON\_80. In particular, they kicked him, injured his left eye and broke a rib; they used electric shock; and threatened to insert a kettle in his anus and to kill him.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 32**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_86 and his friend PERSON\_88 and unlawfully detained them in inhumane conditions, such as a cold room, sleeping on the floor, little food, and being allowed to use the toilet only twice a day. While in captivity, the Russian military forced PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 to do forced labor for their benefit. Russian soldiers kicked PERSON\_86 and knocked out his teeth. PERSON\_86 remembers in detail the appearance and personal identification information of the Russian soldiers who unlawfully detained him, which he described in his testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 33**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_90 and unlawfully detained him in a cell on the premises of the Vovchan district police department. During the captivity, the Russian military repeatedly "interrogated" the victim. They beat him and tortured him with electric shock. The Russian military also threatened PERSON\_90 to inject him with some unknown substance and kill him. The cell where PERSON\_90 was held was unbearably cold. The victim had to sleep on a wooden bench and cover himself with a mattress. There was no technical water and very little fresh air.

**Summary of Testimony No. 34**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_93 twice and kept him in inhumane conditions, such as an uninsulated shed with sealed windows and no daylight, sleeping on the floor with other detainees, and eating cold porridge mixed with leftovers from a shared bucket. Instead of a toilet, a bucket was used and taken out once a day. While in captivity, the Russian military carried out so-called “interrogations”, during which they tortured the victim and threatened to murder and rape him and his wife. The victim remembers in detail the appearance and personal identification information of the Russian soldiers who unlawfully captured and detained him, which he described in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 35**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_95 and unlawfully detained her in inhumane conditions, such as an unheated warehouse, where she slept on wooden pallets or the floor; food given in a bucket; no lighting in the cell, except for a single candle; detainees suffering from pungent stench and suffocation, in all prisoners went to the toilet in a shared bucket. PERSON\_95 was forced to use the toilet in front of 12 male detainees, which she found degrading. The victim remembers in detail the appearance and personal identification information of the Russian soldiers who unlawfully captured and detained her, which she described in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 36**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_98 and tortured him. They beat the victim until he lost consciousness and threatened to shoot parts of his body. He was kicked in various parts of the body for about two to three minutes, after which he was beaten on his head, in his stomach, and his ribs. PERSON\_98 was brought home unconscious by an acquaintance. As a result of the beating, the victim sustained numerous injuries and acquired health issues. In his testimony, PERSON\_98 provided a detailed description of the Russian soldier who beat him.

**Summary of Testimony No. 37**

The Russian military, in particular FSB employees, captured PERSON\_101, unlawfully detained him for a month and tortured him. They repeatedly brutally beat PERSON\_101 and threatened to kill him. The Russian military also threatened PERSON\_101 to rape him in the presence of his wife. After a month of captivity and torture, the Russian military told the victim that he “passed the control”. They returned his passport and released him. PERSON\_101 remembered in detail distinguishing features and personal identification information of the Russian military who unlawfully detained and tortured him, which he described in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 38**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_102 and unlawfully detained him under inhumane conditions for almost a month. During his captivity, the Russian military “interrogated” the victim approximately eight times. During these so-called “interrogations,” the Russian military tortured him; specifically, they beat him with a rubber stick on the back of his head, knees, and kidneys, struck him in the chest with their fists, and applied electric shocks to his wrists.

**Summary of Testimony No. 39**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_103. First, they brought him to an abandoned room, where they brutally tortured him by kicking him in the chest, beating him with their

hands and the butt of a machine gun, lowering his head into a bucket of water, and applying electric shocks. They also threatened the victim by saying they would assault his wife. After the torture, PERSON\_103 was unable to stand or walk on his own. He was taken to the local service station basement and released the following day.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 40**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_105, unlawfully detained him under inhumane conditions, and tortured him from March 24 to April 4, 2022. They accused him of being an artillery observer and conducted the so-called “interrogations,” during which he was brutally tortured. Specifically, the victim was beaten with rubber sticks, struck on the hands, legs, and torso, punched hard in the forehead, and subjected to electric torture. Electric shocks were applied twice: the first time through his little fingers, and the second time through his ears. The Russian military also forced prisoners to perform hard labor for their benefit, which included unloading warehouses and covering windows and roadblocks with sandbags.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 41**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_106 and unlawfully detained him for 12 days in a basement. He was tortured during the so-called “interrogations.” They beat the victim with the butt of a machine gun, stripped him, and set dogs on him. PERSON\_106 remembered personal identification information of the Russian military who unlawfully detained and tortured him, which he described in his testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 42**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_107 and unlawfully detained her in a basement under inhumane conditions for three days. While in captivity, PERSON\_107 was subjected to the so-called “interrogation,” during which they used both physical violence (pressing the barrel of the machine gun against the inner part of her thigh and raising the machine gun to her armpit) and psychological violence (threatening to shoot her and pour industrial foam into her anus). PERSON\_107 remembers the call signs of the Russian military who captured and tortured her, which she provided in her testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 43**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_112 and unlawfully detained him in a cell at the Balakliya district police department, where he was tortured. They brutally beat him with a rubber stick across his entire body and head, and tortured him with an electric stun gun by applying shocks to his chest and genital area. PERSON\_112 remembers in detail the distinguishing features and personal identification information of the Russian military personnel who captured and tortured him, which he provided in his testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 44**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_12 and unlawfully detained him in a cell at the Balakliya district police department. While in captivity, the Russian military repeatedly conducted so-called “interrogations,” during which the victim was brutally tortured. Specifically, he was beaten with a rubber stick on his head and across his entire body. The Russian military also carried out mock executions twice by taking the victim to the forest. PERSON\_12 remembers the personal identifying information and distinguishing features of the Russian military personnel who unlawfully detained and tortured him, which he provided in his testimony.



**Summary of Testimony No. 45**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_117 and unlawfully detained him in a cell at the Balakliya district police department. While in captivity, they conducted so-called “interrogations,” during which he was tortured. Specifically, he was brutally beaten on the head and body with a rubber club and forced to undress. PERSON\_117 remembers the distinguishing features and personal identifying information of the Russian military personnel who unlawfully detained and tortured him, which he provided in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 46**

The Russian military searched PERSON\_120’s apartment several times, forcing him to perform physical labor under death threats. On one occasion, during a search of PERSON\_120’s and his neighbors’ apartments, they beat and detained him. PERSON\_120 was unlawfully held in inhumane conditions and was constantly forced to perform hard physical labor for the benefit of the Russian military. The detainees were derogatorily called “negroes” and were forced to work under torture and death threats. The Russian military allowed medical training to be conducted on PERSON\_120. Specifically, Russian military nurses were trained to give injections and administer IV drips to PERSON\_120 and other detainees. Only after these abuses were the detainees given food, which was insufficient and of terrible quality. PERSON\_120 remembers the distinguishing features and personal identifying information of the Russian military personnel who unlawfully detained and tortured him, which he provided in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 47**

The Russian military searched PERSON\_121’s house and unlawfully detained her. She was held for three days in inhumane conditions, specifically in a dark room without food. While in captivity, the Russian military conducted so-called “interrogations,” during which they exerted intense psychological pressure and threatened to shoot her. PERSON\_121 remembers the distinguishing features and personal identifying information of the Russian military personnel who unlawfully detained and tortured her, which she provided in her testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 48**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_123 and repeatedly raped her anally, orally, and vaginally. They raped her in turns and all together. The Russian military were making derogatory comments, when they filmed rape on camera. During the rape, they beat the victim and threatened her. The soldiers were intoxicated, as they constantly consumed alcohol. PERSON\_123 remembers the distinguishing features and personal identifying information of the Russian military personnel who unlawfully detained and raped her, which she provided in her testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 49**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_124 and repeatedly carried out the so-called “interrogations”.During these sessions, the victim was brutally beaten on the head, body, shoulders, arms, and stomach, and subjected to electric torture. Additionally, the Russian military staged a mock execution of the victim. In his testimony, PERSON\_124 describes the Russian soldier who carried out these “interrogations”.

**Summary of Testimony No. 50**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_129, a patient with stomach cancer, and held him in inhumane conditions from August 14, 2022, to April 2, 2023. The victim’s condition was so dire



that he was on the verge of death. While in captivity, the Russian military repeatedly transported PERSON\_129 from one place of unlawful detention to another, eventually leaving him on the premises of the so-called ‘commandant’s offices,’ where he was kept in a basement without light for a month. The detainees were rarely fed and were subjected to various forms of abuse. No. medical assistance was provided until PERSON\_129’s condition critically deteriorated. The Russian military repeatedly subjected the victim to ‘interrogation.’ As a result of prolonged captivity in inhumane conditions and torture, PERSON\_129’s health deteriorated significantly. The victim was exchanged for a Russian POW, despite being a civilian.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 51**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_134 at the village of Levonky, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region. He was detained on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital, along with other detainees, whom he mentioned in his testimony.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 52**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_138 in the village of Levonky, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region. He was detained on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital, along with other detainees, whom he mentioned in his testimony. While in captivity, PERSON\_138 was tortured by the Russian military. Specifically, they beat him and forced him to lie on the ground on a grenade, with the pin pulled out. The Russian military ‘interrogated’ the victim in an attempt to obtain the names of village residents involved in blocking the entrance to the village. As a result of the torture, PERSON\_138 began to experience memory lapses.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 53**

The Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_137 in the village of Levonky, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region. He was held on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital along with other detainees. PERSON\_137 was kept in inhumane conditions, subjected to brutal treatment, and threatened with death. He recalls specific features of the Russian military personnel who detained him, suggesting they were likely affiliated with Brigade No. 74.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 54**

PERSON\_140 witnessed the capture and unlawful detention of six civilians by the Russian military, including his son and brother. He testifies that the Russian military tortured his brother, PERSON\_138. PERSON\_140 also recounts that the Russian military forced him to perform physical labor for their benefit, specifically cutting tree branches.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 55**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_135 in the village of Levonky, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region. They held him on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital along with other detainees, whom he mentioned in his testimony. The Russian military conducted a so-called “interrogation” of PERSON\_135, during which they beat him and threatened to shoot him and his son. They also carried out a mock execution of him. The victim testifies that the Russian military forced him to perform physical labor for their benefit, specifically cutting fallen trees and removing branches. PERSON\_135 recalled the distinguishing features of some of the Russian soldiers who unlawfully detained him and mentioned them in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 56**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_136 in the village of Levonky, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region. They held him on the grounds of a psychiatric hospital along with other detainees, whom he mentioned in his testimony. During the so-called “interrogation” of PERSON\_136, the Russian military threatened to kill him and forced him to watch as they carried out a mock execution of his father. PERSON\_136 testifies that the Russian military forced him to perform physical labor for their benefit, specifically cutting fallen trees. Throughout this time, the Russian military kept PERSON\_136 and the other detainees at gunpoint. PERSON\_136 recalls the distinguishing features of some of the Russian soldiers who unlawfully detained him and mentioned them in his testimony.

**Summary of Testimony No. 57**

The Russian military captured the head of the village of Andriyivka, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region, and unlawfully detained him in the ‘Vital’ medical center. The Russian military repeatedly threatened PERSON\_141 with shooting and physical violence. The victim was held in inhumane conditions, blindfolded and handcuffed. After the victim’s release, the Russian military forced him, in his role as village head, to report to the so-called “commandant” in the temporarily occupied Andriyivka. PERSON\_141 recalls the distinguishing features and personal identification information of the Russian commandant, which helped to establish his identity.

**Summary of Testimony No. 58**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_142 when he, along with PERSON\_165, attempted to supply bread to the village. They repeatedly “interrogated” both of them, forced them to undress to search for tattoos, beat them multiple times with gun butts, and unlawfully detained them for one night. While in captivity, the victims’ arms were tied, and their sweaters were pulled over their heads.

**Summary of Testimony No. 59**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_143 while he was at work. During the capture, they searched and brutally beat him, and conducted a mock execution. Following the capture, the Russian military carried out ‘searches’ at the victim’s home. They unlawfully detained him at the ITT facility in the city of Kherson. While in captivity, PERSON\_143 was held in inhumane conditions, such as overcrowded cells without the ability to sleep properly, and was provided with little to no food for several days. During his captivity, the Russian military repeatedly conducted so-called ‘interrogations’, during which he was tortured. PERSON\_143 was beaten with hands and feet, subjected to attempted electric shock torture, and sustained injuries from the electric torture device. During the ‘interrogations’, the Russian military attempted to extract information about the victim’s brother-in-law, asking him to write down everything he knew. When the Russian military were dissatisfied with his written responses, they beat him again. After being released from captivity, PERSON\_143 was summoned for another ‘interrogation’ by the Russian military, during which they apologized, stating it had been a ‘mistake’. They then took him to the village of Komyshtany, where he was released.

**Summary of Testimony No. 60**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_145 and his neighbor under the pretext of ‘establishing circumstances’. The detainees were held in a basement without windows, in complete darkness

at all times. They were often starved for several days or given very little food. They were also humiliated, compared to ‘pigs’, and told to urinate in their food. PERSON\_145 witnessed the Russian military torturing a man who later died in front of the other detainees. The man’s body remained in the basement with the other detainees for a day before it was taken away. Later, the Russian military claimed the man had been killed by a local ‘drug addict’. PERSON\_146, however, was not a drug addict; he had a speech impediment, was well-known in the community, and had a 2-year-old son. A few days later, the Russian military brought PERSON\_146 to the basement. He told the other detainees that something had been injected into him, causing him to behave frantically and erratically. The Russian military refused to call a doctor, instead calling PERSON\_146 a ‘Nazi’ and a ‘drug addict’. PERSON\_146 died in front of PERSON\_145 and the other detainees. The detainees were also forced to read propaganda texts on camera under death threats. In total, PERSON\_145 and his neighbor were unlawfully detained for 69 days, during which time he lost 22 kilograms.

### **Summary of Testimony No. 61**

The Russian military detained PERSON\_144, a former UAF serviceman, in the apartment where he lived with his wife and two minor children. They took him as a prisoner of war and subjected him to the ‘filtering’ process. The Russian military held him for an extended period in various ITT facilities and correctional colonies under inhumane conditions, including extremely overcrowded cells, insufficient food, lack of drinking water, inability to wash for long periods, prohibition of standing or sitting during the day, and bans on outdoor walks. PERSON\_144 was held in captivity from April 3, 2022, to July 28, 2023. Upon arrival at each new place of unlawful detention, the Russian military stripped, searched, beat, and tortured him with electric shocks. He was detained again when he attempted to leave the territory of the unrecognized ‘republics’ and cross into Russia. PERSON\_144 also testifies that the Russian military stripped and searched his wife when she was searching for him during his unlawful detention.

### **Summary of Testimony No. 62**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_147 after he and his family had undergone the “filtering” process in order to leave the Russian controlled territory. This took place one day before their scheduled departure from Mariupol. PERSON\_147 was known for his active pro-Ukrainian position and being the founder of a well-known theater in Mariupol, which staged plays by modern Ukrainian artists. PERSON\_147’s son had a disability since childhood, being a non-verbal autistic. The Russian military held PERSON\_147 in captivity for a total period of 10 months, during which he was repeatedly “interrogated” and tortured. In particular, he was beaten on the back with a stick and threatened to kill the family. The Russian military held PERSON\_147 in the ‘Isolyatsia’ unlawful detention center where the conditions were inhumane.

### **Summary of Testimony No. 63**

The ‘DPR’ militia captured PERSON\_148 and her husband, PERSON\_149, and the couple was subsequently separated. PERSON\_148 was detained in a cell on the grounds of the ‘Isolyatsia’ factory, which had been converted into a prison. During her detention, she was tortured by the Russian military. They beat her on the body, face, legs, and hands, forced her to undress in front of unknown men, mocked her, threatened her with rape, and beat her while she was naked. Additionally, they strangled her with a bag held over her head until she lost consciousness. The conditions of her detention at the ‘Isolyatsia’ prison were inhumane. Afterward, PERSON\_148 was transferred to the Donetsk pre-trial detention center, where she was held un-

til she was exchanged in a prisoner swap. During PERSON\_148's captivity, the so-called 'DPR social services' attempted to convince her children, PERSON\_150 and PERSON\_151, that their parents had already been executed for the crimes they allegedly committed. The children were deceitfully taken to Russia, where the youngest, PERSON\_150, was being prepared for adoption into a Russian family. Although PERSON\_148's children were eventually returned, her husband, PERSON\_149, remains in captivity.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 64**

During the temporary occupation of Bucha, the Russian military captured PERSON\_152 and his family, including his son, PERSON\_153. From March 18 to 28, 2022, the Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_152 and his family in the basement of their house, where the Russian military had chosen to station its personnel and military equipment. During their captivity, the Russian military used physical violence against the detainees. On March 25, 2022, the Russian military staged a mock execution of PERSON\_153 in front of his father, PERSON\_152. They then beat PERSON\_153 and stabbed him in the neck.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 65**

The Russian military captured a minor, PERSON\_154, while he was being evacuated from the city of Melitopol to the city of Zaporizhzhia. They discovered that PERSON\_154 was the son of a high-ranking official in the Zaporizhzhia city administration. The Russian military held PERSON\_154 captive on the premises of the Vasylivskyi VP. He was kept in inhumane conditions and forced to clean the premises where the Russian military tortured other detainees. PERSON\_154 witnessed many incidents of torture carried out by the Russian military against detainees. During his captivity, a man named Murad Saidov negotiated with PERSON\_154's father, proposing to exchange PERSON\_154 for his own son. Later, Murad Saidov took PERSON\_154 to Melitopol, where he placed him in a hotel. Murad Saidov also showed PERSON\_154 a fabricated "criminal case" against him involving bogus charges of illegal drug trade, which was used to blackmail his father. While in captivity, PERSON\_154 experienced health issues, including seizures and extremely high blood pressure.

#### **Summary of Testimony No. 66**

The Russian military captured PERSON\_160 and his friend, PERSON\_161, while they were returning from a grocery store in the temporarily occupied town of Trostyanets in the Sumy region. The Russian military detained PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 in the basement of the railway station in Trostyanets, where they were held under inhumane conditions and tortured. During a so-called "interrogation," PERSON\_160 was brutally tortured. He was beaten with hands, rubber sticks, and the butts of machine guns on his face, torso, head, neck, back, buttocks, and other parts of his body, causing him to lose consciousness. The Russian military sought information from PERSON\_160 about the location of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). Since PERSON\_160 did not have such information, the Russian military continued to beat him. PERSON\_160 also witnessed other detainees being tortured.

## Annex 2.

### VICTIMS AND WITNESS TESTIMONIES OBTAINED BY THE KHARKIV HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION GROUP (KHPG)

#### Testimony No. 1 (Testified by PERSON\_1)

**Place of event:** t. o. t. (temporarily occupied territory) of the Kharkiv region.

In the period from April 18 to April 20, 2022, PERSON\_1 was held captive in the premises of the Balakliya police department (Zhovtneva Street, Balakliya City). When PERSON\_1 was captured, his hands and head were wrapped with tape. *On the premises of the Balakliya police department, PERSON\_1 was first beaten on his head, torso, arms, and legs, with fists and feet and then, with a rubber baton on his head, arms, legs, and back; he was also beaten with a stun gun near the ribs on the right and left side.* PERSON\_1 later went to the hospital for medical help because of the injuries he sustained.<sup>169</sup>

Then, from April 20 to April 22, 2022, PERSON\_1 was kept in the basement of the Balakliya car park (Zagorodnya Street, Balakliya City).

After that, from April 22 to April 28, 2022, PERSON\_1 was kept again on the premises of the Balakliya Police Department. Two brothers, PERSON\_6 and PERSON\_7, were also kept together with PERSON\_1, PERSON\_2, PERSON\_3, PERSON\_4, PERSON\_5.<sup>170</sup>

PERSON\_1 testifies that he was kept *in a cell approximately 1.5 by 3 meters. 1 liter of water and 1 spoonful of porridge were provided per person per day. When they were kept in the basement, they were often not fed at all. PERSON\_1 was not taken to the toilet; and medical assistance was not provided.*

PERSON\_1 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the events mentioned above. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>171</sup>

#### Testimony No. 2 (testified by PERSON\_5)

**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On April 23, 2022, around 13:00, PERSON\_5 was in the village of Volokhiv Yar with his friend, where they were butchering a pig in the yard. At that moment, two cars drove up to the gate: (1) a light gray Chevrolet Niva without a license plate; and (2) a light green Dacha Logan without a license plate. Three men from these cars wearing green camouflage uniforms, armed with machine guns and pistols, entered the yard; two men of them were wearing balaclavas. PERSON\_5

<sup>169</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

<sup>170</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_5 is provided in Testimony No. 2.

<sup>171</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI (Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations of Ukraine) under No. 12022221080000632.

testifies that the men were probably Russian FSB employees. The men ordered PERSON\_5 and his companion to present their identity documents. After checking the documents, they took PERSON\_5 out the yard, holding him by his arms. When they approached one of the two cars in which they arrived, the men in uniform put a bag on PERSON\_5's head and handcuffed him, and then put him in the light green "Dacha Logan" car.

There were three more Russian soldiers in the Dacha Logan car in addition to PERSON\_5. Later, the car started moving in a direction unknown to PERSON\_5, while he continued to be held with a bag over his head. About 5 minutes later, the car stopped; the driver got out from behind the wheel and opened the door where PERSON\_5 was sitting. The driver removed the bag from PERSON\_5's head and said that they needed to talk. At that moment, PERSON\_5 saw that the car had stopped on the section of the highway between the village of Yakovenkov of the Izyum district (Kharkiv region) in the direction towards the city of Balakliya of the Izyum district (Kharkiv region). Next, *the Russian soldier (driver) punched PERSON\_5 in the face several times (three or four times) with the fist of his right hand in a tactical glove, as a result of which PERSON\_5 had a hematoma under his eye, and his upper and lower lips were split.*

After the beating, the Russian military once again put a bag on PERSON\_5's head and, for about 30 minutes, drove him around various checkpoints on the outskirts of the city of Balakliya. Then, as PERSON\_5 later understood, the car arrived at the premises of the Balakliya police department, where one of the Russian soldiers led PERSON\_5 through the gate to the cell in the ITT (temporary detention isolator) premises. Before entering the cell, the bag and handcuffs were removed from PERSON\_5. Therefore, PERSON\_5 saw that the number "0" was marked on the cell's metal door.

10–15 minutes after PERSON\_5 was brought to the cell, *another man with bodily injuries was brought there.* Later, PERSON\_5 learned that this man's name was PERSON\_1.<sup>172</sup> PERSON\_5 was held in this cell for 20 days. During this time, the Russian military did not "interrogate" him and sometimes let him out for a walk. PERSON\_5 testifies that PERSON\_1 was held in a cell for about 1 week. Periodically, the Russian military took away PERSON\_1 for so-called "interrogation" in the premises of the Balakliya police department, after which *PERSON\_1 returned with signs of injuries on his face and body.*

PERSON\_5 testifies that on the very first day of his detention in the cell with the number "0", he tore off the metal runner from his jacket and scratched his surname, initials, and the date (April 23, 2022) on the wall to the right of the cell entrance. He later noted the number of days spent in the cell. PERSON\_1 also started scratching similarly.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of PERSON\_5's captivity, he was taken, as he testifies, probably by Russian FSB officers, to the first floor of the Balakliya police department for so-called "interrogation". Three men in camouflage uniforms were in the office (one was wearing a balaclava). One from the Russian military put PERSON\_5 on a chair next to the wall, and the Russian soldier himself sat down at the table opposite, *took out a Makarov pistol and put it on the table, pointing the muzzle at PERSON\_5 — in this way, the Russian military exerted psychological pressure on PERSON\_5.* Then, the Russian soldier told PERSON\_5 to tell about his brothers, one of whom was a participant in the anti-terrorist operation. PERSON\_5 replied that he does not keep in touch with the brothers, and that their whereabouts are unknown to him. After that, *the Russian military asked PERSON\_5 about his "last wish", to which PERSON\_5 replied that he wanted to go to the toilet and drink water. The Russian soldier fulfilled the request of PERSON\_5 and then took him to the cell with the number "0".* When the Russian soldier accompanied PERSON\_5 to the cell,

<sup>172</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_1 is presented in Testimony No. 1.



PERSON\_1 was no longer there, but another detainee, PERSON\_8<sup>173</sup>, was held in the cell. After that, the Russian military no longer “interrogated” PERSON\_5. On May 14, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_5 from captivity.

In connection with the events abovementioned, PERSON\_5 filed a crime report statement with the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>174</sup> In the case, PERSON\_5 was interrogated, and an investigative experiment was carried out, during which PERSON\_5 showed the investigators where he was captured by the Russian military, where he was beaten by the Russian military (on the highway between the village of Yakovenkovo and the city of Balakliya) and the place where PERSON\_5 was held captive (in the premises of the Balakliya department police).

**Testimony No. 3** (testified by PERSON\_8)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 26, 2022, around 11:30, PERSON\_8 was at home in Balakliya in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region. At this time, about ten soldiers from the so-called “LPR” (Luhansk People’s Republic) came to PERSON\_8’s yard in a UAZ 452 car and a KAMAZ armored car. The “LPR” military put a bag on PERSON\_8’s head and led him to the UAZ car with the muzzles of a hand machine gun and a machine gun pointed at him. PERSON\_8 asked to say goodbye to his mother, but the “LPR” military refused.

PERSON\_8 testifies that he was probably taken to the transport service station for trucks (also known as the Balakliya car park located at Zagorodnya Street, Balakliya City). There, a Russian man came to PERSON\_8, judging by his language. He started a so-called “interrogation”, during which he *threatened* PERSON\_8 that “*they would shoot his knees*”. In the evening, PERSON\_8 was released. During the day PERSON\_8 was kept in captivity, *the bag placed over his head and handcuffs were not removed from him; he was refused water that he requested; he was threatened to be killed if he told anyone about where he was being held and what he was being questioned about*. This was the first capture of PERSON\_8.

On May 5, 2022, the Russian military came to PERSON\_8’s house (according to PERSON\_8, they were “Kadyrovtsy” and Russians) in four cars: (1) a Tigr armored car, (2) a KAMAZ armored car, (3) a blue metallic Toyota Corolla, and (4) a yellow car.

The Russian military aimed their weapons at PERSON\_8, ordered him to hand over the keys to the Balakliya Museum of Local History, where his wife was the director of the museum, conducted a so-called “search” at PERSON\_8’s home (binoculars, a rifle, 15,000 UAH in cash, 1,200 USD in cash, a laptop and other things were stolen). During the “search”, *when the Russian military found things with Ukrainian symbols, they beat PERSON\_8 with their hands*.

Then, the Russian military brought PERSON\_8 to the museum and asked about the exhibits. *During the so-called “interrogation”, he was mocked. In particular, they said that “the Ukrainian nation should be slaughtered like pigs.”* In the museum semi-basement, *the Russian military continued to beat PERSON\_8, inflicting numerous blows with ramrod sticks and machine gun butts, as well as kicking him. PERSON\_8 repeatedly lost consciousness from the numerous beatings*.

During the so-called “interrogation”, **a Russian soldier (according to PERSON\_8, “of Chechen appearance”) with the call sign “Ali”** tried to cut off PERSON\_8’s left ear with a scimitar from

<sup>173</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_8 is presented in Testimony No. 3.

<sup>174</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000308.



the museum collection, but he failed because the exhibit was not sharp. However, the “senior” **with the call sign “Irbis”** ordered not to do it, as this would leave blood stains in the Toyota car.

In the evening of the same day, PERSON\_8 was taken, probably again, to the Balakliya car park (PERSON\_8 testified that he smelled a pronounced smell of diesel fuel). There, *the Russian military simulated the shooting of PERSON\_8 by shooting above his ear*. Following this, *the Russian military beat PERSON\_8 with a rubber stick, fists, and feet, as a result of which PERSON\_8 lost consciousness again*. After that, PERSON\_8 was thrown into the basement, where he lay for an unknown period of time.

Later, the Russian military pulled PERSON\_8 out of the basement and took him to the first floor, where he heard a man’s screams and blows being inflicted to the person’s body. When the man was taken out, PERSON\_8 was brought in. There, *PERSON\_8 was beaten again because he fought in Chechnya in the early 90s until he lost consciousness again*.

After that, *PERSON\_8 was doused with water, and wires were attached to his hands and feet*. When PERSON\_8’s mask fell off, he saw a rheostat on the table. The Russian military conducted a so-called “interrogation” about the “ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation) list”. During the “interrogation”, *PERSON\_8 was electrocuted and beaten with other objects all over his body*.

When the soldier in charge (“chief”) arrived, PERSON\_8 told him that the term “ATO” was not even used when he resigned from the post of the district military commissar, to which, *the “chief” replied that he heard PERSON\_8 and gave an order to kill him*.

*After that, PERSON\_8 was taken out (he walked 73 steps), placed facing the wall, shot near his head, and simultaneously hit in the back. PERSON\_8 lost consciousness and fell*. He came to his senses when he was loaded into the KAMAZ armored car. During the trip, two or three more detainees were thrown into the KAMAZ armored car.

After that, PERSON\_8 was taken to the basement of the Balakliya police department (located at Zhovtneva Street, Balakliya City) and placed in a cell with a “0” sign. PERSON\_8 was held there until May 23, 2022. PERSON\_8 was held in a double cell with six other detainees. When PERSON\_8 was brought to the cell, other detainees had already been held there, in particular residents of the village of Verbivka. PERSON\_8’s cellmates wrapped him up tightly with a sports jacket because his ribs hurt.

*PERSON\_8 testifies that he and another man were beaten by the Russian military because they asked to be taken out for fresh air. PERSON\_8 also testifies that they were not allowed to eat for several days; they were given one bottle of water for the entire cell; instead of a toilet, there were given two buckets*.

PERSON\_8 shared the cell with PERSON\_5<sup>175</sup> (a volunteer from whom two cars were stolen, including a Hyundai Santa Fe car and an orange minibus) and PERSON\_9. PERSON\_8 also testifies that PERSON\_10, PERSON\_11, and PERSON\_12<sup>176</sup> were held in neighboring cells. He was held for 46–49 days.

On May 23, 2022, PERSON\_8 was taken for a so-called “interrogation”, where he was informed that he may be free but warned not to “rejoice” as *they [Russian military] threatened to kill him anyway*.

PERSON\_8 went to his mother, who lives in Balakliya. When PERSON\_8 came to his mother, PERSON\_13 and PERSON\_14 were there.

<sup>175</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_5 is presented in Testimony No. 2.

<sup>176</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_12 is presented in Testimony No. 44.

PERSON\_8 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>177</sup>

**Testimony No. 4** (testified by PERSON\_15)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_15 lived with his wife and son, PERSON\_16,<sup>178</sup> in the village of Nova Kozacha in the Kharkiv District in the Kharkiv Region, near the Russian border. On February 24, 2022, the Russian military occupied the village where PERSON\_15 lived and the adjacent territories of the Kharkiv region.

At the beginning of April 2022, the Russian military repeatedly visited the home of PERSON\_15, but he was hiding in the nearby village of Turovo. On April 6, 2022, the Russian military found PERSON\_15 there, took him along with other residents, and brought him to the village Kozacha Lopan, where they were placed in the basement on the premises of the Kozacha Lopan railway station. His son, PERSON\_16, who was previously taken from the house by the Russian military, was also held in the same basement.

About half an hour later, PERSON\_15 was taken for a so-called “interrogation” on the second floor of the station, *where he was ordered to strip to the waist and was beaten so that he nearly lost consciousness. When he was dragged and thrown into the cell, there were bloody welts on his back, stomach, and face. For the first hour after the torture, PERSON\_15 could not even recognize his son.*

At approximately 22:00 the same day, **the so-called “battalion commander” of the “LPR” military** came to the cell with a wooden bat in his hands, apparently in a state of heavy alcohol-induced intoxication. Initially, the “battalion commander” beat a 17-year-old boy, PERSON\_17,<sup>179</sup> (also a village resident), and then *beat PERSON\_15 until he lost unconsciousness*. Fortunately, one of the guards called a doctor, after which PERSON\_15 was administered adrenaline.

PERSON\_15 was not tortured for the next three days, due to the fact that he might not have withstood it and could have died.

On April 15, 2022, PERSON\_16 and three other detainees were released and sent home. PERSON\_15, who was still very weak before his son’s release, together with other Ukrainian detainees, remained in the basement of the Hoptivka checkpoint.

According to PERSON\_16, the rest of the detainees held at the Hoptivka checkpoint were taken to an unknown destination at the end of July 2022, which later turned out to be in Russia.

On June 15, 2022, one of the village residents in Kozacha Lopan told PERSON\_15’s wife that everything was fine with her husband and that he was being held on Russian territory. Later, another person who worked for the occupation authorities in the village of Kozacha Lopan confirmed this.

At the end of September, based on the statement of PERSON\_15’s wife, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) started criminal proceedings on the charges of kidnapping, illegal deprivation of liberty, and torture committed against her husband.<sup>180</sup>

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<sup>177</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000286.

<sup>178</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_16 is presented in Testimony No. 5.

<sup>179</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_17 is presented in Testimony No. 6.

<sup>180</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221230001171.

**Testimony No. 5** (testified by PERSON\_16)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

As of February 24, 2022, PERSON\_16 lived in a private house in the village of Nova Kozacha, in the Kharkiv District in the Kharkiv Region, together with his mother, PERSON\_18, and father, PERSON\_15. His father, PERSON\_15, was a member of the ATO in 2015, after which he worked as a lecturer at a military university and retired.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian military occupied the village where PERSON\_16 lived and the adjacent territories of the Kharkiv region.

On April 4, 2022, around 8:30, while PERSON\_16 was still sleeping, the Russian military drove up to the house. PERSON\_15<sup>181</sup> woke up PERSON\_16 and told him to run away, but PERSON\_16 refused. Then, PERSON\_15 ran away on his own.

The Russian military conducted a so-called “search” of PERSON\_16’s house while holding PERSON\_16 at gunpoint all the time. After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_16 to his neighbor, PERSON\_19. PERSON\_19 was also taken from his house by the Russian military. Along the way, the Russian military also took from his house a former police officer and ATO participant, PERSON\_20.

PERSON\_16, together with his fellow villagers, were blindfolded and put in an armored “Tigr” car and brought to the Kozacha Lopan railway station, which is located approximately 5 km from PERSON\_16’s house. At the station, all the detainees were taken to the basement, where approximately 8 people had already been held in a cell measuring approximately 3 by 3 meters. The basement had no furniture or ventilation, and everyone sat directly on the concrete floor. PERSON\_16 testifies that the detainees were not fed at all for the first two days, and then they were given porridge once a day.

About two hours later, PERSON\_16 was taken to the second floor of the station to office No. 3, where there were two men in military uniform wearing the “LPR” insignia. *He was ordered to strip to the waist, after which one of the men beat PERSON\_16 all over his body with a whip and a baton, strangled him with a rope, and pierced his head with a hard object similar to a household soap bar. They also put a knife to his neck from behind and cut the lobe of his left ear.* During a so-called “interrogation”, the Russian military asked PERSON\_16 about his former military service and why he had many contacts of colleagues from the military service in his phone. Hence, the men who conducted the “interrogation”, thought that PERSON\_16 was a fire adjuster of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. The second man recorded the testimony. When they became tired of conducting the torture, PERSON\_16 was taken back to his cell.

On April 5, 2022, around 20:00, another 10 people were placed in a cell in the basement, including PERSON\_16’s father, PERSON\_15. About half an hour later, PERSON\_15 was taken to the station’s second floor for a so-called “interrogation”. After 15 minutes, he was brought in again and thrown into the cell. *PERSON\_15 was undressed to the waist, and there were bloody wounds on his back, stomach, and face.* For the first few minutes after returning to the cell, PERSON\_15 could not recognize his son, PERSON\_16.

At approximately 22:00 of the same day, the so-called “battalion commander” of the “LPR” military, who was in a state of heavy alcohol-induced intoxication, came to the cell with a wooden bat in his hands. Initially, the “battalion commander” *beat a 17-year-old boy, PERSON\_17, and then beat PERSON\_15 until he became unconscious.* Fortunately, one of the guards called a doctor, after which PERSON\_15 was administered adrenaline.

<sup>181</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_15 is presented in Testimony No. 4.

PERSON\_16 was not allowed to eat or drink for the first two days. On April 6, 2022, around noon, the detainees were brought porridge and a piece of bread. At approximately 14:00 on the same day, PERSON\_16, with his hands tied and blindfolded, was again taken to the second floor of the station building for a so-called “interrogation” (therefore, he cannot say how many people were in the office). *At that time, PERSON\_16 was tortured with electric current, with the wires connected to his earlobes and nose.* The questions posed to him were the same as last time.

PERSON\_15 was not tortured for the next three days, due to the fact that he might not have withstood it and could have died.

On the third day of PERSON\_16’s captivity in the basement, the same “battalion commander” of the “LPR” military, holding a pistol, asked for the date of Lenin’s birthday. When he did not receive an answer, he fired a shot into the ceiling.

On the fourth and fifth day, PERSON\_16 was sent to dig trenches near the high school in the village of Kozacha Lopan.

On the sixth day, PERSON\_16 and PERSON\_15 were taken to the Hoptivka checkpoint on the border between the Kharkiv region of Ukraine and the Belgorod region of Russia. *There, PERSON\_16 was again tortured with electric current, but with greater force and with the use of water (wet rags) for better contact of electrodes with the body. After PERSON\_16, his father, PERSON\_15, was tortured with electric current.* PERSON\_16 does not know what the people who tortured him looked like, as his eyes were blindfolded. However, he knows that the so-called “interrogation” was carried out by Russian FSB employees.

At the end of September, according to the PERSON\_16’s testimony, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) started criminal proceedings on the charges of kidnapping, illegal deprivation of liberty, and torture.<sup>182</sup> PERSON\_16 underwent a forensic medical examination<sup>183</sup> that confirmed one bodily injury, which, according to a forensic expert, could have been sustained during the period of the illegal deprivation of liberty.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Testimony No. 6</b> (testified by PERSON_17) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On the morning of February 24, 2022, the Russian military equipment crossed the state border with Ukraine and entered the village of Kozacha Lopan. From that time, until the Ukrainian Armed Forces de-occupied the village in September 2022, the village of Kozacha Lopan was temporarily occupied.

On April 17, 2022, at approximately 12:00–12:30, PERSON\_17, who was 17 years old, walked out of his home into an open space in a field where to connect to mobile internet to check on his college classes. At that moment, two men in green uniforms approached PERSON\_17, pointed a gun at him, took him to a car standing next to the field, and forced him to lie on the ground. According to the PERSON\_17’s testimony, one of the soldiers in a green uniform was of “Asian appearance, probably a Buryat”, while another soldier said that he was from the so-called “LPR”. The Russian military searched PERSON\_17’s phone where they found correspondence with his friends on Telegram, in which he made negative statements about the Russian occupation and told them about what was happening in the village of Kozacha Lopan.

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<sup>182</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221230001171.

<sup>183</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

Following this, the Russian military transported PERSON\_17 to the “Nova Poshta” postal premises. There, he was “interrogated” by a man in a uniform with the inscription “Police of the LPR”, who threatened to shoot PERSON\_17.

After that, a cap was pulled over PERSON\_17’s head and eyes, and he was taken to the Hopivka checkpoint. There, they took his personal belongings, including his phone, watch, and necklace, and again began to conduct a so-called “interrogation”. PERSON\_17 testifies that he was “interrogated” by two men in uniforms with chevrons and the inscription “Police of the LPR”. After the “interrogation”, PERSON\_17 was taken to a cell.

According to PERSON\_17’s testimony, 6 people were held in the cell, including PERSON\_21, whose family lived not far from PERSON\_17. *PERSON\_17 did not recognize PERSON\_21 at first, as the latter was badly beaten and lying with broken ribs.* PERSON\_22 from Tsupivka, PERSON\_23 from Novaya Kozachoa, PERSON\_24 from Cherkaska Lozova, and PERSON\_25 from Makarivka were also held in the cell. No toilets or beds were in the cell, and everyone sat and slept on the floor.

After 20 minutes, PERSON\_17 was again led to a so-called “interrogation”. There were already up to 10 men in uniform and with weapons in the room who spoke Russian, and he was allowed to speak in “Surzhik”. One of these men was called “White” by the others, and he had the same inscription on his T-shirt. The Russian military looked at the records on PERSON\_17’s phone and asked to whom PERSON\_17 allegedly transmitted information about the Russian military. PERSON\_17 denied that he passed on such information to anyone, for which the *Russian military beat PERSON\_17 on the head with a rubber stick and demanded that he answer questions.* Also, the Russian military threatened to insert the neck of a glass bottle into PERSON\_17’s anus, but they did not do it.

*After that, electrical wires were connected to PERSON\_17’s fingers, and an electric current was applied for 5 seconds and then for about 30 seconds.*

After the end of the torture, PERSON\_17 was taken out into the corridor and ordered to write that he was sorry for insulting the Russian military and allegedly passing on information about them. Also, the Russian military forced PERSON\_17 to answer the questions of Russian journalists-propagandists by threats of new tortures. PERSON\_17’s answers were recorded on video and later distributed on the Internet.

After that, PERSON\_17 was kept in a cell with an area of approximately 16 square meters for another 13 days.

On May 10, 2022, PERSON\_17 was put in a car and taken home to his grandmother. At the same time, the Russian military took away PERSON\_17’s passport. By order of the Russian military, for the next two weeks PERSON\_17 went to report at the so-called “commandant’s office” of the Russian military.

The Security Service of Ukraine initiated criminal proceedings on the charges of kidnapping, illegal deprivation of liberty, and torture of PERSON\_17.<sup>184</sup>

**Testimony No. 7** (testified by PERSON\_26)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

During the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the territory where PERSON\_26 lived was temporarily occupied by Russian troops.

<sup>184</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22022220000003205.



On May 30, 2022, around 11:00, when PERSON\_26 was in the garden of his former father-in-law's homestead, cars with "Z" markings and the Russian flag drove up to the house. *Seven men in military uniform got out of the cars and started beating PERSON\_26 with their hands, feet, and the butts of machine guns.* After the beating, a cap was put on the victim's head, wrapped with tape, and he was brought to the premises of the temporary detention center (ITT) located in the premises of the Kupyansk District Police Department.

*There, PERSON\_26 was beaten with a metal and plastic pipe and an officer's belt wound around his arm, accompanied by comments and insults about his participation in the ATO.* After that, the victim was taken to cell No. 10 on the premises of the ITT, where PERSON\_27 (who looked about 50–53 years old) was also detained and brutally beaten.

The next day, the Russian military took PERSON\_26 to another room, *where they connected wires to his ears and genitals, knocked him down onto the floor, which had water on it, and tortured him with electric current,* while performing a so-called "interrogation" regarding the circumstances of his service in the ATO and the possession of weapons.

A day later, PERSON\_26 was beaten with a sandbag on his head and whole body. Other people, residents of the city of Kupyansk and the Kupyansk district of the Kharkiv region, including the mayor of Kupyansk, were also brought to the cell where PERSON\_26 was held. All detainees were tortured during their stay on the premises of the ITT.

PERSON\_26 testifies that part of the Russian military who detained civilians and tortured them on the premises of the ITT was the so-called "LPR" military. However, when deciding on the release of detainees, the "LPR" military asked permission from an employee of the Russian FSB. Also, PERSON\_26 testifies that the detainees were tortured by former employees of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine, who had gone over to the side of the enemy.

On September 7, 2022, when the Ukrainian Armed Forces conducted an offensive operation to liberate the Kharkiv region, PERSON\_26 was released from captivity.

On December 1, 2022, PERSON\_26 applied for legal assistance to the KHPG. On the same day, the KHPG lawyers organized a forensic medical examination of PERSON\_26.<sup>185</sup> Given that a considerable amount of time had passed since PERSON\_26's physical injuries, the expert could not reliably determine the physical injuries that could have occurred during his illegal deprivation of liberty.

On January 26, 2023, the prosecutor's office launched an investigation on the charges of kidnapping, illegal deprivation of liberty, and torture of PERSON\_26<sup>186</sup>. Since PERSON\_26 was kept in a place of detention for more than three months, during this time, he was in contact with many other persons who were also kidnapped and kept in the same room with him. PERSON\_26 provided investigators with detailed information about such persons, as well as a description of those who "interrogated" him, and persons who cooperated with the Russian military.

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**Testimony No. 8** (testified by PERSON\_28)

**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of Kharkiv region.

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On March 3, 2022, around 10:00, PERSON\_28 was at home in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. At that time, PERSON\_28 was with his wife, PERSON\_29,

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<sup>185</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

<sup>186</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 42023220000000027.

and other two families, in particular PERSON\_30, PERSON\_31 and her son PERSON\_32, as well as PERSON\_33.

At that time, two cars drove to the house: (1) a URAL truck and (2) a black SUV. More than 10 soldiers got out of the cars affiliated with the so-called “assault brigade” of “LPR”.

The Russian military put everyone in the house facing the wall and the fence and asked if everyone had left. The Russian military threatened that if anyone hid, they “would be shot on the spot”. After that, the Russian military conducted a so-called “search” of the house, as a result of which documents on property ownership and six mobile phones were found and taken.

PERSON\_28 testifies that the Russian military pulled a cap over his head so that it covered his eyes and wrapped it around his head with scotch tape. After that, the Russian military threw him into the cargo compartment of the URAL car and took him in an unknown direction.

During the day, four more people were thrown into the back of the URAL car, among them PERSON\_34, PERSON\_35, and PERSON\_36, all of whom are former participants of the ATO. According to PERSON\_28, they were brought to the “Slavutich” store and placed in a shed where coffins were made; by this time, it was already around 17:00.

After that, the Russian military took turns taking PERSON\_28, PERSON\_34, PERSON\_35<sup>187</sup>, and PERSON\_36 for a so-called “interrogation” in a neighboring room. During the “interrogation”, *the Russian military threatened to shoot PERSON\_28 and cut off his ears*. PERSON\_28 testifies that during the “interrogations”, he was also asked about his son, PERSON\_37, who previously served in the ATO.

The next day, the Russian military again “interrogated” PERSON\_28 and threatened to kill him. However, as PERSON\_28 testifies, the so-called “interrogation” had already been conducted by an employee of the Russian FSB.

During his captivity, the Russian military did not give PERSON\_28 and other detainees any water or food. The detainees used a bucket to go to the toilet.

PERSON\_28 also testifies that during his captivity, he overheard ***the callsigns of the Russian military, in particular, “Kaliningrad”, “Granit”, “Khan” and “Yarik”***.

The Russian military “interrogated” PERSON\_28 for about two weeks. During the “interrogations”, *they repeatedly beat PERSON\_28 on the legs, in particular, on the left knee, using the butt of a machine gun, and with their feet. The Russian military also used a stun gun to electrocute PERSON\_28*.

On March 5, 2022, frost set in, and PERSON\_28 suffered frostbite all over his body, as he and other detainees were kept in a completely unheated shed.

On March 10, 2022, the Russian military transported PERSON\_28 and other detainees to the checkpoint “Hoptivka”, where PERSON\_28 was “interrogated” by an employee of the Russian GRU and an employee of the Russian FSB. PERSON\_28 testifies that during his stay at the Hoptivka checkpoint, he was given a document to sign that he had no claims against the Russian military and that the Russian military did not torture him.

On March 14, 2022, PERSON\_28, PERSON\_38, PERSON\_35, and four other men who previously served in the ATO and lived in the village of Liptsi were released from captivity at the village’s cemetery.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_28 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.

<sup>187</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_35 is presented in Testimony No. 9.



**Testimony No. 9** (testified by PERSON\_35)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of Kharkiv region.

On March 3, 2022, PERSON\_35 came home to his mother, who lives in the village of Ruski Tyshki in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. When PERSON\_35 entered the house, the Russian military held the barrel of a machine gun to PERSON\_35's head, turned PERSON\_35 to face the wall, and began conducting a so-called "search" of the house (as if they were looking for weapons).

After the "search", the Russian military pulled a cap over PERSON\_35's eyes and wrapped it around his head with tape; then PERSON\_35 was put into a truck. After the Russian military found out that PERSON\_35 had previously served in the special forces, they also tied his hands to the side of the car. Then, PERSON\_35 was taken in an unknown direction; the car stopped two more times during the trip.

After the tape was unwound and his cap was removed from PERSON\_35's eyes, he realized that the Russian military had brought him to the "Slavutych" base. Around 14:00, PERSON\_35 was taken to a barn and later, for a so-called "interrogation". From the very beginning of the "interrogation", *the Russian military began beating PERSON\_35 on the head and torturing him, in particular, they began to cut his ears and fingers.* During the "interrogation", the Russian military wanted to know the location of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF).

The next day, the Russian military "interrogated" PERSON\_35 three times. All three sessions were conducted by different persons, but the same questions were asked. PERSON\_35 testifies that one of them was an employee of the Russian FSB. PERSON\_35 was "interrogated" about his military service.

PERSON\_35 testifies that during his detention by the Russian military, they "interrogated" him three times every day. During the "interrogations", *the Russian military repeatedly beat PERSON\_35 with their hands and with the butts of machine guns.*

*PERSON\_35 was kept in inhumane conditions: he slept on a concrete floor when it was about -5 to 1 degrees Celsius outside; food was given once a day in a bucket.*

PERSON\_35, PERSON\_28, PERSON\_36, and another young man were held together in the shed for the first four days. On the fourth day of PERSON\_35's detention, PERSON\_38 was brought to the barn. PERSON\_35 testifies that about 10 people were held with him during this time.

PERSON\_35 was held in a shed near the "Slavutych" store until March 12, 2022. On March 12, 2022, the Russian military took PERSON\_35, PERSON\_28,<sup>188</sup> PERSON\_38, and another man from the village of Lyptsi (located in the Kharkiv District in the Kharkiv Region) to the premises of the Border Guard Service (BDS) "Kozacha Lopan". There, PERSON\_35 was subjected to a so-called "interrogation", *during which he was repeatedly electrocuted with a stun gun.* PERSON\_35 testifies that he learnt that the Kozacha Lopan Air Force Base was the place where decisions were taken on whether a detainee would be "tried or released."

On the morning of March 13, 2022, PERSON\_35 and other detainees were again brought to the "Slavutych" base in Cherkaski Tyshki. The Russian military promised to release the detainees on March 14, 2022.

On March 14, 2022, the Russian military shelled the shed where PERSON\_35 and other detainees were held. Around 10:00, the Russian military put caps over the captives' eyes, wrapped their heads with scotch tape, and drove them in an unknown direction for about 15–20 minutes.

<sup>188</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_28 is presented in Testimony No. 8.

Then, the detainees, in particular PERSON\_35, were unloaded from the car, counted into a line, and the shutter was closed. Then, the “senior” among the Russian military announced that the detainees were being released. He ordered the detainees to count to 200 before removing their blindfolds.

When PERSON\_35 took off his blindfold, he realized that the Russian military brought them to the village of Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district. Then PERSON\_35 and other detainees went to the village council, asking the village head to take them to Rusky Tyshki. When PERSON\_35 arrived in Rusky Tyshki, he went home to see his mother.

PERSON\_35 filed a criminal case complaint with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>189</sup>

**Testimony No. 10** (testified by PERSON\_39)  
**Place of the event:** t.o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 18, 2022, PERSON\_39 and his girlfriend (PERSON\_40<sup>190</sup>) were near the “Slavutich” store in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. At that moment, about ten Russian soldiers approached PERSON\_39, who began to inspect PERSON\_39 and other persons who were nearby. After the inspection, the Russian military put them against the wall.

After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_39 for a so-called “interrogation” in the garage, while PERSON\_40 remained standing on the street not far from the “Slavutich” store. When PERSON\_39 was taken to the garage, the Russian military first severely beat him and only then they began asking questions. PERSON\_39 testifies that the person who interrogated him was the chief among the group of Russian soldiers, but he did not know his name. PERSON\_39 was wearing a cap pulled over his eyes, which was also taped to his head. During the “interrogation” of PERSON\_39, the Russian military asked personal information because they thought that PERSON\_39 was a fire adjuster. They also asked if PERSON\_39 had connections to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Afterward, the Russian military handed PERSON\_39 an “interrogation” protocol — a piece of paper on which some of his words were written — and had him sign it before sending him to the shed. The Russian military also demanded that PERSON\_39 hand over his phone.

On the first day, the Russian military gave PERSON\_39 and other detainees some food. PERSON\_39 testifies that three other men were held captive together with him. In the evening of the same day, the Russian military brought PERSON\_41 to the shed who began asking the detainees who they were and how they got there. The next morning, the Russian military took PERSON\_41 away.

PERSON\_39 testifies that PERSON\_42, who, according to him, was a Russian citizen, was brought to the shed on the same evening. PERSON\_42 told the detainees that he had come to the border of Russia with Ukraine, after which he was captured by the Russian military and taken to the shed.

PERSON\_39 testifies that a doctor came to the shed in the morning and evening. The Russian military did not beat PERSON\_39 on his second day in captivity.

On the morning of the third day, the Russian military summoned PERSON\_40 for a so-called “interrogation”. Four hours later, PERSON\_40 was released.

<sup>189</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000586.

<sup>190</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_40 is presented in Testimony No. 11.

Afterward, PERSON\_39 was summoned for a so-called “interrogation”. *From the very beginning, the Russian military began to beat PERSON\_39.* He believes that this happened after PERSON\_41 disclosed details of their conversation to the Russian military. As the Russian military did not obtain any information from PERSON\_39, *they threatened to shoot him.* After the “interrogation”, the Russian military took out PERSON\_39 and led him around. *Next, the Russian military forced PERSON\_39 to his knees, pressed the butt of the rifle against him and pulled back the bolt of the machine gun.*

On the fourth day, PERSON\_39 was taken from the barn again. PERSON\_39’s mother brought PERSON\_39’s phone to the Russian military on that day. When PERSON\_39 unlocked the phone for the Russian military, they started checking it. After some time, the Russian military found photos of a man in military uniform in PERSON\_39’s phone and began asking him about the man. PERSON\_39 did not answer them. So, *the Russian military slammed him so hard on the table that he nearly lost consciousness.*

On the fifth day, one of the detainees was taken out of the shed, and 20 minutes later, PERSON\_39 was also taken out. On the street, the Russian soldier “of Chechen appearance” told PERSON\_39 to “say goodbye to his life”. After those words, PERSON\_39 was approached by the two “DPR” soldiers who began asking PERSON\_39 what he thought about the “situation in Donetsk and Luhansk”. After that, PERSON\_39 and another detainee were loaded into a car and taken to the Hoptivka checkpoint. When they arrived, the Russian military put the detainees against the wall and ordered them not to move. After three hours of waiting, PERSON\_39 was taken for a so-called “interrogation”.

*The “interrogators” tied PERSON\_39 to a chair, wrapped wires around his fingers, and began to apply electroshock.* After that “interrogation”, PERSON\_39 was taken away by another Russian soldier, who began to “interrogate” him again. After the “interrogation”, *the Russian soldier told the convoy that PERSON\_39 would be shot the next day.*

*PERSON\_39 testifies that 20 people were held in a cell measuring 3 by 5 meters; there was no air to breathe, and some people began to suffocate.* PERSON\_39 testifies that he remembered several men who were also held in the premises: a man from the village of Tsyркuny, other men from the village of Liptsi, and a man who was previously held together with PERSON\_39 in the shed. In the evening, the detainees were given porridge with lard and a cup of tea.

On the second day, the detainees were sent to perform forced labor. On the third day, they were sent to unload goods. *On that day, PERSON\_39 was beaten.*

On the fourth day, the Russian military put PERSON\_39 in a car and took him to the village of Strilecha located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, where he was released. *During captivity, PERSON\_39’s leg began to swell.*

When PERSON\_39 reached the village of Hlyboke, he was summoned for a so-called “interrogation” again. On the way out of the village of Hlyboke, at the Russian army checkpoint, *a Russian soldier started shooting at PERSON\_39 and told him not to move.*

When PERSON\_39 approached the village of Liptsi, the Russian military again started shooting at PERSON\_39’s legs. In the village of Liptsi, PERSON\_39 went to his apartment but could not get in because he did not have the keys. Then, PERSON\_39 went to his friends who lived in the village of Liptsi. The next morning, on March 25, 2022, PERSON\_39’s mother came to pick him up.

PERSON\_39 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>191</sup>

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<sup>191</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000585.

**Testimony No. 11** (testified by PERSON\_40)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 18, 2022, PERSON\_40 and her boyfriend (PERSON\_39<sup>192</sup>) were riding a scooter to get humanitarian aid when the Russian military stopped them near the “Slavutich” store in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. The Russian military called the “seniors” and ordered PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_39 to face the wall. After that, the Russian military blindfolded them.

Then, the Russian military took PERSON\_39 to the barn, while PERSON\_40 was waiting outside. After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_40 to the garage, where they started the so-called “interrogation”. PERSON\_40 testified that the Russian military asked her whether PERSON\_40 had any connections with the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). Also, the Russian military said that PERSON\_40 and her boyfriend “came under suspicion”, and asked what PERSON\_40 “felt about Donetsk and Luhansk”. During the “interrogation”, the Russian military threatened PERSON\_40 with execution. In addition, the Russian military “interrogated” PERSON\_40 about PERSON\_39’s father, alleging that PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_39 pass on information to PERSON\_39’s father about the location of the Russian troops. PERSON\_40 testifies that during the “interrogation”, the Russian military took some notes, and ordered her to sign an “interrogation protocol” at the end of the session.

PERSON\_40 was then taken to a shed where her boyfriend, PERSON\_39, and the three other men were being held. PERSON\_40 later learned that the men’s names were PERSON\_43, PERSON\_44, and PERSON\_45. Later, PERSON\_41 was brought into the shed, and after a while, PERSON\_42 was also brought in. The latter said that he was from Russia and had come to Russia’s border with Ukraine to pick up his aunt. PERSON\_41 acted suspiciously, asking the detainees for information.

On the second day of captivity, the Russian military took PERSON\_41 away, and he did not appear again. Later, PERSON\_42 was also taken away. PERSON\_40 testifies *that the Russian military did not allow the detainees to go to the toilet and gave them food in a bucket.*

On the third day of captivity, the Russian military again took PERSON\_40 for a so-called “interrogation” and began to ask the same questions as during the previous “interrogation” sessions. PERSON\_40 testifies that the Russian military asked PERSON\_40 about her father’s car that they learned about from PERSON\_41. During the “interrogation”, the Russian military gave PERSON\_40 tea to drink.

PERSON\_40 testifies that during the “interrogation”, the Russian military *repeatedly threatened to shoot her.* They also urged PERSON\_40 to “hand over” information about Ukrainian soldiers and former participants of the ATO, to which she replied that she did not know anything and that she had come to visit her friends. PERSON\_40 testifies that she believes that the “chief” among the Russian soldiers was Chechen, as he was in charge of everything. Other Russian soldiers obeyed him and consulted with him.

Then, PERSON\_40 was taken to a barn, and later PERSON\_39 was taken away for a so-called “interrogation”. PERSON\_40 *heard how her boyfriend, PERSON\_39, was severely beaten and how he was breathing heavily afterward. PERSON\_40 testifies that she heard the Russian military telling her boyfriend, PERSON\_39, that they are going to shoot him now, and they will do it in the name of the Russian Federation.* After the “interrogation”, PERSON\_39 was taken to the shed. A few hours later, PERSON\_40 asked the Russian military for a pill for PERSON\_39.

<sup>192</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_39 is presented in Testimony No. 10.

The Russian military brought PERSON\_40 one “Validol” tablet two hours later. In the evening, the doctor came, examined PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_39, and left.

On March 21, 2022, the Russian military summoned PERSON\_40 for a so-called “interrogation” and allowed her to remove the cap. The Russian military told PERSON\_40 that she and her boyfriend, PERSON\_39, were “mixed up with other people” and that they were released. The Russian military also told PERSON\_40 not to tell anyone about the events in captivity. The Russian military then instructed PERSON\_40 to go home and bring her and PERSON\_39’s mobile phones, as well as PERSON\_39’s mother (PERSON\_46). The Russian military also told PERSON\_40 that she should provide them with confirmation that her boyfriend’s father, PERSON\_47, had a fireman license.

After that, the Russian military returned PERSON\_40 the scooter. PERSON\_40 took all the necessary documents and, together with PERSON\_46, came to the “Slavutich” store, where PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_39 were held captive. When they arrived, a Russian soldier came out to them. He took PERSON\_46’s phones and documents, put a black bag on PERSON\_46’s head, and led PERSON\_46 for a so-called “interrogation”. Later, the Russian military released PERSON\_46.

In the evening of the same day, PERSON\_40, together with PERSON\_46, returned to pick up PERSON\_39, but the Russian military refused to hand him over. They did not even provide any information about PERSON\_39’s whereabouts. Therefore, PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_46 returned home.

The next morning, PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_46, came to the “Slavutich” store again. A Russian soldier told PERSON\_46 to bring her phone. Around 15:00, PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_46 brought PERSON\_46’s phone to the Russian military, but no one took it. On the same day, the Russian military (according to PERSON\_40, “a Russian and Chechen”) told them that PERSON\_39 “needs to be detained in order to establish circumstances”.

On March 23 and 24, 2022, PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_46 could not do anything because the roads were blocked. On March 25, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_39.

PERSON\_40 was not subsequently detained. PERSON\_40 also testifies that every day, while PERSON\_40 and PERSON\_39 were held captive, PERSON\_46 came to the “Slavutych” store, but the Russian military told her that PERSON\_39 and PERSON\_40 were supposedly taken to Belgorod in Russia.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_40 filed a crime report with the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>193</sup>

<p><b>Testimony No. 12</b> (testified by PERSON_48) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On March 27, 2022, PERSON\_48 was at home in the village of Vilkhivka located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. Around 11:00, about 20 Russian soldiers broke into the courtyard of PERSON\_48’s house. According to PERSON\_48’s testimony, there was **a “senior” among the Russian military, whom they called by the call sign “Shaman” and said that “Shaman” was supposedly a MP.**

*Russian soldiers beat PERSON\_48, tied him up, and began to search PERSON\_48’s house and yard.* The Russian military found PERSON\_48’s valuable belongings in a trunk, in particular, documents, money, a mobile phone, a tablet, a laptop, and a small TV.

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<sup>193</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000585.



Then, PERSON\_48 was tied and taken for a so-called “interrogation” in a neighboring house. During the “interrogation”, the Russian military *beat PERSON\_48 with their feet and machine gun butts (as a result of which, PERSON\_48’s nose was broken), then carried out PERSON\_48’s mock execution by shooting above his head.*

Later, the Russian military took PERSON\_48 to “combat”, probably the battalion commander. PERSON\_48 testifies that **“combat” was a young short man who was called “Dushman” by the Russian military.** “Combat” also *beat PERSON\_48 with the butt of a machine gun.*

*PERSON\_48 testifies that he saw the Russian military killing captured Ukrainian soldier who were wearing yellow and blue armbands.*

*PERSON\_48 was not taken to the toilet for about a day.* Around 12:00 the next day, PERSON\_48 was brought to “Shaman”. There, he saw with his own eyes how “Shaman” *severely beat Ukrainian soldiers.* “Shaman” was accompanied by his “bodyguard” in a military uniform similar to that worn by Soviet paratroopers. PERSON\_48 testifies that there *he saw how the Russian military tortured Ukrainian soldiers.*

After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_48 to the village of Vesele located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. Together with PERSON\_48, two men were taken from the rehabilitation center located in the village of Vesele.

PERSON\_48 testifies that he was then taken to the village council, together with other detainees and Russian soldiers who apparently refused to take up arms, where they continued to be held captive. Among the Russian soldiers who refused to take up arms and were detained together with PERSON\_48 was a man who introduced himself as a teacher from the city of Donetsk. The “teacher” had a phone, which PERSON\_48 used to contact his brother so that he could inform PERSON\_48’s wife.

PERSON\_48 testifies that he was held together with a man from Kharkiv; PERSON\_49 from the village of Vesele; PERSON\_50 with his wife PERSON\_51, and their 5-year-old son, PERSON\_52 (PERSON\_50 and PERSON\_51 sheltered PERSON\_48 after he escaped from captivity); and another local woman who was brought by the “combat”.

PERSON\_48 testifies that from May 1 to May 5, 2022, the Russian military shelled the village of Vesele with cluster munitions.

On May 5, 2022, the Russian military began preparing to withdraw to the city of Belgorod in Russia. At that time, PERSON\_48 managed to escape.

In connection with the abovementioned events, PERSON\_48 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>194</sup>

**Testimony No. 13** (testified by PERSON\_53)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 21, 2022, around 10:00, PERSON\_53 was at home in the city of Vovchansk located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region. At that moment, two cars (one of the cars was a Mitsubishi L-200 pick-up truck) with the Russian military came to PERSON\_53’s yard. The Russian military directed machine guns at PERSON\_53 and asked him if he knew PERSON\_54, which PERSON\_53 confirmed. After that, *they put a bag on PERSON\_53 and put him in the trunk of a Mitsubishi L-200 car.*

<sup>194</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22022220000002469.

After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_53 at the outskirts, where *they beat PERSON\_53 and shot him with blank rounds, threatening to kill him. They beat PERSON\_53 all over his body with their feet, machine guns, and a pickaxe. The Russian military knocked out PERSON\_53's teeth.*

After that, the Russian military again loaded PERSON\_53 into a car and took him, as PERSON\_53 later found out, to the premises where the Russian military base was located in the city of Vovchansk. There, the Russian military *put PERSON\_53 on the floor and continued to beat him.* When PERSON\_53 was held at the Russian military base in Vovchansk, several more people were brought in. Among them, PERSON\_53 recognized PERSON\_54 by voice. Later, *PERSON\_53 heard the sounds of a machine gun during the "interrogation" of PERSON\_54.*

*Afterward, the Russian military hit PERSON\_53 with a hammer several times, causing him to lose consciousness.* When he regained consciousness, he saw the Russian military was going to take away PERSON\_54 and PERSON\_55. Since he showed no signs of life, the Russian military probably presumed that PERSON\_53 was dead.

The Russian military *took PERSON\_53 out of the building and left him on the street.* Then PERSON\_53 reached his home on his own.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_53 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>195</sup>

**Testimony No. 14** (testified by PERSON\_56)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_56 was captured by the Russian military and was forcibly taken to the premises of the Balakliya police department (located at Zhovtneva Street in the town of Balakliya), where he was held in a prison cell.

During his detention, PERSON\_56 was repeatedly "interrogated" by the Russian military. During the "interrogations", *the Russian military used physical and mental violence against him, in particular, beating him all over his body and threatening him.*

After his release from captivity, PERSON\_56 sought legal and psychological assistance from the KHPG. According to a medical evaluation, which was received by the KHPG lawyer on March 13, 2023, PERSON\_56 was diagnosed with *a contusion of the left elbow joint, a contusion of the chest, and a contusion of the cervical spine.*<sup>196</sup> Currently, PERSON\_56 is receiving *psychological support, which will be followed by an expert assessment report regarding his psychological state.*

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_56 filed a crime report with the Security Service of Ukraine (SSU), which led to the initiation of a pre-trial investigation.<sup>197</sup>

**Testimony No. 15** (testified by PERSON\_57)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The village of Savyntsi, located in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region, was occupied by the Russian troops. PERSON\_57 was a civilian and had no affiliation with the UAF or Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

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<sup>195</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221140001077.

<sup>196</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

<sup>197</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000342.



On May 28, 2022, around 06:30, PERSON\_57 was at the dacha in the village of Savyntsi. He heard knocks on the gate and saw eight persons in green military uniforms walking in the yard. When they saw him, *three of them began to beat him with their hands and fists all over his body*, after which they began to conduct a so-called “search”, as a result of which all documents, gold, and a video camera were taken away. Afterward PERSON\_57 was taken out of the yard, put in a white minibus, *his hands were tied with cuffs* and brought to his apartment in the village of Savyntsi.

The Russian military conducted a so-called “search” of his apartment for about 2 hours, and took away all PERSON\_57’s valuables. Then, PERSON\_57 was taken to the village council garage and ordered to sit and wait for the “investigator of the Russian Federation”. A person who introduced himself as an “investigator of the Russian Federation” arrived half a day later and began to ask whether PERSON\_57 tracked the movement of the Russian military’s equipment. Three more masked Russian soldiers came and *began to beat him on the body and head with their fists, which lasted for about 15 minutes*.

*After that, wires and a device that supplied electric current were attached to the toes and turned on, causing him to scream. After the second electric shock, he fainted and fell to the floor.* The Russian investigator said: “Enough, otherwise, he won’t last three times”. *They put a bag on his head, tied his fingers with ropes*, and took him in a minibus to the basement of the premises of “Miskgaz” in the village of Naftovykiv. *They said that if he took off the bag, he would be shot.* They locked him, and after a few minutes, someone came up and said: “Take off the bag”, to which he replied: “No, they will shoot me!”. Then, the man remarked: “They have been “shooting” me for five days have never even given me water to drink”. After that, PERSON\_57 removed the bag and saw a man from the village of Chkalovske.

On May 29, 2022, around 15:30, PERSON\_57 was taken to the police station in the town of Balakliya. They took him to cell No. 3; where seven other people were already being held. They all told him to speak Russian; otherwise, the Russians would beat him. *The cell was designed for three persons, leaving very little space; the toilet was inside; and they were fed porridge. Bread was given 4 times a week, on the days they were taken out to the toilet to defecate.* PERSON\_57 tore grape leaves and added them to the porridge to make it more filling.

After the “interrogations”, *people returned to the cell bruised and blue from the beatings.* PERSON\_57 was transferred to another cell within a month. He was repeatedly taken for “interrogations”, during which *he was repeatedly beaten, in particular with bats, and electrocuted with a stun gun.* During the “interrogations”, he was electrocuted 40–50 times for each spoken Ukrainian word.

PERSON\_57 *was teased “Bandera”, being asked whether he was a “hero”, after which the Russian military beat him every time.* During one of the “interrogation” sessions, the Russian military demanded that he publish videos on his YouTube channel with the script they would give him. The next day, PERSON\_57 was summoned, and *when he refused to publish the video, he was told that he would be shot in an hour.* PERSON\_57 asked to pass on a final message to his relatives, telling them that he loved them, but would die as an honest man. PERSON\_57 waited, but no one came. After that, PERSON\_57 was called only two weeks later and was again offered to shoot a video in exchange for freedom. *They threatened to cut off one finger on each hand (he lost one finger twenty years ago).*

On September 4, 2022, around 06:00, PERSON\_57 was released, but his documents were not returned. PERSON\_57 was held in captivity for more than 100 days. He lost 12 kilograms in captivity.

On July 5, 2023, PERSON\_57 sought legal assistance from the KHPG. The KHPG lawyer took victim and witness testimony, and filed a crime report to the Security Service of Ukraine.<sup>198</sup>

On the same day, PERSON\_57 underwent a psychological examination by a specialist.<sup>199</sup> The specialist concluded that the actions of the Russian military against PERSON\_57 — *consisting of detention and the use of physical violence in the period from May 28 to September 4, 2022, resulted in polytrauma. The mental trauma was classified as hyper-extreme, causing suffering, moral harm, and distress, leaving PERSON\_57 unable to fully adapt to stressful situations and their consequences. In that state of mind, the individual's will and consciousness of the individual were suppressed, leading to a prognosis of future PTSD. PERSON\_57 suffered from traumatic stress, the destructive power of which caused mental trauma of medium severity and signs of PTSD, which have long-lasting effects.* At the time of the medical evaluation, PERSON\_57 exhibited the following signs of PTSD: nightmares associated with being in captivity, disturbing obsessive thoughts and images, trembling of the limbs, an inability to remember fragments of traumatic events, slight timidity; irritability, difficulty sleeping, loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities, and a constant sense of fear, horror, anger, all of which significantly affected the victim's personal and social life.

On July 21, 2023, PERSON\_57 was accompanied by a lawyer to the hospital for an x-ray of the ribs. The medical assessment reads as follows: *"a consolidated fracture of the front segment of the IV rib on the right"*.<sup>200</sup>

**Testimony No. 16 (testified by PERSON\_58)**  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. From the first hours of the invasion, the village of Liptsi, located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, was temporarily occupied by the Russian army.

PERSON\_58 was a civilian and had no affiliation with the UAF or Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. PERSON\_58 lived with his family in the village of Liptsi.

On February 27, 2022, PERSON\_58 was queuing at a local grocery store, after which he decided to go and inspect the underside of a nearby bridge to assess how it could be destroyed to prevent the movement of the Russian military equipment. At some point, three men in military uniforms and weapons came up from behind. One of them ordered him to stop. PERSON\_58 raised his hands, and they came to him, put him face down on the ground, and twisted his hands back. *They searched him and stripped him off his clothes, checking his body for tattoos.* He told them that he came here to use the place as a toilet, to which they replied: "Get out of here", after which he returned to the store.

In early March 2022, the Russian military came to PERSON\_58's home. There were about 8–10 persons who were affiliated with **the Russian Guard**. They began to conduct a so-called house "search". It lasted 15 minutes, after which they left without finding anything.

At the end of April 2022, PERSON\_58 decided to move his mother, sister, son-in-law, and three nephews to the village of Ternova. Following this, he visited them from time to time to bring food, clothes, etc. One day, he went to visit his family again. On the way back, the Russian

<sup>198</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221080000183.

<sup>199</sup> The specialist evaluation report can be provided upon request.

<sup>200</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

soldiers, who were standing at the checkpoint in the village of Vesele, began to inspect his car and documents, took away his passport, and told him that “it’s time to throw away your passport; everyone has already changed their passports to Russian ones, and it is because of people like him that the war has been going on for 8 years”.

After that, a green URAL car drove up. PERSON\_58 was approached by the three men. *His hands were twisted, they put a bag on his head, threw him into this car, and drove him for 15 minutes in an unknown direction. Then the car stopped, but PERSON\_58 was left lying in the car until the evening, after which he was taken to the cellar of an unknown building, where it was dark, cold and damp.* He stayed there for one day. No one came to see him, and no food and water were given to him.

The next day, PERSON\_58 was taken for a so-called “interrogation”, where he sat with a bag on his head the whole time. He was asked about his personal information, occupation, family, and his attitude about the war. He replied that he was against the war. During the “interrogation”, *PERSON\_58 was beaten on the head and ribs, as well as hit with an electric shocker in the area of the right thigh and on the side.* He was requested to tell something interesting about himself; otherwise, it would be bad. They also asked if anyone from his family was in military service or was fighting, which PERSON\_58 denied. PERSON\_58 was “interrogated” for about an hour. Afterward, he was again thrown into the cellar, where *he remained for another day without any water or food.* The next day, he was again taken for the “interrogation”, during which he was informed it was his last chance to tell everything. However, he did not understand what the Russian military wanted from him. Then, *they threw him into the cellar again,* and the next day, they took him to the place where he was detained. In total, PERSON\_58 stayed in captivity for 4 days.

On June 7, 2022, PERSON\_58 was at work at the company where he worked as an engineer. On that day, he was there together with the guard, PERSON\_59. PERSON\_58 was in the kitchen, and PERSON\_59 went out into the yard, after which he heard: “PERSON\_58, come here”. PERSON\_58 began to leave when *his hands were immediately twisted; he was taken out into the yard and laid face down on the ground,* and the Russian military began to ask who else was present at work. Among the Russian soldiers was **a Dagestani whose name was Ramazan. He boasted that he had a family in Russia, and three brothers wore “dappled berets”.** PERSON\_58 and PERSON\_59 were taken to the company’s basement. They were occasionally allowed to leave the basement and move around the company’s premises, but they were not allowed to leave.

On June 20, 2022, when the shelling began, PERSON\_58 and PERSON\_59 decided to flee. They ran to a local school and hid there. After the shelling, PERSON\_58 decided to return because he was afraid that it would be worse if the Russian military started looking for him. He returned but was told to go home.

One day in July (exact date unknown), PERSON\_58 was at work again. He tried to come to work every day to supervise the area. The Russian military came. They often rotated there. They started asking him why he did not take Russian humanitarian aid and why he was not on the list. PERSON\_58 answered that he did not need humanitarian aid. After that, he was kept in the company’s premises for several days.

On August 12, 2022, PERSON\_58 decided to visit his acquaintances, PERSON\_60 and PERSON\_61, who also lived in the village of Liptsi. Around 18:00, he drove up to their house. A few minutes later, a “Niva” car pulled up, from which several armed men in military uniform got out and asked: “Does PERSON\_60 live here?” PERSON\_60’s grandmother heard this and called him. PERSON\_60 left the house, they put him in their car and drove him in an unknown direction. On the same day, in the morning, his father, PERSON\_61, was also taken away. The Russian military said that PERSON\_60 would be interrogated and brought back. He never returned the same

day. The next day, PERSON\_58, decided to go to the village of Strilecha, as he heard that everyone was held there, since this was the location of the Russian military's headquarters. A local woman showed him whom he could talk to. He approached the soldier and began to tell him that his car had been taken, and after that, he asked why PERSON\_60 had been detained. He was told that all the information was passed on to the "chief" and that he should wait. He waited until the evening, and then one of the soldiers came to him and said: "Remove everything from your pockets". Then, he told another soldier to open the store. PERSON\_58 asked about the reason, as he came by himself, but received the answer: "Too many questions". *He was led to the store at gunpoint.* At that time, there were fifteen people held there, among them one woman. He recognized PERSON\_60 and other fellow villagers.

*Inside the store, it was very cold at night and hot during the day; most of the people slept on the cold concrete floor. Food was brought once a day in a common bucket; instead of a toilet, there was a bucket that was used by both men and women.* During the period of his captivity, new detainees were regularly brought in. Many were taken out for various kinds of forced labor, but PERSON\_58 was not taken out. PERSON\_58 was detained in the store from August 13 to 24, 2022. On the last day, he was made to sign some documents, stating that his belongings had been returned to him, after which he was released.

While in captivity, PERSON\_58 was taken for so-called "interrogations" twice. *The Russian military said that he was leaking information about them, exerting psychological pressure on him. Also, he constantly heard the screams of detainees who were tortured, after which they were brought to the store, beaten, bruised, and covered in blood.*

The day after he was released, PERSON\_58 returned again. He wanted to talk to the commandant about PERSON\_60 and ask on what grounds he was being held, but he was not allowed to see him, and was told: "Don't poke your nose and don't ask unnecessary questions". After that, PERSON\_58 returned to the village of Liptsi and informed the relatives of PERSON\_60 that he was alive.

On July 4, 2023, PERSON\_58 sought legal assistance from the KHPG. The KHPG lawyer took PERSON\_58's testimony and filed a crime report to the Security Service of Ukraine.<sup>201</sup>

On the same day, PERSON\_58 underwent a psychological examination by a specialist.<sup>202</sup> The specialist concluded that the actions of the Russian military against PERSON\_58 — *consisting of detention and the use of physical violence in the period from August 13, 2022 to August 24, 2022, resulted in polytrauma. The mental trauma was classified as hyper-extreme, causing suffering, moral harm, and distress, leaving PERSON\_58 unable to fully adapt to stressful situations and their consequences. In that state of mind, the individual's will and consciousness of the individual were suppressed, leading to a prognosis of future PTSD. PERSON\_58 suffered from traumatic stress, the destructive power of which caused mental trauma of medium severity and signs of PTSD, which have long-lasting effects.*

<p><b>Testimony No. 17</b> (testified by PERSON_62) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On March 10, 2022, at around 15:00, PERSON\_62, being summoned by the Russian military (a Russian FSB employee), came to the headquarters of the Russian military, which was located in a building two streets further from PERSON\_62's dacha.

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<sup>201</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001233.

<sup>202</sup> The specialist evaluation report can be provided upon request.

PERSON\_62 was detained due to his position as the head of the Horticultural Society “Lukomorye” (company).

When PERSON\_62 was brought into the building, he saw two men dressed in military uniforms. One of them took out a Makarov pistol. ***This Russian soldier was known by the callsign “Sarmat”.*** “Sarmat” walked around PERSON\_62 with his gun and persistently asked PERSON\_62 personal questions, demanding information from him.

*When PERSON\_62 was in the building, “Sarmat” held a gun to PERSON\_62’s ear and shoved the gun into PERSON\_62’s mouth. Also, “Sarmat” beat PERSON\_62 on the kidneys with fists and knees.*

Before the PERSON\_62’s release, “Sarmat” threatened him that if PERSON\_62 or any of the eighteen men who remained in the company escaped, or the area were hit by artillery fire, PERSON\_62 would be killed.

The next day, around 15:00, PERSON\_62 was in his yard when “Sarmat” and another Russian soldier with a machine gun approached the yard. “Sarmat” called PERSON\_62 to the street, after which *he pressed the muzzle of a machine gun to his body and led him to the house where he was tortured the previous day.*

PERSON\_62 was subjected to the psychological and physical violence, in particular, he was made to undress completely, including his underwear, and was beaten. For about three hours, the Russian military interrogated PERSON\_62, after which they let him go home.

Two days later, “Sarmat” and the Russian soldier with a machine gun came to see PERSON\_62 again. Yet again, they led PERSON\_62 to the building where they had their headquarters. “Sarmat” was intoxicated. When PERSON\_62 entered the building, “Sarmat” ordered him to sit on a chair, after which *he began to beat PERSON\_62. He hit PERSON\_62 on the stomach and the solar plexus. In total, PERSON\_62 was hit about 6 times. After being beaten and threatened, PERSON\_62 was released.*

*After being tortured by “Sarmat”, PERSON\_62 returned home with traces of beatings on his body. The bodily injuries were seen by PERSON\_62’s wife.*

PERSON\_62 describes the Russian soldier who tortured him as follows: ***“Sarmat” was of medium height, approximately 1.75 meters, with black hair and beard, black eyes, a small nose, an athletic build, and dark skin. “Sarmat” said that he was ethnically Tatar and lives in the city of Kazan in Russia. “Sarmat” called one of his subordinates by the callsign “Altai”. “Altai” was not tall, but bigger than “Sarmat”.***

PERSON\_62 was subject to the physical and psychological violence for a month until “Sarmat” left to the town of Kupyansk.

**Testimony No. 18** (testified by PERSON\_63)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 23, 2022, the Russian military captured PERSON\_63 when he was at his home in the village of Novy Burluk, located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

When the Russian military captured PERSON\_63, *he and his family were threatened with weapons.* The Russian military searched the house of PERSON\_63, but did not find anything.

Then, the Russian military took PERSON\_63 to the garage, which is located next to his house, where *they started beating him hard with hands and feet. They also beat PERSON\_63 with the butt of a machine gun.*



*During the torture, the Russian military forced PERSON\_63 to kneel and simulated shooting. Then, they began to conduct a so-called “interrogation”, during which the Russian military threatened to kill PERSON\_63 and to rape his wife, who was pregnant at the time.*

**Testimony No. 19** (testified by PERSON\_64)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 20, 2022, PERSON\_64 was abducted by the Russian military from his home in the village of Grakove, located in the Chuguyiv district, in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

PERSON\_64 was held in captivity until June 6, 2022.

While in captivity, *the Russian military beat PERSON\_64 on the head, back, and other parts of the body and tortured him (put his chest on a box and threw stones on his back closer to his neck). PERSON\_64 could not withstand the brutal torture and repeatedly lost consciousness.*

*In the process of the “interrogation”, PERSON\_64 was beaten and tortured.* The double cell, where the Russian military held PERSON\_64, was shared by more than 8 people.

*PERSON\_64 and other detainees were kept in inhumane conditions. They did not take them out for walks. There was no light in the cell, it was very suffocating, and there was no toilet. Food that was not suitable for consumption.*

On June 6, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_64, and he went home. However, on the way home, at the checkpoint before the village of Chkalovsk, the Russian military once again detained PERSON\_64 and kept him for a day in the village of Doslydne in the Chkalovska village community in the Kharkiv region. *During one day in captivity, he was not given any food or water, and he went to the toilet in a bottle.*

**Testimony No. 20** (testified by PERSON\_65)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 19, 2022, the Russian military detained PERSON\_65 when he approached the house of his acquaintance, PERSON\_66,<sup>203</sup> located in the village of Novy Burluk in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region. At that time, the village of Novy Burluk was temporarily occupied.

*Threatening PERSON\_65 with a weapon, the Russian military took him to the garage located next to the house, where they began to beat PERSON\_65 hard with hands and feet, as well as to beat him on the stomach and other parts of the body with the butt of a machine gun.* The Russian military took away PERSON\_65's phone.

*The Russian military tortured PERSON\_65 in the garage, in particular, by putting a rubber boot on PERSON\_65's knees and beating him with full force. They forced PERSON\_65 to kneel and carried out a mock shooting. Also, the Russian military undressed PERSON\_65, looking for tattoos on his body.*

When the Russian military tortured PERSON\_65, they asked him who he was and what he was doing in the area. During the “interrogation”, the Russian military threatened to kill PERSON\_65. After beating and torturing him, the Russian military released PERSON\_65.

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<sup>203</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_66 is presented in Testimony No. 22.

On May 23, 2022, the Russian military came again to PERSON\_65's home. They *immediately beat PERSON\_65, blindfolded him, and took him away*. An hour later, the Russian military released PERSON\_65. PERSON\_65 still does not know why he was taken away.

**Testimony No. 21** (testified by PERSON\_67)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 19, 2022, the Russian military detained PERSON\_67 when he approached the house of his acquaintance, PERSON\_66,<sup>204</sup> located in the village of Novy Burluk in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region. At that time, the village of Novy Burluk was temporarily occupied.

*Threatening PERSON\_67 with a weapon, the Russian military took PERSON\_67 to the garage located next to the house, where they began to beat PERSON\_67 hard with their hands and feet, as well as to hit him with the butt of a machine gun on his stomach and other parts of his body.*

The Russian military tortured PERSON\_67 in the garage: they beat him and asked questions about who he was and what he was doing in the area. During the "interrogation", the Russian military threatened to kill PERSON\_67.

The Russian military forced PERSON\_67 to kneel and carried out a mock shooting. Then they undressed PERSON\_67 and began to search for tattoos on his body. Next, the Russian military took the undressed PERSON\_67 to the yard, forced him to kneel, and began simulating a mock execution by shooting.

After beating and torturing him, the Russian military released PERSON\_67.

**Testimony No. 22** (testified by PERSON\_66)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 19, 2022, the Russian military detained PERSON\_66 when he was at his home in the village of Novy Burluk, located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region.

From the moment of his detention, the Russian military put PERSON\_66 on a bench near his house and began to "interrogate" him by they asking where he had his phone was and whether he had other electronics. The Russian military took away PERSON\_66's phone.

After the so-called "interrogation", threatening PERSON\_66 with weapons, the Russian military took him to the garage, which is located next to PERSON\_66's house, where they began to beat him with their hands and feet. The Russian military also beat PERSON\_66 in the stomach and other parts of the body with the butt of a machine gun. Then, the Russian military undressed PERSON\_66 and began to check his body for tattoos.

*After the torture in the garage, the Russian military took PERSON\_66 out into the street, where they forced him to kneel and carried out a mock execution by shooting several times near PERSON\_66's ear.*

When the Russian military was beating PERSON\_66, they asked who he was and where he worked. During the "interrogation", the Russian military threatened to kill him.

After beating and torturing him, the Russian military released PERSON\_66.

<sup>204</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_66 is presented in Testimony No. 22.



**Testimony No. 23** (testified by PERSON\_68)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 9, 2022, PERSON\_68 was kidnapped from his house, located in the village of Zalyman in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied by the Russian forces at that time.

PERSON\_68 testifies that he was captured by the “LPR” military. The Russian military took PERSON\_68 to the so-called “commandant’s office”, which the Russian military set up on the premises of the village council of the Savin united territorial community.

During the first two days of his captivity, *the Russian military beat PERSON\_68, tortured him, and conducted so-called “interrogations”, which were conducted by **employees of the Russian FSB.***

On the third day, the Russian military took PERSON\_68 to the premises of the Balakliya district police department and put him in a cell. On June 15, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_68.

As a result of captivity and torture, PERSON\_68 suffered sustained physical injuries and mental trauma. PERSON\_68 is currently being treated by a psychologist.

**Testimony No. 24** (testified by PERSON\_69)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

In mid-May 2022, the Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_69 when he was at his home in the village of Slobozhanske, located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region.

The Russian military took PERSON\_69 out of his house at gunpoint and led him to a checkpoint at gunpoint. When they brought PERSON\_69 to the checkpoint, they immediately took away his passport.

After that, the Russian military *put grenades on PERSON\_69 and said that they would send him in the direction of Kharkiv. Then the grenades were removed from PERSON\_69 and he was taken to a bus stop, where they put him against a wall and told him to say goodbye to his life.* Following the threats, the Russian military released PERSON\_69.

At the end of May, the Russian military returned to PERSON\_69’s home. They took PERSON\_69, his daughter PERSON\_70, his son-in-law PERSON\_71, and his 8-year-old granddaughter PERSON\_72 (born in 2014), to the street, *lined them up, and started shooting above their heads just for fun.* After that, the Russian military left.

**Testimony No. 25** (testified by PERSON\_73)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 6, 2022, PERSON\_73 was in the market in Balakliya located in the Izyum District in the Kharkiv Region, which was temporarily occupied at that time, when the Russian military captured him and took him to the premises of the Balakliya District Police Station.

The Russian military held PERSON\_73 captive for 50 days until June 24, 2022. During his captivity, *the Russian military beat PERSON\_73 with sticks on the head, back, and other parts of the body. As a result of the brutal torture, PERSON\_73 repeatedly lost consciousness.*

*In captivity, PERSON\_73 was held in inhumane conditions in a cell measuring 2.5 by 3.5 meters. In addition to PERSON\_73, eight other people were held there. They were rarely taken out for walks and only with a black bag placed on their heads. There was no light in the cell, and it was very suffocating.*

As a result of the prolonged period of captivity and brutal torture, PERSON\_73 suffered both physical injuries and mental trauma. PERSON\_73 is currently being treated by a psychologist.

**Testimony No. 26** (testified by PERSON\_74)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On April 3, 2022, at the Russian military checkpoint located in Balakliya in the Izyum district of the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time, the Russian military captured PERSON\_74, threatening him with weapons.

During the capture, the Russian military put a black bag on PERSON\_74's head, tied his hands, and took him along with other detainees. The Russian military brought PERSON\_74 to the basement car park in Balakliya located at Zavhorodnya Street, building 7.

*During his captivity, the Russian military did not give PERSON\_74 water or food. They kept him with his hands tied at all times. PERSON\_74 was constantly wearing a black bag on his head, due to which he could not see daylight and could not satisfy his personal needs, such as using the toilet on his own.*

PERSON\_74 was helped to the toilet by other detainees who were also held in the basement at that time. PERSON\_74 testifies that there was no separate cubicle or other room for the toilet in the basement.

The Russian military released PERSON\_74 on April 5, 2022.

As a result of the prolonged captivity in inhumane conditions and torture, PERSON\_74 suffered both physical injuries and mental trauma. PERSON\_74 is currently being treated by a psychologist.

**Testimony No. 27** (testified by PERSON\_75)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 28, 2022, PERSON\_75 was in his house's yard in the Grakove, located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time. The Russian military came to his yard and informed him that they came to take him away.

They took away PERSON\_75's phone and began to threaten to kill him. After the Russian military took away the phone, they began to search his house and yard.

After the so-called "search", the Russian military put a bag on PERSON\_75's head, tied his hands, took him and his son, PERSON\_76, to the building of an agricultural complex near the village of Chkalovskoe located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region. Both of them were detained separately on the premises of the agricultural complex.

*During the detention, the Russian military tortured PERSON\_75. In particular, they beat him on the back, stomach, chest, in the groin area, used a stun gun on him, and strangled him.*

Then, the Russian military took PERSON\_75 to the premises of the Balakliya district police department, where they conducted a so-called "interrogation". *They tortured him by beating him*

*with rubber batons and applying an electro shocker to the hands, neck, and legs. At the same time, the Russian military repeatedly threatened to kill PERSON\_75.*

*PERSON\_75 testifies that the Russian military stopped beating him and using a stun gun on him only when it ran out of battery. When it was charged again, they resumed torturing PERSON\_75.*

*As a result of the brutal torture, PERSON\_75 repeatedly lost consciousness. When this happened, the Russian military put a bag over his head, doused him with cold water, and took him to a cell.*

*During his captivity, the Russian military gave PERSON\_75 very little water and food.*

*As a result of the unlawful detention in inhumane conditions and brutal torture, PERSON\_75 suffered both physical injuries and mental trauma. PERSON\_75 is currently being treated by a psychologist.*

**Testimony No. 28** (testified by PERSON\_77)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

*On April 5, 2022, PERSON\_77 was kidnapped by the Russian military from his house in the village of Grakove located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time.*

*During PERSON\_77's captivity, the Russian military carried out so-called "interrogations", during which he was brutally tortured. In particular, he was beaten on the head, back, and other parts of the body. Despite PERSON\_77's advanced age and frail health, the Russian military repeatedly beat him and threatened to kill him.*

*In captivity, PERSON\_77 was kept in a basement on raw ground under terrible conditions. The basement was very stuffy; with no light and no toilet. Detainees were taken to the toilet with bags over their heads.*

*The Russian military released PERSON\_77 from captivity on April 13, 2022.*

**Testimony No. 29** (testified by PERSON\_78)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

*On August 2, 2022, the Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_78 in the village of Slobozhanske located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time, and brought him to the building where the Russian military had its headquarters.*

*PERSON\_78 was immediately stripped down to his underwear and placed on an iron chair. The Russian military poured water on him and attached wires from a battery charger. One wire was attached to the little finger (pinky) of his left hand, and the other was attached to the little toe of his foot.*

*After connecting the wires, the Russian military began to electrocute PERSON\_78. After the third round, PERSON\_78 lost consciousness. PERSON\_78 regained consciousness after a bucket of water was poured on him.*

*Afterward, the Russian military released PERSON\_78, while threatening that they would kill him next time.*

**Testimony No. 30** (testified by PERSON\_79)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On August 28, 2022, PERSON\_79 was kidnapped by the Russian military from his house in the town of Izyum in the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time.

During the period of PERSON\_79's captivity, the Russian military carried out so-called "interrogations", during which *he was tortured. In particular, he was beaten on the head and body; his left arm was broken; and as a result of the abuse, PERSON\_79 suffered from internal bleeding in his stomach. As a result of the brutal torture, PERSON\_79 repeatedly lost consciousness and thought that he would not survive.*

*The Russian military kept PERSON\_79 in inhumane detention conditions. There was no light and no toilet, and therefore, he had to relieve himself directly in the basement.*

*On September 7, 2022, PERSON\_79, unconscious after torture, was taken to the hospital.*

As a result of the unlawful detention in inhumane conditions and brutal torture, PERSON\_79 suffered both physical injuries and mental trauma. PERSON\_79 is currently being treated by a psychologist.

**Testimony No. 31** (testified by PERSON\_80)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army occupied the village of Liptsi in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region.

As of March 4, 2022, the Russian military began to conduct so-called "filtering measures" in the occupied village. They entered every house and carried out so-called "searches" of houses in the village of Liptsi and nearby areas. The Russian military was looking for former participants of the ATO, Ukrainian police officers, and border guards. PERSON\_80 is a former member of the ATO.

On March 5, 2022, PERSON\_80 was at home in the village of Liptsi when he heard a loud knock on his door from the Russian soldiers who were wearing green uniforms and balaclavas. The Russian military truck "Ural" was parked near the yard.

When PERSON\_80 left the house, he saw several Russian soldiers with assault rifles running around the perimeter of the yard. ***The Russian military commander was the first to enter PERSON\_80's yard; he was not wearing a balaclava, spoke Russian, and was approximately 45 years old.***

The commander asked: "Who is at home? Where's the dog?". The Russian military took PERSON\_80 to the house and put him in a corner. They tied his hands with tape behind his back and put a plastic bag on his head, which completely covered PERSON\_80's face.

After that, the Russian military searched the house and the commander commented: "You live well". The Russian military took away from PERSON\_80 bags with oil, sugar, other food, a phone, and his daughter's laptop.

The Russian military put PERSON\_80 in a car who later found out that PERSON\_81 from the village of Liptsi was already in the car. The car stopped several times. Ultimately, they arrived at the "Slavutich" store in the village of Cherkaski Tyshki in the Kharkiv district, where the Russian military dragged PERSON\_80 to the end of the fence.

Two Russian soldiers began to *threaten him, kicking him all over his body. The Russian military broke PERSON\_80's left eye and broke a rib, which made it difficult for him to breathe. Later, PERSON\_80 had a hematoma and put a wet sock on his eye.* The Russian soldiers told him: “You won’t live until morning”, “Murderer”, and “We will bury you”. PERSON\_80 understood that the Russian military threatened to kill him. PERSON\_80 *was afraid for his life because he thought that he could really be killed there.*

PERSON\_80 was stripped about nine times to his waist, when the Russian military were looking tattoos. He was also ordered to take off his trousers three times.

After that, PERSON\_80 was taken to the store premises, where he saw PERSON\_81. Fifteen people were detained on the premises. It was a shed, 6 meters by 8 meters, the walls of which were made of cinder blocks. There were 3–4 sofas and a pile of wooden pallets. *The temperature inside was about -3 degrees Celsius, which dropped to -15 degrees Celsius. PERSON\_80 was freezing, as he was wearing ordinary trousers, a sweater, and a jacket. The Russian military gave several blankets; 3–4 detainees slept under one blanket. PERSON\_80 could not sleep with others and share the blanket because his rib hurt and he could not sleep on one side. He hardly slept because of the pain in his rib.* The detainees were given food twice daily, the first time at 10–11 in the morning and the second time in the evening. *They were mainly fed potatoes. Some detainees suffered from stomachache from the given food. Everyone went to the toilet in a bucket in the middle of the room, which was taken out once daily.*

As of March 8, 2022, the Russian military began to take everyone who was detained on the premises, including PERSON\_80, for so-called “interrogation”. Two or three detainees were taken for “interrogations” each time, however, not all of them returned afterwards.

Around March 10, 2022, PERSON\_80 was the last to be summoned for the “interrogation”. *A bag was put on his head, his eyes were covered with tape, and his hands were tied. PERSON\_80 was taken around the yard from one place to another, and then to a nearby room for the “interrogation”.* **The commander who came to interrogate PERSON\_80 was about 50–60 years old.** PERSON\_80 saw **his gray beard and that he had on him a knife made of white ivory and a pistol.** He asked questions about where PERSON\_80 studied and where he worked.

*A man who was a deputy (public official) was also brought to the premises. The Russian military beat him more severely than anyone else.* He spent only one night on the premises and then he was taken away.

PERSON\_80 heard constant shelling in captivity. On one occasion, a strong explosion destroyed shed’s wall, making the plaster crumble.

After the so-called “interrogations”, a group of detainees (2–3 persons) were transported to another place and then brought back after a certain period time. Upon return, all detainees looked very frightened. *Due to the cold temperature in the room, PERSON\_80's feet froze, he had frostbite, and his nails came off. PERSON\_80 tore his clothes and wrapped his legs to warm them up. PERSON\_80 understood that he would not be able to stay in the room anymore because it was very cold, so he asked the Russian military to move him to another place because his feet had already been frostbitten.*

They put a cap on PERSON\_80’s head, wrapped his eyes very tightly with tape, tied his hands, and put him in a car. They took him to another place, led him around the yard, and brought him to the large cellar. PERSON\_80 met people who were also detained on the premises of the store “Slavutich”.

PERSON\_80 sat in a room with no light for the first three days *with other six people. PERSON\_80 was sleeping on a cardboard box on the floor. There were wooden pallets in*



*the cellar, but there were not enough pallets for everyone. Among other detainees were PERSON\_82 from Kharkiv, PERSON\_83, PERSON\_84, and PERSON\_85.*

*The detainees were taken to use the toilet. A canister with water to wash their hands was placed next to the toilet. Several people went to the toilet together. The trip to the toilet was often denied. Some detainees smoked in this room, but the room was not ventilated. Then, PERSON\_80 was moved to another room, where PERSON\_80 saw a boy who was taken with his father who had a Jeep car. The son was put in the room with PERSON\_80, and the father was put in another room. There was also a man who worked as a taxi driver. The Russian soldiers abused all detainees.*

*On the day they arrived, the Russian military began kicking PERSON\_80. There were approximately 3–4 Russian soldiers and guards in green military uniforms and balaclavas. The commander and guards were Russians.*

*The Russian soldiers wet the back of the head of PERSON\_80 with water before they used a stun gun. PERSON\_80 was very weak. They electrocuted him twice. During the second round, PERSON\_80's legs began to twitch, and he wet himself.*

*The Russian soldiers threatened him: "Look, we take off your pants, place you on the table, take a kettle and stick it in your anus".*

*The Russian military repeatedly threatened that PERSON\_80 would not get out alive. They handcuffed him and put him on a chair in some room. PERSON\_80 sat there for a long time, and was taken to use the toilet once. Russian soldiers ordered him: "Don't move!", "Don't sleep!". Later, PERSON\_80 was taken to a cellar.*

*About March 20, 2022, PERSON\_80 was released. The Russian military tied his hands, put a bag on his head, and put him in the car. PERSON\_80 and other detainees, namely PERSON\_82 and two others (one man over 55 years old) were taken away. PERSON\_80 was dropped off and ordered to stand for five minutes before he could leave. During the entire period of captivity, PERSON\_80 lost about 7 kilograms.*

*In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_80, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>205</sup>*

**Testimony No. 32** (testified by PERSON\_86)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

*On February 24, 2022, the Russian army occupied the village of Liptsi in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region.*

*The Russian military began conducting so-called "filtering measures" in the village. They entered every house, carried out so-called "searches", and checked phones. The Russian military were looking for former participants of the ATO, Ukrainian law enforcement officers, and border guards.*

*PERSON\_86 was a civilian and had no affiliation with the UAF or Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.*

*On March 5, 2022, around noon, when PERSON\_86 was walking along Mykolaivska Street in the village, he met some of his acquaintances, PERSON\_87 and PERSON\_88. They stopped in a formerly abandoned canteen to talk.*

<sup>205</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001357.

After PERSON\_87 went outside, they heard several shots. PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 went outside.

They did not see PERSON\_87, but almost immediately, two UAZ cars with the marking “Z” drove up. The Russian military jumped out of their cars and started shouting: “Lie down”. *The Russian military forced PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 to the ground, tied their hands behind their backs, put bags on their heads, and threw them into a car.*

PERSON\_86 was thrown into one car, and PERSON\_88 into the other one. They drove PERSON\_86 for about five minutes, then stopped, took him out, put him on a curb, and waited there for ten minutes. After that, he and PERSON\_88 were taken up the stairs to some room on the second floor. The bags were removed from their heads, but their hands were left tied.

PERSON\_86 recognized the premises as belonging to the “Kharkivenergozbut” division, Lypetskyi RRSC, located at Pushkinska Str, b. 180, in the village of Liptsi.

Five Russian soldiers in green uniforms with weapons were present in this room. **Three of them were Chechens, speaking with an accent. One of them was short and of medium build.** He shouted, “Cargo 200 (military jargon for fatalities), send them to the field and if they attempt to escape — shoot them”.

**One of the Chechens was tall and large; his callisgn was “Mir”. PERSON\_86 did not remember others. Two soldiers were Russians and spoke pure Russian. When asked who the third person with them was, PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88** answered that it was PERSON\_87, their friend, to which the Russian soldier replied: “Well, your friend was unlucky”.

After that, PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 were taken to a barn, where they were tied up and locked up. In the morning, they were taken to perform forced labour. They were forced to chop firewood and clean the area. Their work was supervised by the soldier who followed them around with a weapon. **He was 25 years old, short, and medium-built, spoke Russian, his name was Sergei, and he said that he was from Donbas (Luhansk or Donetsk** — PERSON\_86 does not remember exactly). In the evening, they were brought back to the barn.

*Water and food were given 1–2 times daily, and they made plates from plastic bottles. They slept on the cold floor; it was freezing in the room, and they kept warm from each other. You could go to the toilet only in the morning when they were taken out for forced labour, and in the evening when they were brought back to the barn.* PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 were detained for 5 days and taken to to perform forced labour on a daily basis.

After 5 days in captivity, PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 were forced to load things into UAZ cars, and the Russian military were going to relocate.

PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 were also put into cars and transported to a house located at Pushkinska Str, village Liptsi. The house belonged to the owner of a hardware store in the village of Liptsi, PERSON\_89. After they were brought to the house, they were forced to unload other things. Then, they were taken to the basement, where they were kept for the next 13 days.

They were also given water and food 1–2 times a day under the constant supervision of the same guard as mentioned earlier, Sergei. They were also forced to clean the house and yard.

Sergei, a Russian security guard, constantly repeated: “We will release you soon”. On the 8<sup>th</sup>. day of captivity, PERSON\_88 was taken from the basement somewhere, while PERSON\_86 remained. He fell asleep and woke up because someone was standing over him. He opened his eyes and saw that two Russian soldiers were standing over him: **they were Chechens, and one of them who was beating him looked about 50 years old.** PERSON\_86 did not even have time to see anything *before he kicked him in the face and then several more times. He knocked out PERSON\_86’s teeth.* After that, they simply left in silence. Later, PERSON\_88 was brought back, and when PERSON\_86 asked where he was being taken, he remained silent.



Among the Russian soldiers who lived in that building, PERSON\_86 saw **a soldier whose whole body was covered with tattoos. Everyone called him “Combat”. He looked about 50 years old, of medium height and build, and spoke Russian.**

In the following days, the Russian military again forced PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 to work.

About March 23, 2022, the security guard Sergei entered the basement and said, “Rejoice, you will be home today”. After that, PERSON\_86 and PERSON\_88 were taken out of the basement, brought to the gate, and released. When they were being taken out, one of the soldiers said, “Stay with us. It will be better here”. PERSON\_86 replied that he grew up in Liptsi and would prefer to die there.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_86, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>206</sup>

**Testimony No. 33** (testified by PERSON\_90)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army occupied Vovchansk, located in the Chuguyiv district in the Kharkiv region. Given that the town of Vovchansk encountered problems with food supply, PERSON\_90’s uncle went to Kharkiv every other day and brought bakery products, which PERSON\_90 helped unload and distribute to locals.

On May 2, 2022, around 10:00, while PERSON\_90 and his uncle were unloading and distributing bread among local residents in Vovchansk, who were about 30 people, one armored personnel carrier drove up to the house, from which seven Russian armed soldiers got out and entered the yard of the house.

PERSON\_90’s mother, his friend, and PERSON\_91’s cousin were also present in the yard of the house. **The Russian soldiers were well-equipped and spoke Russian without an accent.** They were looking around for PERSON\_90. When they approached him, they asked: “Are you an internet lover?”, telling him to take all devices from which he accessed the Internet. He picked up his cell phone. The Russian military ordered PERSON\_90 to go to the house and show the devices he used to access the internet.

They entered the house, and the Russian military took away a computer, camera, and mobile phone. PERSON\_90 was ordered to take his passport and cap and go with them to the armored personnel carrier (APC). When they got into the APC, PERSON\_90 was ordered to put a cap over his eyes. In the APC, he heard the voice of his cousin, PERSON\_91, and realized that the Russian military had also taken him away.

When being driven in the APC, PERSON\_90 understood that they were heading toward the Vovchansky district police department. When they approached the police department, PERSON\_90 was ordered to get out of the APC and stand against the wall.

The Russian military took away all the equipment they took from his house. Next to PERSON\_90, his cousin, PERSON\_91, was placed against the wall. The Russian military told his cousin that he could say goodbye to PERSON\_90 because they might not see each other again. PERSON\_90 and his cousin, PERSON\_91, shook hands. PERSON\_90 thought they would be killed. Then, the Russian military began asking PERSON\_90 whether he served in the army. All this time, PERSON\_90 stood with a cap over his face.

<sup>206</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001355.

PERSON\_90 was ordered to keep his hands behind his back. Afterward, as he later found out, the Russian military took him to the first floor of the police department and then led into a cell. He was placed on a bench and ordered to sit. PERSON\_90 sat with his cap over his head for about three hours, as the Russian military ordered him.

PERSON\_90 heard that the Russian military periodically looked into his cell through the window. There were two beds in the cell. It was cold in the cell, about 12 degrees Celsius; it was a semi-basement room. PERSON\_90 was wearing thin sweatpants and a T-shirt, and he was cold. There was only a small, closed window in the cell, through which air did not enter the cell. PERSON\_90 was given a mattress, which was thrown next to the bed. He continued to sit on the bed. After three hours, three Russian soldiers came to his cell. They spoke Russian without an accent and told him not to take off his cap. They asked him to lift the T-shirt and remove his trousers, while they were checking for tattoos. The so-called “interrogation” lasted for about an hour and a half.

PERSON\_90 was allowed to take off his cap when the Russian military left, but was ordered to put it on immediately when someone entered his cell. On the second night, PERSON\_90 heard a Russian soldier approaching the cell who was shouting at the guards to let him into the cell so that he would “show” PERSON\_90.

*On the first day of his stay of his captivity, PERSON\_90 was not given water or food. The toilet was in the cell. Because it was cold, PERSON\_90 slept on a wooden bench covered with a mattress.*

The next day, on May 3, 2022, around 07:00–08:00, the Russian military entered the cell, ordered PERSON\_90 to put a cap over his eyes, and asked him the same questions for about three hours. About 2 hours later, two or three Russian soldiers entered the cell and put a cap over PERSON\_90’s eyes. *They ordered PERSON\_90 to stand up and began to beat him on his arms and chest with their fists.* PERSON\_90 was asked about his relatives and acquaintances who serve in the Ukrainian army. They asked about his uncle who delivered bread. *The Russian military hit him 5–6 times.* After that, they left. About an hour later, a Russian soldier entered his cell, put a plate of porridge on the table, said that he could eat, and brought a 0,5-liter bottle of water.

On May 4, 2022, *he was transferred to another cell, measuring 4 meters by 3 meters, where there was a long wooden bench and a toilet but no water to flush it.* The cell only had one window. About two hours later, three or four Russian soldiers entered his cell and put a cap on his head. When a so-called “interrogation” began, PERSON\_90 was told to lie down on the floor. *The Russian military wrapped his hands with tape behind his back and started asking questions. After each answer, they raised his hands up, and PERSON\_90 was in a lot of pain.* They asked about his uncle and how PERSON\_90 came to the city of Vovchansk. The Russian military told PERSON\_90 that his uncle left with his son and abandoned him. The “interrogation” continued for approximately one and a half to two hours. After which, the Russian military left.

Starting from that day, PERSON\_90 *was given food twice a day, sometimes once a day, pasta, porridge, tea with lunch, and 0,5 liters of water a day. He was not taken out to wash himself; there was water supply in the cell. There was a toilet in the cell, but no water to flush it.*

The next day, on May 5, 2022, two Russian soldiers entered the cell, and one soldier remained outside the door. PERSON\_90 put on a cap, but was allowed to take it off for a few seconds. ***The first Russian soldier was 190 cm tall, weighed approximately 120 kg, and had dark hair. The second Russian soldier was 170–180 cm tall, thin, with blond hair. They spoke Russian without an accent. The Russian military was armed with a Makarov pistol.***

PERSON\_90 was interrogated according to the “good and bad cop” principle. One Russian soldier spoke to him “kindly”, while the other used physical violence and applied psychological

pressure. The Russian military took out a syringe and said that they would give PERSON\_90 an injection, and if PERSON\_90 did not tell the truth within two hours, they would not inject PERSON\_90 with an antidote that would lead to a cardiac arrest.

The Russian soldier took out a Makarov pistol, cocked the slide, and began pointing the muzzle of the pistol at his leg, while asking questions. The Russian soldier asked PERSON\_90 what he no longer needed: a knee, thigh, right or left leg. He was asked the same questions as last time. He also pointed the muzzle at his fingers. After that, he asked another question, placed the muzzle of the gun to his leg, and pulled the trigger, but there was no cartridge in the gun. PERSON\_90 was beaten several times during the “interrogation”. The Russian military also hit him with a stun gun approximately 15 times on the legs above the knee and once on his arm. His legs were numb from being electrocuted.

The Russian military used a stun gun to burn PERSON\_90’s sports trousers, leaving holes in them. The “interrogation” lasted about one and a half hours. After that, the Russian military left. They did not come to him for several days afterwards, and only gave him food twice a day.

PERSON\_90’s mother came to the district department and the plant, asking about her son’s whereabouts, but she was told that he was not there. On May 9 or 10, 2022, a 33-year-old man was brought to his cell. When he entered the cell, he had a bag of sugar on his head. He said it was hard to breathe. He was taken several times to so-called “interrogations” where he was beaten. They agreed that if he is released first, he will go to PERSON\_90’s mother and tell her what happened to her son because PERSON\_90 thought he might not return. The 33-year-old man was released on May 18, 2022. About 2 hours later, a 17-year-old boy from the village of Ogurtsevo in the Kharkiv region, was brought to the cell.

On the evening of May 19, 2022, PERSON\_90 was told to collect his belongings. PERSON\_90 put a cap on his head and they took him to the office. They asked him if he understood everything. PERSON\_90 was ordered to come to them every evening and tell them what was happening in the town. PERSON\_90 was given his passport, taken out of the building, and released. PERSON\_90 had to walk 1.5 kilometers to his house on foot. When he returned home, his mother met him. PERSON\_90 lost 10 kg of weight during his time in captivity.

When the Russian military held PERSON\_90 in a cell, he heard that the Russian military said that they were from the **46th Motorized Rifle Brigade 3C of the Russian Federation. After he was released**, PERSON\_90 and mother of PERSON\_92 went to the Russian military to ask about the equipment that was taken from the house. There, PERSON\_90 heard that **one of the Russian soldiers had the call sign “Red”. Later, PERSON\_90 also saw that his Google account was accessed from Dagestan.**

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_90, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>207</sup>

**Testimony No. 34** (testified by PERSON\_93)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 21, 2022, PERSON\_93 and his wife, PERSON\_94, visited his wife’s parents house in Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. The village was occupied by Russian forces on February 24, 2022 when the Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

<sup>207</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001322.

On June 2, 2022, at about 05:00, 6–10 people dressed in military uniforms with insignia of the Russian armed force broke a window and broke into the house of the parents of PERSON\_93's wife, *pushed him, his wife, and her parents to the floor and put sacks on their heads. The Russian military stepped on the hands of PERSON\_93 and asked where the weapons were hidden. Russian soldiers threatened to beat him.* The house was searched.

Russian soldiers tied his hands with adhesive tape, put him into a “Tigr” car, and in 30 minutes, brought him to the village of Strilech located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, where PERSON\_93 was put in the basement. A minute later, the Russian military took him out of the basement and took him to the store warehouse. The detainees in the warehouse helped PERSON\_93 to remove the bag from his head and to untie his hands.

*The area of the premises where the Russian military kept PERSON\_93 measured approximately 9 meters by 10 meters. 30 detainees were held there. All of them went to the toilet in one bucket, standing in the room. The group was given 5 bottles of 1.5 liters of water per day, and food was given daily in a bucket without plates like cold canned oatmeal mixed with leftovers. The windows in the room were closed with black film and painted; there was no light at all. Instead of sleeping places, there were wooden pallets. However, the wooden pallets did not have enough space for everyone in the room, so some detainees slept on the floor. The room was cold at night and hot during the day. Due to the stench from the bucket and the fact that the windows of the room were blocked, it was difficult to breathe. People were kept in this room and taken to be “interrogated” by the Russian military, then brought after beatings and thrown on the floor.*

On June 2, 2022, at approximately 13:00, the Russian military took PERSON\_93 for questioning. He was taken to a room in the same building at the entrance, which was located five meters from the room where he was detained. One Russian soldier entered the room, introduced himself as the **“investigator” of the “Ministry of Internal Affairs of the LPR” named Pavlo**. He asked PERSON\_93's his last name, first name and patronymic and his address. He was also asked other questions about weapons and equipment, to which PERSON\_93 could not reply due to his lack of knowledge. Pavlo *threatened PERSON\_93 with rape.*

Afterward, “investigator” Pavlo said: “Now we will question you!”. Another Russian soldier came with a syringe and a needle, which contained a yellow liquid. *Pavlo” held PERSON\_93, while another soldier stuck a syringe into his right index finger and threatened to inject urine.*

After that, another Russian soldier of Chechen appearance entered the room. PERSON\_93 was asked questions about some “biolaboratories”. After the Russian soldier left, another **Russian soldier with the call sign “Granit”, whose name was Vyacheslav**, entered the room and continued to ask questions. At that time, **“Granit” was the so-called “commandant” in the village of Strilecha.**

Approximately 6–7 hours after the start of the “interrogation”, PERSON\_93 was taken back to the store premises. The next day, on June 3, 2022, at around 14:00, he was released and walked home.

On August 10, 2022, at about 12:00, PERSON\_93 was at his wife's parents' house when the head of the so-called **“People's Militia of the LPR” named Yana Ruban together with three Russian soldiers (one of whom was named Sasha, the other had the call sign “Chapa”)** arrived.

Yana Ruban said that PERSON\_93 would be called to the commandant's office to discuss his activities. The Russian military then took him in a car to the village of Strilecha.

When PERSON\_93 was taken out of their car near the same store premises where he was detained for the first time, he was approached on the street by a **Russian soldier with the call sign “Major” (height approximately 190 cm, dense build, up to 37 years old, was a deputy to**

**the Russian military with the call sign “Granit » No. 2).** The soldier with the call sign “Major” told PERSON\_93 that he should not be afraid of anyone.

After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_93 to the store premises. The conditions were the same as during his detention for the first time. On two occasions, **the Russian soldier with the call sign “Fizruk” put all the detainees in a row and beat the kidneys of every second person.** One of the Russian soldiers *threatened to rape the wife of PERSON\_93, saying he would not be able to do anything.* PERSON\_93 was released on September 4, 2022.

*Following the unlawful detention and torture, PERSON\_93’s health deteriorated significantly, and he was forced to consult a doctor and take medication.*

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_93, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>208</sup>

**Testimony No. 35 (testified by PERSON\_95)**  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine and occupied the village of Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region.

On September 2, 2022, at about 11:00, PERSON\_95 and her husband, PERSON\_96, were in the yard of her house in Liptsi. Two cars drove up to the yard, from which six Russian soldiers got out (according to PERSON\_95, **they were “LPR” soldiers**). Among those Russian soldiers was a **military woman named Yana, 24 years old, who led the so-called “service of LPR”.**

The Russian military *put the barrel of a machine gun to PERSON\_96’s stomach.* At that time, the Russian military ordered PERSON\_95 to go to the house and to collect documents. After PERSON\_95 took all the documents, the Russian military detained her and put her in one of their cars. One Russian soldier asked PERSON\_95 about her grandson, PERSON\_97, telling that she was lying about his work in the IT industry.

First, PERSON\_95 was brought to the premises of the fire department of the village of Lyptsi, where the Russian military brought all detainees. The Russian soldier questioned PERSON\_95 about her grandson there and ordered other Russian soldiers to take her to the village of Strilecha.

At the roadblock in the village of Hlyboke (located in the same Kharkiv district), PERSON\_95 was transferred to another car and taken to the village of Strilecha. She was brought to a local store located in the village of Strilecha. Near the store, **the “L/DPR” soldier with the call sign “Kum” (age over 35 years, thin build, 175 cm tall, gray eyes, straight oblong nose, light blond hair, short haircut, assistant to the commander with the call sign “Granite”)** approached her. He asked PERSON\_95 questions and checked her phone for call history. After the “interrogation”, “Kum” took PERSON\_95 to the semi-basement store warehouse.

*12 detainees were already held in the warehouse. All of them were male. Instead of sleeping places, there were wooden pallets. However, the wooden pallets did not have enough space for everyone in the room, so some people slept on the floor. The room was cold at night and hot during the day. Food was brought once a day (2 loaves of bread, a can with pearl barley and peas), and water was also given once a day. Instead of a toilet, there was one bucket for everyone to use right in the room. PERSON\_95 had to go to the toilet bucket*

<sup>208</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001095.



*in front of other men, which she found degrading and humiliating. Due to the stench from the bucket, as well as the fact that the windows of the room were blocked, it was difficult to breathe in the room. The room was lit with a candle-end. There was a torture chamber in the adjacent room. Above the premises, there was a room in which the Russian soldier with the call sign “Granit” resided.*

No medicine was given. PERSON\_95 felt sick on the very first day of her captivity. She asked other detainees to knock and call a doctor. The detainees were afraid of knocking for the fear of being beaten.

During PERSON\_95’s captivity, there were many episodes of shelling. On September 11, 2022, detainees noted that the Russian military were hastily collecting their belongings. In the night, a Russian soldier opened the door and let them out with the words: “Freedom”.

One of the men with whom PERSON\_95 was in the warehouse asked the Russian soldier with the call sign “Granit” about their documents, to which he received the answer that he did not have them. After that, the Russian military left in their cars.

All detainees who were kept on the premises went together to the room where the Russian soldier with the call sign “Granit” used to live, searching for their documents. However, they only found the pension certificate of a man from the village of Slobozhanske in the Kharkiv district, and the documents from the Lipetsk village council. Due to heavy shelling, PERSON\_95 and others waited until the morning of September 12, 2022 before they walked home.

Due to the time spent in the unlawful detention, *PERSON\_95’s health deteriorated significantly, and she was forced to visit doctors and take medication.*

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_95, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>209</sup>

On the initiative of the KHPG lawyer, PERSON\_95 underwent a psychological examination by a specialist on October 18, 2023.<sup>210</sup> The specialist concluded that the actions of the Russian military against PERSON\_95 — consisting of detention and the use of physical and psychological violence in the period from September 2, 2022, to September 11, 2022, resulted in polytrauma. The mental trauma was classified as hyper-extreme, causing suffering, moral harm, and distress, leaving PERSON\_95 unable to fully adapt to stressful situations and their consequences. In that state of mind, the individual’s will and consciousness of the individual were suppressed, leading to a prognosis of future PTSD. PERSON\_95 suffered from traumatic stress, the destructive power of which caused mental trauma of medium severity and signs of PTSD, which have long-lasting effects.

<p><b>Testimony No. 36</b> (testified by PERSON_98) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On February 24, 2022, when Russia began a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Russian army temporarily occupied the village of Liptsi in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region.

On June 10, 2022, at around 12:00, PERSON\_98 was in the center of the village Liptsi near the store “Elena” together with his acquaintance, PERSON\_99.

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<sup>209</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12023221340000226.

<sup>210</sup> The medical report of a specialist psychiatrist can be provided upon request.



At that moment, two Russian soldiers in dark green uniforms, armed with assault rifles, approached them and ordered them to stand still and not move. One of the soldiers requested others over the radio to join at the location.

In fifteen minutes, **the car “Renault Lodgy” (station wagon, light green color)** arrived. **Two Russian soldiers (probably Buryats)** got out of the car. One of the Russian soldiers approached PERSON\_99, and the other approached PERSON\_98.

*The Russian soldier put the barrel of a machine gun on PERSON\_98’s knee and asked who he was. PERSON\_98 introduced himself, to which the soldier repeated his question and added: “Why are you here?” The dialogue was repeated five times, and at all times, the barrel of the machine gun was pressed against PERSON\_98’s knee. After each answer, the Russian soldier shouted, “I’m going to shoot!”*

Then the Russian soldier asked PERSON\_98: “Can you help us?” PERSON\_98 refused, upon which the Russian soldier began *to shove him in the back with the barrel of a machine gun* so that he would go in the direction of the “Elena” store.

The Russian military brought PERSON\_98 to the school’s old gym, where he saw **three swamp-colored cars**. However, PERSON\_98 did not have time to observe the cars further as the Russian military quickly shoved him through the gym’s door.

At the entrance to the gym, a Russian soldier *tripped PERSON\_98, as a result of which PERSON\_98 fell and hit his head on the floor*. The Russian military began to ask PERSON\_98: “Why did you come here, and where are your troops located?” PERSON\_98 replied: “What are you talking about?”, after which *the Russian soldier began to kick PERSON\_98 on the torso*.

At that moment, another Russian soldier entered the gym, pointed the barrel of a machine gun at PERSON\_98, and ordered him not to move. *The Russian soldier kicked PERSON\_98 on various parts of his body for two to three minutes, after which he began to beat him on the head, sometimes on the stomach, and on the ribs. As a result of the brutal beating, PERSON\_98 lost consciousness, and regained consciousness already at home.*

According to the mother of PERSON\_98, PERSON\_100, at about 15:30, PERSON\_99 entered the yard of her house, leading PERSON\_98 by the arm. His body and clothes were covered with clay and sand because PERSON\_98 was lying on the floor of the gym building, which was covered with plaster from the walls.

*PERSON\_98 had five broken ribs on the left side of his body (one rib was displaced in two places), PERSON\_98 was bleeding on the left behind his ear, and there were three cuts. He also had nausea and dizziness, suggesting a traumatic brain injury. His face and torso on the left side were swollen from hematomas. During the beating, PERSON\_98 tried to cover the right side of the body (the area where the heart is located) because he had a diagnosis of “vegetovascular dystonia”. He was forced to undergo medical treatment for a long period of time because his state of health had greatly deteriorated.<sup>211</sup>*

**The Russian military man who beat PERSON\_98 looked about 30–40 years old. He had an athletic build, a curly beard and mustache, a very short haircut, black hair, medium-dark skin, a snub nose, dark eyes, and a deep voice. His height was about two meters. He was wearing a T-shirt, a black round watch, a modern machine gun, a pistol, and a full uniform.**

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_98, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>212</sup>

<sup>211</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

<sup>212</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221170000986.

**Testimony No. 37** (testified by PERSON\_101)  
Place of the event: t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, at the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian troops occupied the urban-type settlement Savyntsi located in the Izyum district of the Kharkiv region. Active hostilities took place in Savyntsi, which was subjected to constant shelling.

On May 28, 2022, at about 15:55, PERSON\_101 was at his neighbor's first-floor apartment in Savyntsi. When he looked out the window together with his neighbor, he saw **a Mercedes minibus (yellow Vito model). Next to it stood about fifteen men with beards in green military uniforms with identification markings of FSB employees. They spoke Russian.**

After that, PERSON\_101 headed to his apartment. At approximately 16:00, employees of the Russian FSB entered the building, *knocked on PERSON\_101's door, and shouted: "Open or we will break the door!"*

PERSON\_101 opened the door and saw 6–7 people in military uniform standing along the wall. One of the Russian FSB employees pointed a gun at PERSON\_101, asking if there was anyone else in the apartment, walked around the apartment, and left.

PERSON\_101 closed the door, and was ordered to keep his hands behind his back and to hand over the apartment keys, his passport, and mobile phone. When PERSON\_101 handed everything over, Russian FSB officers began to search his apartment.

Meanwhile, PERSON\_101 *was led to the minibus, and his hands were tied with a plastic zip tie.* After that, he was taken to the garage near the village council's premises in Savyntsi.

*In two hours, the Russian military came and cut the rope that tied PERSON\_101's hands. PERSON\_101 was kept in this garage for about a day.*

On May 29, 2022, at around 09:00, **an employee of the Russian FSB in a black uniform named Bohdan (a Kazakh man of slim build, 176–180 cm tall, with a thin mustache) entered the garage.**

*Bohdan tied the hands of PERSON\_101 with a rope and informed him that his neighbor, a Ukrainian soldier, had been taken prisoner. PERSON\_101 had a bag put on his head and was led to the exit. On the way, Bohdan punched PERSON\_101 in the face four times. He was put in the back of a black URAL truck and brought to the Balakliya district police station. Bohdan, threatening PERSON\_101 with violence, said: "We will see each other again", after which PERSON\_101 was taken to the cell.*

*There were seven people in a cell designed for two people. They had to take turns sleeping because there wasn't enough space for seven people. They were fed very poorly twice a day. The temperature in the cell was about forty degrees. When PERSON\_101 and other detainees were taken to the toilet, which was not in the cell, sacks or bags were put on their heads. They walked three or four men in a column, holding each other's shoulders. If any detainee looked away, they were beaten all over the body. PERSON\_101 saw **military personnel in uniform with insignia of the Russian Federation** in the window through which the food was served.*

On June 26, 2022 or June 27, 2022, at about 09:00, a person from the so-called **"LPR" military, who was called "Uncle Sasha"**, put a cap on PERSON\_101's head and led him to a so-called "interrogation".

PERSON\_101 was brought to the office, made to sit on a chair, and his hat was removed. To the right of PERSON\_101 sat **an employee of the Russian FSB in a green uniform, about two meters tall.** In front of PERSON\_101 stood **a Russian FSB employee (in appearance — non-Russian nationality, with a beard, strong, athletic build, height 167–170 cm, black hair, nose**

**with a hump).** Another Russian FSB employee was standing nearby, **a Russian man with a slender build, straight red hair, and a height of about 190 cm.** To the left of PERSON\_101 was an FSB employee named Bohdan, who said to PERSON\_101: “I told PERSON\_101 that we would meet again!”.

Bohdan started questioning PERSON\_101 and wanted to receive answers very quickly. *When PERSON\_101 answered slowly, Bohdan (athletic build, pumped up) beat him with a reinforced rubber stick on his knees, hands, and chest.*

*This “interrogation” and beating lasted for 1.5 hours. Another Russian soldier put a machine gun to PERSON\_101’s knee and asked where he served. PERSON\_101 replied that he was a tank driver, to which the Russian soldier told PERSON\_101 that he would now be put in an armored personnel carrier and sent to a checkpoint so that “yours will kill you”.*

The Russian military also asked PERSON\_101 about his sexual orientation. Bohdan said: “Now we will bring your wife, and you will be raped in front of her”. After the “interrogation” ended, PERSON\_101 was taken to the cell. *His whole body was swollen and sore from the blows that Bohdan inflicted on him.*

On June 28, 2022, PERSON\_101 was again summoned to the “interrogation”. PERSON\_101 thought he was being taken to be killed and said goodbye to everyone whom he shared the cell with. PERSON\_101 had a bag put on his head and taken to the office for “interrogation”.

When the bag removed from his head in the office, he saw a Russian **soldier in a green military uniform and balaclava**. The soldier held his passport in his hands and said that PERSON\_101 had “passed the test”. After that, PERSON\_101 was once again taken to the cell, where he retrieved his jacket. He was led out the gate and went home.

During PERSON\_101’s unlawful detention by the Russian military, in the garage near the premises of the village council of Savyntsi and Balakliya district police department, *he lost twelve kilograms of weight. The day after his release, PERSON\_101 was forced to see a doctor because of excruciating pains all over his body.*<sup>213</sup>

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, on behalf of PERSON\_101, filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>214</sup>

On the initiative of the KHPG lawyer, PERSON\_101 underwent a psychological examination by a specialist psychiatrist on October 10, 2023. The specialist psychiatrist concluded that the actions of the Russian military against PERSON\_101 — consisting of detention and the use of physical and psychological violence in the period from May 28, 2022, to June 28, 2022, resulted in polytrauma. The mental trauma was classified as hyper-extreme, causing suffering, moral harm, and distress, leaving PERSON\_101 unable to fully adapt to stressful situations and their consequences. In that state of mind, the individual’s will and consciousness were suppressed, leading to a prognosis of future PTSD. PERSON\_101 suffered from traumatic stress, the destructive power of which caused mental trauma of medium severity and signs of PTSD, which have long-lasting effects.

**Testimony No. 38** (testified by PERSON\_102)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, at the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian troops occupied the village of Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region. Active

<sup>213</sup> Medical documentation in the case can be provided upon request.

<sup>214</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000978.

military operations were taking place in the village, where the Russian military carried out so-called “filtering measures”.

PERSON\_102 was a civilian and had no affiliation with the UAF or Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

On August 12, 2022, around 18:00, PERSON\_102 was home with his mother and grandmother. At that time, **a dark purple “Niva” car drove to the house. Three armed men in military uniforms typical of the Russian military** got out of the car and told PERSON\_102 to take his passport and come with them. On the same day, at 06:00, the Russian military captured PERSON\_102’s father and took him to an unknown destination.

PERSON\_102 did not resist because the Russian military was armed. *He was put in the back seat of the car and ordered to lower his head. One of the Russian soldiers held PERSON\_102’s head with his hand.*

The journey took about 25 minutes, after which the car stopped. The Russian military took PERSON\_102 out of the car, *pulled a hood over his head, and wrapped his head with tape.* Then he was taken to a room on the second floor of an unknown building, put on a chair, *his hands were twisted back, and handcuffed.*

While PERSON\_102 was being led to this room, *the Russian military threatened to shoot him, throw him off the roof, or make him run through a minefield. During the so-called “interrogation”, PERSON\_102 was beaten with a rubber stick on the back of the head, knees, and kidneys, punched in the chest area, and beaten with an electric shocker on the wrists. During the beating, they asked why PERSON\_102 did not leave Ukraine and whether he would fight on their [Russian] side. The “interrogation” lasted about 1.5 hours.*

After that, PERSON\_102 was taken out into the street, and *they tried to remove the handcuffs, but it did not work for a long time, after which one of the soldiers said: “Let’s cut off his hand”.*

PERSON\_102 was taken to the dormitory’s basement (he recognized the area — it was the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv district), and they threw him into one of the rooms. *One of the Russian soldiers threatened PERSON\_102 that he would shoot him in the knee.*

*It was dark, cold, and damp in that room. PERSON\_102 was kept there for two days, and food was given once a day. Two days later, he was again taken to the “interrogation”, threatened with the massacre of his family, encouraged to fight on their side, and told that Ukraine would never exist again.*

After that, PERSON\_102 was taken to the premises of an old store and untied. At that time, approximately 20 people were held in the store. PERSON\_102 recognized several fellow villagers among detainees. *Food was brought in a common bucket once a day, and they were given 10 liters of water a day. Instead of a toilet, there was a bucket that was used by both men and women.* The Russian military took him to perform various forms of forced labor (e.g. unloading “humanitarian” aid, going to fetch water, cutting down trees, digging pits for dead local residents). *PERSON\_102 constantly heard the cries of detainees who were tortured, and they were often brought back, beaten and bruised.*

PERSON\_102 was “interrogated” about 8 times. The “interrogations” were conducted by different people. Each “interrogation” session *was accompanied by psychological and physical violence.*

On September 11, 2022, around midnight, the Russian military opened the door of the store and said: “You are free”. On the same day, PERSON\_102 returned home, and on September 13, 2022, the entire territory of the Kharkiv district was deoccupied.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_102, filed a crime report to the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>215</sup>

On the initiative of the KHPG lawyer, PERSON\_102 underwent a psychological examination by a specialist psychiatrist. The specialist psychiatrist concluded that the actions of the Russian military against PERSON\_102 — consisting of detention and the use of physical and psychological violence in the period from August 12, 2022, to September 11, 2022, resulted in polytrauma. The mental trauma was classified as hyper-extreme, causing suffering, moral harm, and distress, leaving PERSON\_102 unable to fully adapt to stressful situations and their consequences. In that state of mind, the individual's will and consciousness were suppressed, leading to a prognosis of future PTSD. PERSON\_102 suffered from traumatic stress, the destructive power of which caused mental trauma of medium severity and signs of PTSD, which have long-lasting effects.

**Testimony No. 39** (testified by PERSON\_103)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On February 24, 2022, at the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russian troops temporarily occupied the village of Vesele located in the Izyum district of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_103 was a civilian and had no affiliation with the UAF or Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

On April 22, 2022, at about 07:30, PERSON\_103 was at home in the village of Vesele. At that moment, a car drove up to the house, after which **three men in green military uniforms, balaclavas, and guns stormed into his apartment.** *One of the soldiers shouted to PERSON\_103: "On your knees, I will shoot your legs". PERSON\_103 knelt down, his hands were tied, and then they began to turn all the things in the apartment, took away documents and a phone.*

After that, the so-called "search", the Russian military took PERSON\_103 under the arm, put him in a gray "UAZ" car with the letter "V", and took him to an abandoned building.

PERSON\_103 was forced to kneel down there, and they began to ask what information he was passing on to the local resident, PERSON\_104. *Russian soldiers kicked PERSON\_103 in the chest and also beat him with their hands and with the butt of a machine gun. This lasted for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.*

*Next, the Russian military brought a bucket of water and lowered PERSON\_103's head into it, holding the head with their hands. Then, they began to torture him with electric current, connecting wires to his leg. The Russian military alternated drowning and electric shocks.*

*Then, the Russian military ordered PERSON\_103 to stand up, but PERSON\_103 could not. Two of them lifted PERSON\_103 by the arms, cut the tape on his hands with a knife, and removed the wire. One of them said: "So you're still a football player, well get this!". After this, there were blows with a bar on the left leg, as a result of which an open wound was formed and a scar remains to this day. During the torture, the Russian military threatened to bring PERSON\_103's wife and abuse her.*

*After that, PERSON\_103 was brought to the local service station, thrown into the basement, and locked up. It was dark there. He groped around, found a pallet and lay down on it. He saw on*

<sup>215</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001096.



*his watch that it was about 2:00 p.m. After 2 hours, the basement was opened, and they asked: "Alive?". He asked for a drink. PERSON\_103 could not sleep because of the pain.*

Around 11:00 the next day, PERSON\_103 was told: "Get out". He replied that he could not. Two soldiers pulled him out, put him in the same UAZ car, and drove him home.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, the KHPG lawyer, acting on behalf of PERSON\_103, filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>216</sup>

**Testimony No. 40** (testified by PERSON\_105)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_105 testifies that the Russian military held him in the village of Hoptivka in the Kharkiv region, from March 24, 2022, to April 4, 2022, and tortured him.

On March 24, 2022, around 15–20 armed Russian soldiers approached the house of PERSON\_105 in the village of Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district. *They surrounded the house of PERSON\_105, aimed machine guns at the house, and entered the yard, where PERSON\_105's wife and two daughters were present at that time.*

5 Russian soldiers entered the house, leading PERSON\_105 and threatening him with assault rifles. The Russian military searched PERSON\_105's house, looked for weapons, means of communication, and maps of the Kharkiv region, and said that PERSON\_105 was a fire adjuster officer. *The Russian military took away PERSON\_105's laptop, flash drives, discs, mobile phone, and all documents: PERSON\_105's driver's license, technical passport for his car, and bank cards.*

Then, the Russian military went to PERSON\_105's parents, who were also in the house. PERSON\_105's father, who was 82 years old, and PERSON\_105's mother were told they would be led to a so-called "interrogation", and therefore they had to put on warm jackets.

Next, the Russian military took PERSON\_105 out of the house and put him into a Tigr armored car. *They tied PERSON\_105's hands with a plastic zip tie, put a bag on his head and a balaclava on top, and wrapped them tightly with tape around his head.* The Russian military drove PERSON\_105 in an unknown direction. PERSON\_105 believes that he was probably taken to the "Dubrava" recreation center.

Then, PERSON\_105 was kept outside for 3 hours. After that, the Russian military started shouting "Glory to Ukraine", to which PERSON\_105 replied, "Glory to God". The Russian military asked PERSON\_105 if he did not know what to answer. To which PERSON\_105 said that the Russian military "taught him". After that, *the Russian soldier hit PERSON\_105 in the kidneys.*

The Russian military took PERSON\_105 inside the building and kept him there for about an hour. Then, they transferred PERSON\_105 to another car, where there was **Russian military personnel, as PERSON\_105 understood from their conversation, of "Caucasian" ethnicity**, and took him in an unknown direction. PERSON\_105 was driven for about 1.5 hours.

When they arrived, the Russian military unloaded PERSON\_105 from the truck, led him along the road, then lowered PERSON\_105 down to the basement, took him to a room with 3–4 Russian soldiers were, and put him in a chair.

The Russian military began to "interrogate" PERSON\_105. He was asked how to adjust fire and who his friends were. During the "interrogation", *the Russian military inflicted blows on*

<sup>216</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221170000986.



*PERSON\_105 with rubber sticks, kicked, beat him on the arms, legs, and torso, and punched him very hard in the forehead.*

*The “interrogation” lasted about an hour. Next, the Russian military began to beat PERSON\_105 with a stun gun. They also put wires on PERSON\_105’s little finger and administered electric shocks. After that, the Russian military put clamps on PERSON\_105’s ears and applied electricity. PERSON\_105 testifies that he felt unbearable pain. In general, the Russian military electroshocked PERSON\_105 twice — once through his little fingers and once through his ears. At that time, they tried to find out from him information about whether there were UAF soldiers in his family.*

After the “interrogation”, the Russian military took PERSON\_105 to another room and left him there.

*In this room, the bag was removed from PERSON\_105’s head. The light in this room was not turned off. There were about 10 people in the room measuring about 4 meters by 5 meters, and three of them were badly beaten. One of the men in this room was so badly beaten that he could only sit and could not lie down. One of the detainees had broken ribs and a broken arm.*

*It was very stuffy in the room. New detainees began to be added to the premises — there were about 20 people in total. Detainees were practically not fed. PERSON\_105 testified that he ate only a crust of bread and drank a cup of water. There was one plate for everyone and very little food. All the detainees were coughing badly and had a cold because they were sleeping on the floor.*

A day after the “interrogation”, PERSON\_105 was once again taken to the “interrogation”. During the second interrogation, PERSON\_105 was blindfolded. He was also shown photos of people, who were unknown to him, and told that he was hiding information about some people. After the “interrogation”, PERSON\_105 was carried out.

*Then, the detainees were brought to a pile of sand (about 5 KAMAZ trucks in volume). The Russian soldiers forced the detainees to perform hard physical labour. In particular, they covered the windows of the building with sandbags. Each bag weighed about 20 kg, and the detainees were forced to manually pour sand into the bags and cover the windows. They were taken to a roadblock of the Russian army so that they would cover the windows with sandbags there as well. The Russian military also forced detainees to unload food and bottled drinking water at warehouses.*

The detainees were guarded by armed soldiers of the so-called “L/DPR.” They introduced themselves as the **“people’s militia of Luhansk and Donetsk”**. They were in green uniforms and wore **St. George’s ribbons — some had one ribbon, others several.**

On April 4, 2022, a “senior” member of the Russian military came with a list. The detainees were searched and checked, and those who were from the villages Strilecha, Kozacha Lopan, Ruska Lozova, and Cherkasska Lozova were called upon and told to walk home.

PERSON\_105 and other detainees were put in a car. Bags were put on their heads and taken to the village Liptsi, where they were released. PERSON\_105 testifies that they were transported by the Russian military of “Caucasian” ethnicity, which he understood from their conversation.

While PERSON\_105 was not at home, the Russian military searched his house twice.

PERSON\_105 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>217</sup>

<sup>217</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001092.

**Testimony No. 41** (testified by PERSON\_106)**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 10, 2022, around 13:00, PERSON\_106, his common-law partner PERSON\_107,<sup>218</sup> and PERSON\_108 were going to the dacha. At a roadblock of the Russian military in the village of Lyptsi in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time, the Russian military detained PERSON\_106, PERSON\_107, and PERSON\_108.

The Russian military took away documents from PERSON\_106, PERSON\_107, and PERSON\_108 and *ordered them to strip down to their underwear*. Next, the Russian military blindfolded the victims so that they could not see anything and tied their hands. Afterward, they put the captured civilians into an armored personnel carrier and drove them in an unknown direction.

When the Russian military brought PERSON\_106 in, they started the so-called “interrogation”. They asked questions about people in military service, while *beating them with the butt of a machine gun*. During this “interrogation”, *the Russian military took off PERSON\_106’s trousers and began to threaten him (they set a dog on PERSON\_106 and gave it the command: “Fas! Bite!”)*.

*After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_106 to the street to carry out a mock execution by shooting.*

PERSON\_106 testifies that the main Russian soldier who held him captive and tortured him was **a Russian soldier with the call sign “Sarmat”**. **He was the one who ordered other Russian soldiers to commit unlawful actions against PERSON\_106.**

Then, the Russian military took PERSON\_106 to the basement. Six days later, the Russian military again took PERSON\_106 for the “interrogation” conducted by three Russian soldiers: **a Russian soldier with the call sign “Sarmat” and two Russian soldiers who looked like Buryats**. After the “interrogation”, PERSON\_106 was again put into the basement.

On May 22, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_106.

On August 18, 2022, the Russian military once again captured PERSON\_106 in the village of Liptsi when PERSON\_106 was at home. At that time, the Russian military took PERSON\_106 to the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv region.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_106 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>219</sup>

**Testimony No. 42** (testified by PERSON\_107)**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On May 12, 2022, at around 13:00, PERSON\_107, together with her common-law partner, PERSON\_106,<sup>220</sup> and acquaintance of PERSON\_108, were in the village of Lyptsi in the Kharkiv district of the Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time. At that time, PERSON\_107, PERSON\_106, and PERSON\_108 were walking from their house towards the “Polytechnic” garden society to look after the house of PERSON\_107’s old acquaintances who had left.

As they were walking, PERSON\_107 heard gunshots in the air and got scared, so she ran forward. Ahead, there was a Russian military roadblock (in the past, PERSON\_106, PERSON\_107,

<sup>218</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_107 is presented in Testimony No. 42.

<sup>219</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001222.

<sup>220</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_106 is presented in Testimony No. 41.

and PERSON\_108 used the same road once a week to look after the house, and there was no checkpoint).

Three armed Russian soldiers in dark green uniforms came out at the checkpoint. They ordered everyone to present documents and asked what they were doing there and where they were going. PERSON\_107, PERSON\_106, and PERSON\_108 answered that they were going to look after the house of their friends who had left and gave the exact address. The Russian military did not believe the victims and said that they were there to ascertain the positions of the Russian military.

After that, one of the Russian soldiers said on the radio that they had detained three people. PERSON\_107, PERSON\_106, and PERSON\_108 had their documents taken away and were ordered to wait.

About 15 minutes later, a dark green BMP arrived at the checkpoint, and 5–6 Russian soldiers in dark green uniforms and weapons got out of it. The Russian military pointed their weapons at PERSON\_107, PERSON\_106, and PERSON\_108 and ordered them not to move (**the Russian military spoke in pure Russian**).

The Russian military ordered PERSON\_107 to sit, and the men (PERSON\_106 and PERSON\_108) *were ordered to stand up and strip down to their underwear (they were looking for tattoos). After that, the men were blindfolded with clothes and taken to an armored personnel carrier. Next, the Russian military blindfolded PERSON\_107 and also took her to the armored personnel carrier.* PERSON\_107 testifies that the military man who took her to the armored personnel carrier, **was under 30 years old, of medium build, approximately 1.70 meters tall.**

They drove for about 5 minutes. As soon as the victims were dropped off, they were immediately taken to the basement. At that time, PERSON\_107's neighbors, namely PERSON\_109, PERSON\_110, and their minor son, PERSON\_111, had already been held in the basement. *They untied PERSON\_107's eyes. PERSON\_107 heard the screams of PERSON\_106 and PERSON\_108 and also heard shots.*

After about 20 minutes, the basement door was opened, and PERSON\_107 was told to come out. PERSON\_107 came out and was told to sit on the couch (it was the building's first floor). A Russian soldier was sitting in a chair; next to him was a machine gun, and he had a notebook in his hands. **The Russian soldier with a notebook was of medium height, medium build, black hair, brown eyes, 30 years old in appearance, oval face, wide black eyebrows, and spoke pure Russian.**

Other Russian soldiers were also there in the room. One of the Russian soldiers stood behind PERSON\_107, another to her right, and the last one next to the one sitting in the chair. *The soldier standing behind PERSON\_107 put a machine gun close to her back; the others simply pointed automatic machines at PERSON\_107.* All three Russian soldiers were wearing balaclavas.

PERSON\_107 believes that the Russian soldier who "interrogated" her, was **an employee of the Russian FSB**. He asked how many children PERSON\_107 had, their dates of birth, and what they did at the dacha. He wrote down the answers.

Then, the Russian soldier got a list of PERSON\_107's fellow villagers, began to read it, and asked about everyone, especially those who were serving or who fought in the ATO.

Later, he told the Russian soldier who was standing behind PERSON\_107 that he knew what to do with PERSON\_107, after which this Russian soldier *blindfolded PERSON\_107, ordered her to put her hands on her legs, and also ordered her not to make any unnecessary movements because she would be shot.*

*The Russian military put the muzzle of a machine gun to the inner side of PERSON\_107's thigh and began to apply pressure. After each "wrong answer", or in cases where PERSON\_107*

*thought about the answer, they began to press harder and raise the muzzle higher and higher on the thigh. As a result, the Russian military raised the machine gun up to PERSON\_107's groin and pressed very hard.*

*Next, the Russian military began to threaten PERSON\_107 with pouring mounting foam into her anus.*

*During the "interrogation", PERSON\_107 heard the screams of PERSON\_106 and PERSON\_108. PERSON\_107 also heard a shot, after which a Russian soldier entered the room and said: "Minus one leg".*

At the end of the "interrogation", the Russian soldier who was in charge said that they "would have come to get PERSON\_107 and PERSON\_106 anyway". PERSON\_107 believes that this is due to the fact that her husband's brother is in military service and fought in the ATO.

This "interrogation" lasted approximately 30 minutes, after which PERSON\_107 was taken to the basement. She was kept there for two days. *Food was given twice a day in a common bucket. Every morning, the detainees were allowed to go to the toilet. There was also a bucket in the basement, which both men and women used to go to the toilet in the same room. It was very cold and damp in the basement. The detainees' clothes were not suitable for the cold temperature in the room.*

On May 15, 2022, around 7:00, they opened the basement and said that PERSON\_109, PERSON\_110 and PERSON\_111 could leave. PERSON\_109 asked about PERSON\_107, to which she got a reply that PERSON\_107 could also leave.

When the detainees came out of the basement, *they were blindfolded, while two Russian soldiers took them somewhere (PERSON\_107 thought that they would be shot).* Instead, they were led to a dam, told to walk 100 meters and not look back before were allowed to untie their eyes. The victims did as they were told, after which they went home.

PERSON\_107 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>221</sup>

<p><b>Testimony No. 43</b> (testified by PERSON_112) <b>Place of event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On May 13, 2022, PERSON\_112 was at home in Balakliya located in the Izyum district, Kharkiv region, which was temporarily occupied at that time, where he and his girlfriend PERSON\_113 were talking in the garden.

Suddenly, a motor vehicle with a machine gun drove up to the house. The Russian military asked for PERSON\_112's last name. After PERSON\_112 answered, approximately 8 Russian soldiers stormed into the yard. The Russian military immediately took out PERSON\_112, *knocked him to the ground, put a bag on his head, and said that PERSON\_112 would go with them.* As PERSON\_113 later testified, the Russian military searched their house, looking for weapons, body armor, and other items that could confirm that PERSON\_112 was a fire adjuster.

The Russian military did not find anything and took PERSON\_112 in an unknown direction. PERSON\_112 was taken away with a bag on his head, but he guessed that he was brought to the premises of the Balakliya district police department.

Before entering the premises of the police department, the Russian military searched PERSON\_112, after which he was taken to cell No. 4. Before entering the cell, the bag was re-

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<sup>221</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000001302.

moved from PERSON\_112's head. PERSON\_114 and PERSON\_115 had already been held in the cell. PERSON\_112 testifies that PERSON\_114 *did not want to cooperate with the Russian military, and therefore, he was badly beaten, after which he was very sick. Despite the doctor's visit and being sent home, he died.*

On May 14, 2022, PERSON\_115 was released. On May 15, 2022, PERSON\_116 was brought to the cell, who told PERSON\_112 the story of his capture.

On May 16, 2022, closer to noon, the Russian military took PERSON\_112 for a so-called "interrogation". ***The guard, who was called "Uncle Sasha" from Luhansk,*** opened the cell door. "Uncle Sasha" put a bag on PERSON\_112's head but did not tie his hands. He took PERSON\_112 to an office on the same floor (there were no steps on the way there).

There were three Russian soldiers in the office: ***(1) a Russian soldier, who was called "Rambo", although his real call sign was "Tyson"*** (he was not of Slavic appearance, tall, athletic build, broad-shouldered, was wearing a balaclava, a characteristic feature was that his cheekbones stood out strongly and were not covered by a balaclava, he wore large black glasses, there were no scars or tattoos on the visible parts of his face); ***(2) a Russian soldier with the call sign "Surik"*** (Slavic appearance, short height, approximately 1.70 meters, strong build, although he was plump, he was wearing a balaclava, blue eyes, there were no scars or tattoos on the visible parts of his face, his speech was clear and distinct); ***(3) another Russian soldier (Slavic appearance, tall, slim build, wearing a balaclava, blue eyes, nose with a hump, there were no scars or tattoos on visible parts of the face, speech was clear and distinct).***

A Russian soldier called "Rambo" stood beside PERSON\_112. A Russian soldier with the call sign "Surik" was sitting at the table.

Another Russian soldier sat by the window and almost did not take part in the "interrogation".

The Russian military put PERSON\_112 on a chair, removed the bag from him, then picked him up, *stripped him to his underwear, and examined him for tattoos and scars.* Afterward, PERSON\_112 was asked if he knew what he was detained for, to which PERSON\_112 answered in the negative.

After PERSON\_112's answer, "Surik" turned to "Rambo" and ordered him to demonstrate something. *"Rambo" took out a rubber stick and showed it to PERSON\_112. At that moment, "Surik" ordered "Rambo" to strike PERSON\_112 in the buttocks, which Rambo did. PERSON\_112 felt severe pain.* After that, the Russian military told PERSON\_112 to get dressed quickly and sit down.

PERSON\_112 was again offered to disclose information he had in his possession, particularly whom PERSON\_112 called and with whom he spoke. PERSON\_112 said that he did not know anything. The Russian soldier, sitting by the window, told PERSON\_112 not to lie because they had already "interrogated" "yours" (meaning his "accomplices"), but they did not disclose their names. Later, PERSON\_112 found out that they meant PERSON\_12 (stepfather of PERSON\_112) and PERSON\_117 (uncle of PERSON\_112), who were also detained by the Russian military at the same time as PERSON\_112.

PERSON\_112 began to say that he was calling the person about honey. However, "Surik" did not like this answer, and told "Rambo" to start. *"Rambo" immediately began hitting PERSON\_112 with a rubber stick, first hitting the legs and gradually climbing higher. "Rambo" struck with considerable force. When "Rambo" struck PERSON\_112 in the stomach, he bent over in pain, but "Rambo" continued to strike PERSON\_112's head and back. When "Rambo" reached the bottom of his back, he began to strike in the opposite direction. He stopped at the head.*

When "Rambo" stopped throwing punches, PERSON\_112 was again asked if he remembered the information regarding the phone call, to which PERSON\_112 replied in the negative. "Surik" ordered PERSON\_112 to be led back to the cell. At the same time, the Russian military ordered



*PERSON\_112 to eavesdrop on others in the cell and then pass on the information to them. The Russian military put a bag on PERSON\_112's head and took him to the cell.*

On May 18, 2022, the Russian military again brought PERSON\_112 for the "interrogation" in the same office as the first time. Here, the same Russian soldiers as the first time were present. One more Russian soldier was also present who conducted the "interrogation". PERSON\_112 remembers this specific Russian soldier because he was not wearing a balaclava. He was described as a man **of non-Slavic appearance, short height (about 1.65 meters), black hair, a black beard, dark eyes, a short build, no distinctive facial features, and spoke with a Caucasian accent.** PERSON\_112 testifies that it was probably a **Russian soldier with the call sign "Irbis"**.

When PERSON\_112 was taken to the office, he was placed on a chair. Without asking any questions, "Surik" told "Rambo" to remind him why everyone had gathered. After that, *"Rambo" began to strike PERSON\_112 in the same manner as the last time (moving up from the feet).*

"Irbis" then asked if PERSON\_112 remembered anything, to which PERSON\_112 replied in the negative. At that moment, "Surik" left the table, *grabbed a rubber stick from "Rambo", and started hitting PERSON\_112 on the head. He said that he would beat PERSON\_112 like this for an hour. PERSON\_112 started shouting about why they were beating him and told the Russian military to ask him a normal, specific question.*

After those words, "Surik" gave the stick to "Rambo" and picked up a stun gun. *At that moment, "Rambo" began hitting PERSON\_112 with a rubber stick on his legs, while "Surik" hit him with a stun gun in the chest. In the end, the Russian military hit PERSON\_112 with a stun gun in the genital area, causing PERSON\_112 to throw up. After that, the torture of PERSON\_112 stopped.*

The Russian soldier, who was sitting by the window, asked why PERSON\_112 was allegedly taking photos of the downed Russian plane, to which PERSON\_112 replied that he did not do that. The Russian soldier showed him a photo on his phone, to which PERSON\_112 said that it was auto-downloaded from the Telegram application.

"Irbis" began asking questions about why PERSON\_112 and PERSON\_12 allegedly helped soldiers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. PERSON\_112 replied that he did not do that; and that he did not know anything about it.

After that, "Rambo" again beat PERSON\_112 with a rubber stick, but the blows were fewer. However, as a result of the beating, PERSON\_112 had an open cut on his left leg, which "Rambo" kept striking again.

After that, they took him to the cell and told him again to remember who he had called.

PERSON\_112 remembers many persons who were detained with him.

*On May 23, 2022, PERSON\_112 had a bag put over his head and was taken out of the cell. PERSON\_112 thought he was once again being taken for the "interrogation" but realized that he could not endure any more of it. So, he said goodbye to everyone in the cell. When PERSON\_112 was taken out, the Russian military told that they were letting him go home, and returned his phone and passport. PERSON\_112 was taken out into the yard and put into a "Niva" car. The bag was removed from his head, and he was taken to the house where PERSON\_12 lived. The Russian military took away PERSON\_12's Renault Megan car and drove away.*

PERSON\_112 also testifies that "Surik" was wounded as a result of shelling. During the shelling, he was wearing a balaclava, which, due to the heat, stuck to his face and was removed along with the skin in the hospital. He was left with a significant burn on the right side of his neck.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_112 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>222</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221080000526.



**Testimony No. 44** (testified by PERSON\_12)**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 2, 2022, the Russian army temporarily occupied Balakliya located in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region. PERSON\_12 and his brother, PERSON\_117,<sup>223</sup> shared a house, which has two separate entrances.

On May 13, 2022, at approximately 19:00, an armored personnel carrier with the identification marks of the Russian Federation and the Russian flag drove up to the house of PERSON\_12. Eleven armed men in military uniform got out of this armored personnel carrier, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles in their hands, some Russian soldiers had tactical shields in their hands, each had balaclavas, and tactical helmets on their heads.

The Russian military was divided into groups. Six soldiers entered the house of PERSON\_12 but did not introduce themselves. The Russian military immediately put PERSON\_12 face down on the floor. One of the “seniors” in the Russian military said that there were three weapons in this house. The Russian military saw the safe and asked PERSON\_12 about the keys. PERSON\_12 gave them the keys. The Russian military took three rifles from PERSON\_12.

After that, the Russian military seized PERSON\_12 and his brother, PERSON\_117, put bags on their heads, put them in an armored personnel carrier, and drove them around the city for about 30–40 minutes, after which they took them to some building where they took the bags off their heads. PERSON\_12 saw that he was standing in front of a prison cell, but at that moment, PERSON\_12 did not understand where exactly he was brought.

Next, an unknown man in a military uniform wrote down the profile data of PERSON\_12 and PERSON\_117. Then the brothers were separated and taken to different prison cells. As PERSON\_12 later found out, **the name of a soldier in the uniform was Oleksandr**.

Only men were held in the cell where PERSON\_12 was detained. PERSON\_12 did not remember all the detainees who were held in this cell. However, he remembered a few, namely, PERSON\_11 and PERSON\_56 (who were residents of the town of Balakliya), PERSON\_101 and PERSON\_118 (who were residents of the village of Savyntsi in the Balakliya District), and PERSON\_119 (from the town of Kramatorsk in the Donetsk region).

For the next three days, no one touched PERSON\_12; he was simply detained in a cell. Then, PERSON\_12 learned that he was being held on the premises of the Balakliya district police department.

On May 17, 2022, at around noon, **the Russian soldier named Oleksandr entered the cell (detainees called him “Uncle Sasha”, and he was from Luhansk)**. “Uncle Sasha” put a bag on PERSON\_12’s head and led him to an office in the same building.

PERSON\_12 was placed on a chair in the office, and the bag was removed from his head. PERSON\_12 saw two men in military uniform sitting in front of him. One of the Russian soldiers wore an all-black uniform, and the other was in a beige uniform (PERSON\_12 later learned that the Russian soldier had the call sign “Surik”). To the right of PERSON\_12 stood a man in a black uniform (PERSON\_12 later learned that the Russian soldier had the call sign “Tyson”). All three Russian soldiers were wearing balaclavas at all times.

PERSON\_12 testifies that the **Russian soldier with the call sign “Surik”** was round-faced, blue eyes, a stocky build, was approximately 165 cm tall, and spoke with a characteristic Russian accent. PERSON\_12 also testifies that in June, as a result of shelling, “Surik” received a burn on the right side of his neck.

<sup>223</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_117 is presented in Testimony No. 45

PERSON\_12 testifies that **the Russian soldier with the call sign “Tyson”** always wore sunglasses in addition to a balaclava. PERSON\_12 drew attention to his characteristic protruding cheekbones. “Tyson” was of a thin, athletic build and was about 190 cm tall.

All three Russian soldiers offered PERSON\_12 the possibility to cooperate with them. Given that PERSON\_12 enjoyed authority among locals, they offered him to walk around the city with the Russian flag the next day. PERSON\_12 refused. After that, “Uncle Sasha” took him to the cell.

On May 22, 2022, around noon, “Uncle Sasha” again brought PERSON\_12 in for the “interrogation” at the same office. There, PERSON\_12 saw “Surik”, “Tyson” and the third Russian soldier as the last time. *The Russian military had rubber batons in their hands, which they immediately used to beat PERSON\_12. Russian soldiers beat PERSON\_12 on the torso, head, and hands for about three minutes. The Russian military broke PERSON\_12’s ribs on the left side, inflicted a hematoma on both eyes, there was a cut near the left eye, and there were bruises all over the body. PERSON\_12 began to suffocate.*

*After the beating, the Russian military threw PERSON\_12 out of the gates of the Balakliya VP on the ground. “Surik” told PERSON\_12 that he should return tomorrow if he survives. PERSON\_12 washed himself with water from a puddle and went home.*

The next day, PERSON\_12 again came to the premises of the Balakliya VP, where the Russian military placed PERSON\_12 in the same cell.

On May 24, 2022, around 14:00, PERSON\_12 was again brought to the office for the “interrogation”. When the bag was removed from PERSON\_12, he saw that his brother PERSON\_117 was also held in the office with a bag over his head. The Russian military subjected brothers to a so-called “cross-examination”, after which they released PERSON\_117, while *PERSON\_12 had all the fingers broken on both hands, except for the big ones*, after which he was taken to the cell.

A few days later, PERSON\_12 was once again brought in for the “interrogation”. The same Russian soldiers were present there as on previous occasions. “Surik” asked PERSON\_12 if he knew anyone from the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The Russian military told PERSON\_12 that it looked like he was helping the Ukrainian Armed Forces. PERSON\_12 answered that he did not know anyone and did not help anyone.

After that, “Surik” told “Tyson” that he was fed up with PERSON\_12, and therefore ordered “Tyson” and the third Russian soldier to give PERSON\_12 a “surprise”. The Russian military put a bag on PERSON\_12’s head, put him in a “Niva” car, and drove to the forest, where *they hit PERSON\_12 on the head with the butt of a machine gun, made him kneel and removed the bag from his head. PERSON\_12 saw that he was standing near a pit in the forest, in which lay two corpses of unknown men. The Russian military fired several shots from a submachine gun near PERSON\_12’s head*, after which PERSON\_12 was picked up and taken back to the cell on the premises of the Balakliya VP.

On June 23, 2022, around noon, PERSON\_12 was again taken for the so-called “interrogation”. “Surik” asked PERSON\_12 about the weapons that PERSON\_12 had. “Surik” did not believe PERSON\_12’s answers, so they put a bag on PERSON\_12, took him outside, put him in a “Niva” car, got into another car (a yellow “Nissan Juke”), and drove off into the forest again.

*In the forest, the Russian military again carried out a mock execution of PERSON\_12. They put PERSON\_12 on his knees and fired shots near his head.*

Then, the Russian military loaded PERSON\_12 into the car again and drove to the building of the Balakliya VP. When the car approached the building of the VP, the Russian military removed the bag from PERSON\_12’s head, and he saw his laptop and phones (both his and his wife’s), on the seat next to him. The Russian military told PERSON\_12 that they would now take PERSON\_12 to his house, and if he gave them the carabine, which the Russian military did not take away

during the first so-called “search”, then they would leave him and return his personal belongings. PERSON\_12 agreed.

PERSON\_12 also testifies that during his detention in the cell on the premises of the Balakliya VP, a Russian soldier without a balaclava on his head, of Asian appearance, similar to a Kazakh, stocky build, about 165 cm tall, entered his cell. PERSON\_12 later found out that this Russian soldier’s name was **Bohdan and his call sign was “Irbis”**.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_12 filed a crime report with the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>224</sup>

**Testimony No. 45** (testified by PERSON\_117)

**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

On March 2, 2022, the town of Balakliya located in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region was temporarily occupied by the Russian army.

PERSON\_117 and his brother PERSON\_12<sup>225</sup> share a house, which has two separate entrances.

On May 13, 2022, at approximately 19:00, an armored personnel carrier with the identification marks of the Russian Federation and the Russian flag drove up to the house of PERSON\_117. Eleven armed men in military uniform got out of the armored personnel carrier, armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles. Some Russian soldiers had tactical shields in their hands, each had balaclavas and tactical helmets on their heads.

The Russian military was divided into groups. 5 Russian soldiers entered the house of PERSON\_117 but did not introduce themselves. The Russian military immediately put PERSON\_117 face down on the floor and began to search the entire house. The Russian military took away his rifle. PERSON\_117 testifies that it was clear from the behavior of the Russian military that they knew where PERSON\_117’s safe was located and what exactly was in it.

After that, the Russian military seized PERSON\_117 and his brother, PERSON\_12, put bags on both their heads, put them in an armored personnel carrier, and drove them around the city for about 30–40 minutes, after which they took them to some building and took the bags off their heads. PERSON\_117 saw that he was standing in front of a prison cell, but at that moment, PERSON\_117 did not understand where exactly he was brought.

Afterward, an unknown man in a military uniform wrote down the profile data of PERSON\_117 and PERSON\_12. Then, the brothers were separated and taken to different prison cells. As PERSON\_117 later found out, the **name of the man in military uniform was Oleksandr**.

Six detainees were held in the cell where PERSON\_117 was placed. PERSON\_117 did not remember all the detainees in the cell, but he remembered some of them.

For the next three days, no one touched PERSON\_117; he was simply held in a cell. Then, PERSON\_117 found out that he was being held on the premises of the Balakliya district police department.

On May 17, 2022, at around 14:00 p.m., the Russian soldier named Oleksandr entered the cell (the detainees called him **“Uncle Sasha”, he was from Luhansk**). “Uncle Sasha” put a bag on PERSON\_117’s head and led him to an office in the same building.

In the office, PERSON\_117 was placed on a chair. After about 10 minutes, the bag was removed from his head. PERSON\_117 saw that two men in military uniform were sitting in front of him.

<sup>224</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221080000498.

<sup>225</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_12 is presented in Testimony No. 44.

One of the Russian soldiers wore an all-black uniform, while the other was in a beige uniform (PERSON\_117 later learned that the second Russian soldier had the call sign “**Surik**”). To the left of PERSON\_117 stood a man in a black uniform (PERSON\_117 later learned that this Russian soldier had the call sign “**Tyson**”). All three Russian soldiers were wearing balaclavas all the time.

PERSON\_117 testifies that the Russian soldier with the call sign “Surik” had a round face and blue eyes.

PERSON\_117 testifies that ***the Russian soldier with the call sign “Tyson” regularly wore sunglasses in addition to a balaclava. He has characteristic and protruding cheekbones.***

The three Russian soldiers offered PERSON\_117 the chance to cooperate with them. In particular, they offered him the opportunity to shout “Glory to Russia” during a video recording. PERSON\_117 refused. After that, “Tyson” immediately *hit PERSON\_117 with a rubber club on his forearms and legs. After that, the Russian military told PERSON\_117 that it was only their “first acquaintance”, after which “Uncle Sasha” entered the office, put a bag on PERSON\_117’s head, and took him to the cell.*

For several days, no one touched PERSON\_117 again; he was simply held in a cell.

After two or three days, “Uncle Sasha” again put a bag on PERSON\_117’s head, led him to a so-called “interrogation” in the office, placed him on a chair, removed the bag from his head, and left. PERSON\_117 saw the same three Russian soldiers were present as last time.

“Surik” ordered PERSON\_117 to stand up, which PERSON\_117 did. *Afterward, “Surik” ordered PERSON\_117 to lower his trousers, which PERSON\_117 did. Next, “Surik” ordered “Tyson” to beat PERSON\_117, after which Tyson began to hit PERSON\_117 with a rubber club, delivering numerous blows to the buttocks, on the back of the legs, and also on the back of the head once. PERSON\_117 felt dizzy, but he did not lose consciousness.* After that, “Uncle Sasha” took PERSON\_117 back to the cell.

On May 24, 2022, “Uncle Sasha” again led PERSON\_117 for the “interrogation”, where “Surik” told PERSON\_117 that if the Russian military did not find anything in PERSON\_117’s phone, he would be sent home. For about 10 minutes, “Surik” examined PERSON\_117’s phone but did not find any compromising information. After that, the Russian military took PERSON\_117 to his cell. “Uncle Sasha” returned PERSON\_117 his things from the cell and took him outside, after which PERSON\_117 went home.

PERSON\_117 testifies that his brother, PERSON\_12, was released on June 23, 2022.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_117 filed a crime report with the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>226</sup>

**Testimony No. 46** (testified by PERSON\_120)  
**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_120 resided in Mali Prohody located in the Kharkiv District in the Kharkiv Region. On March 2, 2022, Russian troops temporarily occupied the village.

The Russian military came to PERSON\_120 twice to conduct a so-called “search” — the first time in March 2022 and the second time in April 2022. The first time, they searched for “Banderoovites”, but they did not find anyone. The second time, 15–20 Russian soldiers surrounded PERSON\_120’s building and his apartment, turned everything upside-down in the house, looked for weapons, but there were none, and took PERSON\_120’s phone.

<sup>226</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12022221080000505.

*The third time, the Russian military came to PERSON\_120 and told him to work for them, or they would shoot him. Fearing for his life, PERSON\_120 agreed. The Russian military summoned PERSON\_120 for forced physical labor (for example, unloading a “humanitarian aid” car for the Russian army). If PERSON\_120 did not communicate because he was busy with his own things, the Russian military looked for him. They shot into the air near his house, shot at the shed near his house, constantly monitored him, and threatened to kill or maim him if PERSON\_120 did not follow their orders.*

*On one occasion, when PERSON\_120 came to meet the Russian military, they put him against the wall and shot him over his head. Also, the Russian military came to PERSON\_120 in a state of alcohol-induced intoxication.*

Some local residents began to cooperate with the occupation authorities and engaged in looting. When PERSON\_120 tried to stop them, they threatened PERSON\_120 and handed him over to the occupation authorities.

On the evening of August 17, 2022, three Russian soldiers purposefully came to PERSON\_120’s home, namely, a Russian soldier **with the call sign “Yurga”** (male, approximately 30 years old, braces on his teeth, about 170 cm tall, thin build) and a so-called **military woman from “LPR” with the call sign “Bielka”** (female, red hair, thin build, about 170 cm tall, had a tattoo on her neck). The Russian soldiers were armed. They broke into PERSON\_120’s apartment and began to search it, looking for weapons and food supplies. PERSON\_120’s neighbors who evacuated from the area gave PERSON\_120 the keys to their apartments, and therefore, the Russian military took those apartment keys and also searched other homes. As a result, *the Russian military completely ransacked PERSON\_120’s apartment and the apartments of two neighbors.*

After that, the Russian military beat PERSON\_120, *put a bag on his head, and hit PERSON\_120 on the head with a rifle butt, causing PERSON\_120 to lose consciousness. As a result of the beating, PERSON\_120 received a closed craniocerebral injury and a concussion, which was established by the conclusion of the forensic medical examination.<sup>227</sup> Due to the injury, PERSON\_120 suffered from constant headache and dizziness.*

PERSON\_120 regained consciousness in the car, while he was being driven in an unknown direction. PERSON\_120 was handcuffed. He was brought to the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv district. PERSON\_120 was brought there at night and immediately thrown into the basement.

*PERSON\_120 was kept in a dark and damp basement for three days. Approximately 40 detainees were kept in this basement along with PERSON\_120. The Russian military fed the detainees badly — they gave soaked sauerkraut and sometimes two loaves of bread for 20 people. Instead of a toilet, all detainees used a single common bucket in front of all other detainees. Personal hygiene products were not provided.*

*PERSON\_120 also testifies that the Russian military forced the detainees to endure the training of their medical workers. Russian military nurses trained how to give injections and drips on the detainees and injected some kind of unknown solution into the detainees’ veins.*

On August 20, 2022, PERSON\_120 was taken to a store in the village of Strilecha, where approximately 20 people had already detained. *The Russian soldiers used detainees to perform forced labor, in particular, loading firewood into cars, fetching water, performing all the dirty work, for example, cleaning dog enclosures and washing toilets. The Russian military called the detainees “negroes” and constantly threatened them with murder, mutilation, and torture with electric current.*

<sup>227</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.



*Every evening, PERSON\_120 heard how the Russian military tortured detainees. They used electric shocks on them, beat them, and even abused women. The tortured detainees screamed a lot.*

When the counteroffensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces began, the Russian troops began to leave the occupied territory, and PERSON\_120 was sent home. On September 10, 2022, PERSON\_120 returned home.

PERSON\_120 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>228</sup>

<p><b>Testimony No. 47</b> (testified by PERSON_121) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On April 8, 2022, the house of PERSON\_121 in the village of Kutuzivka, located in the Kharkiv District in the Kharkiv Region, was invaded by seven Russian soldiers. Among them was **a Russian soldier with the call sign “Vityaz”** (he was the “chief” among this group of Russian soldiers), **a Russian soldier with the call sign “Ara”** (he was the “deputy” of “Vityaz”) and five more Russian soldiers, armed with assault rifles.

The Russian military informed PERSON\_121 that PERSON\_122 claims that PERSON\_121 is supposedly a scout of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and his mother-in-law is supposedly an employee of the Security Service of Ukraine. PERSON\_121 denied everything.

The Russian military searched the house of PERSON\_121, took the personal belongings of PERSON\_121, and scared the children who lived in the house. Since the Russian military could not find PERSON\_121's phone, they detained her, threatening her with torture and execution.

PERSON\_121 was taken to the village of Vesele, where she was held captive for three days and *was not given any food at all*. PERSON\_121 *was kept in a windowless room with a metal couch*. PERSON\_121 *was very cold and scared*. PERSON\_121's *tongue became numb, and she could not move during the first night*.

The Russian military subjected PERSON\_121 to a so-called “interrogation” several times. During these so-called “interrogations”, the Russian military shouted at PERSON\_121 and threatened to shoot her or send her to a prisoner-of-war camp.

Following the detention period, a Russian soldier with the **call sign “Shaman”** took PERSON\_121 home.

After returning PERSON\_121 home, the Russian military came every day with machine guns and intimidated the children who were in the house, saying that PERSON\_121 was “unreliable”.

A week later, “Shaman” returned to PERSON\_121 again, accompanied by other Russian military personnel. “Shaman” *forced PERSON\_121 to recite a speech in which PERSON\_121 had to say that she was at home and that the Russian military did not beat her*. “Shaman” recorded her speech. Then, “Shaman” *reported that PERSON\_121 would be exchanged for “Shaman’s” daughter, who was detained in Kharkiv*.

On April 27, 2022, the village of Kutuzivka was liberated by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

PERSON\_121 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies in connection with the above-mentioned events. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>229</sup>

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<sup>228</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000856.

<sup>229</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023220000000726.



**Testimony No. 48** (testified by PERSON\_123)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_123 testifies that prior to Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she permanently lived in the village in the Kupyansk district with her mother and eldest daughter.

On May 3, 2022, four armed Russian soldiers in civilian clothes came to PERSON\_123's home. The soldiers were intoxicated. The Russian military alleged that PERSON\_123 was a fire adjuster. Therefore, she had to go with them to be "interrogated" by employees of the Russian FSB.

When PERSON\_123 was changing her clothes, one of the Russian soldiers was watching her.

The Russian military took PERSON\_123 in an old car without license plates (not a military one), with the letter "Z" taped on the glass. While PERSON\_123 was being transported, the Russian military threatened her that if she turned out to be a fire adjuster, she would be taken to a prison in Russia.

The Russian military brought PERSON\_123 to a one-story building where the Russian military lived. There were three other Russian soldiers in this building (there were seven Russian soldiers in total). All the Russian soldiers were drunk and forced PERSON\_123 to drink alcohol. It was already dark outside, but PERSON\_123 could not give the exact time.

Among the Russian soldiers, PERSON\_123 remembered several Russian soldiers in detail: (1) a Russian soldier **named Oleg** (36 years old, short height 165–170 cm, fat, had a tattoo on his left hand in the form of a pizza, planets and an astronaut, and on the right hand — an abstract tattoo); (2) a Russian soldier **named Sasha and with the call sign "Cat"** (height up to 170 cm, fat, other Russian soldiers said that **Sasha was from Lipetsk**, Russia); (3) a Russian soldier **named Sasha** (thin, tall, 180-185 cm tall, **had a tattoo on his chest in the form of a swastika**, next to the swastika was an eagle, he was the "chief" in the group of Russian soldiers); (4) a Russian soldier with the **call sign "Kuznets"** (approximately 30–35 years old, thin, said he was **from St. Petersburg**, Russia. PERSON\_123 testifies that this Russian soldier did not touch her); (5) a Russian soldier named Ilya (24 years old, very aggressive, his mood changed all the time, thin, red-haired with a beard); (6) a Russian soldier with the **call sign "Redhead"** (redhead, about 30–35 years old, dense, medium height). PERSON\_123 testifies that she can recognize all Russian soldiers by their facial features.

The first time, PERSON\_123 was dragged into another room around midnight. *Sasha, who had a tattoo, pulled her into the room. There, Sasha told PERSON\_123 to undress and said that "all fascists" were in Ukraine. Then Sasha started cutting PERSON\_123's clothes and said that if PERSON\_123 did not obey, they would kill, butcher, and bury her.*

At that moment, the other Sasha and Ilya entered the room. *They started raping PERSON\_123. PERSON\_123 testifies that two of them did not wear condoms. Russian soldiers raped PERSON\_123 anally, orally, and vaginally. First, the Russian military raped PERSON\_123 one by one and then all together. During the rape, Russian soldiers commented on each other's actions and threatened to shoot PERSON\_123 in the leg. Ilya filmed all this on camera. Russian soldiers raped PERSON\_123 until 5.00.*

*Also, in addition to Sasha with a tattoo, Sasha with the call sign "Cat" and Ilya, PERSON\_123, was raped by another Russian soldier on that day, but PERSON\_123 cannot remember his name.*

After that, Oleg took PERSON\_123 out and told the other Russian soldiers to stop. PERSON\_123 was placed in another room.

In the morning of May 4, 2022, all Russian soldiers, except Oleg, went to dig trenches. *Oleg forced PERSON\_123 to drink beer.*

Somewhere around 13:00, all six Russian soldiers returned and started drinking alcohol.

Then Sasha with the tattoo led PERSON\_123 into the room. All the Russian soldiers laughed and they mocked PERSON\_123. PERSON\_123 felt humiliated.

*Sasha with the tattoo started raping PERSON\_123. Then Ilya and "Redhead" came to the room. Together they raped PERSON\_123 and beat her in the face and kidneys. If PERSON\_123 refused, they threatened her with a machine gun and a bayonet knife. PERSON\_123 was convinced that they would kill her later. PERSON\_123 said that she wanted to go home, but Oleg told PERSON\_123 to get used to it since she would now live with them.* Then, the drunk Russian soldiers slept. PERSON\_123 wanted to run away, but she understood that they would find and kill her. Then Ilya came and said that they had a meeting at 19:00.

At 19:00, everyone except "Kuznets" left. "Kuznets" had heart problems, so he stayed.

Later, a commander came in, asked why PERSON\_123 was there, and ordered her to leave and not return. PERSON\_123 asked "Kuznets" if she could go because she was afraid that she would be found and killed. To which "Kuznets" told PERSON\_123 that the other Russian soldiers who raped her should be punished today.

PERSON\_123 ran to her father-in-law because PERSON\_123 was afraid to return to the place where she lived before.

A week after that, PERSON\_123 left the area on her own through the Russian territory. Due to fear, PERSON\_123 did not contact any Russian authorities or the "commandant's" office. PERSON\_123 never saw the Russian soldiers who raped her again.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_123 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>230</sup>

<p><b>Testimony No. 49</b> (testified by PERSON_124) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.</p>
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On June 2, 2022, at around 10:30, PERSON\_124 was at home in Balakliya located in the Izyum district in the Kharkiv region. PERSON\_124 heard the sound of cars, went out to check, and saw two cars with "Z" markings stop nearby (a green UAZ car and a Tigr armored car).

PERSON\_124 saw 14 Russian soldiers. Several soldiers approached his house from different directions and then called others. One of the Russian soldiers asked why PERSON\_124 "was in the ATO", after which the Russian military told PERSON\_124 to take his things, put him in a "UAZ" car, and took him to the premises of the Balakliya car park.

PERSON\_124 was sitting in the car when a Russian soldier took his documents somewhere. After that, he was taken to the premises of the Balakliya district police department. The Russian military put a bag on his head and took him to cell No. 3 on the second floor. At that time, five detainees were held in the cell. Among them PERSON\_124 remembered PERSON\_125, PERSON\_57,<sup>231</sup> PERSON\_126, PERSON\_127, and PERSON\_128.

On the first day, PERSON\_124 was taken for a so-called "interrogation". Prior to that, they put a bag on his head. There, PERSON\_124 was put on a chair. There was one Russian soldier in a green uniform (**up to 30 years old, about 2 meters tall, athletic build, had dark hair, dark round eyes, spoke pure Russian**) in front of PERSON\_124. He asked PERSON\_124 where he

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<sup>230</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 12023200480001642.

<sup>231</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_57 is presented in Testimony No. 15.

lived, where he served, and also about his family. This so-called “interrogation” lasted 40 minutes, after which PERSON\_124 was taken back to the cell.

On June 11, 2022, around 15:00, PERSON\_124 was taken for the “interrogation” with a bag on his head. *PERSON\_124 was immediately kicked in the stomach and put on a chair.* PERSON\_124 was once again asked where he lived. PERSON\_124 was accused of allegedly passing on information to the UAF. *After each “wrong” answer, the Russian military beat PERSON\_124 on the head and body; they also beat him with a stun gun. The Russian military threatened PERSON\_124 that they would bring in his wife.*

On June 25, 2022, around 11:00, PERSON\_124 was again taken for the so-called “interrogation” with a bag on his head. *The Russian military immediately began to beat his kidneys, shoulders, and hands and also applied electric shock.* **Russians and Chechens** appeared to be among the Russian soldiers who beat PERSON\_124.

On or about June 28, 2022, PERSON\_124 was put in a car and taken somewhere. In the car were five Russian soldiers (they were military officers of the National Guard of Russia). One of the Russian soldiers told PERSON\_124 that he was being taken to be shot. The Russian military also told PERSON\_124 that they had found his children and would tell them that PERSON\_124 had died.

*When the car arrived, PERSON\_124 was forced to kneel and told that the pit was ready. Then they put a gun to his head but started shooting sideways.*

Afterward, the Russian military took PERSON\_124 back to the Balakliya VP and put him in a cell. Following the episode, PERSON\_124 was no longer taken for the “interrogations”.

On the morning of July 12, 2022, PERSON\_124 was released and walked home. Around 12:30, PERSON\_124 was at home, where his wife met him.

In connection with the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_124 filed a crime report with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies. The pre-trial investigation in the case continues.<sup>232</sup>

**Testimony No. 50** (testified by PERSON\_129)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kharkiv region.

PERSON\_129 lived at home in the village of Liptsi located in the Kharkiv district in the Kharkiv region, together with his common-law partner, PERSON\_130. PERSON\_129 has two sons: one served in the UAF, and the other was a civilian. PERSON\_129 had a third-degree gastric cancer. Prior to Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, he underwent a surgery and two rounds of chemotherapy, and was in rehabilitation. He was very weak.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian army occupied the village of Liptsi, which was temporarily occupied.

During the occupation, the Russian military came to PERSON\_129’s home three times to conduct so-called “searches”. They said that they were “looking for fire adjusters”.

On August 14, 2022, around 5:00, an armored personnel carrier (APC) drove up to the house of PERSON\_129, and about fifteen armed Russian soldiers broke into the house (they wore the uniform of the Russian army and the “LPR” military). *Without any explanation, the Russian military put a bag over PERSON\_129’s head, tied his hands behind his back with tape, and, with the use of physical force, dragged PERSON\_129 outside and threw him on the floor of an APC.*

<sup>232</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22024220000000651.

The “search” of PERSON\_129’s house was conducted. All of PERSON\_129’s documents were taken: passport, driver’s license, house documents, permission to carry weapons, and the gun that was stored in the safe.

PERSON\_129 was brought to the village of Strilecha in the Kharkiv district, a location of the Russian “military commandant’s office”.

With the words “you are the father of our enemy” (referring to PERSON\_129’s son, who served in the UAF, the Russian military found out this information from PERSON\_129’s neighbors), the Russian military threw PERSON\_129 into the basement, where *there was a piece of roofing left, which PERSON\_129 used to sit on because the basement was very damp and cold, there were constant drafts. In the damp and cold basement, PERSON\_129 was kept in the clothes he had taken from home, in particular one T-shirt and shorts.*

Four people were detained in the basement. PERSON\_129 remembers PERSON\_131 and PERSON\_132 were held together with him. The other detainees kept changing constantly. *The detainees slept on a piece of roofing material, huddled together because it was very cold. The detainees were practically not fed. They were given 120 grams of bread a day and 2 liters of grain mixture for four people, fed once a day. By the end of the month, the detainees could no longer move due to hunger.*

*Food was given through a hole in the wall. The detainees were forced to be in complete darkness all the time in the basement. At the end of the month, they brought one candle with the words, “Look at each other”.*

PERSON\_129 was taken for the so-called “interrogation”. During the “interrogation”, PERSON\_129 was attached to some wires (maybe it was a lie detector). They asked where PERSON\_129’s son had fought. Due to poor health, PERSON\_129 lost consciousness during the “interrogation”.

*Instead of a toilet, the detainees had one bucket for four, and there was no way to wash because there was not enough water even for drinking. The bucket was taken out every day. Once, the detainees were not fed for 3 days, and one of the soldiers from the so-called “LPR” said: “The more of you die, the easier it is for us”.*

*No one provided medical assistance to the detainees, although PERSON\_129 urgently needed it because he was a person with the third-degree stomach cancer and did not recover after two chemotherapy treatments and the surgery. The terrible conditions of his captivity and nutrition significantly worsened his state.*

*One day, PERSON\_129 screamed and begged for medical help because he could no longer bear the terrible stomach pain, weakness, malaise, and headache, but no one responded to his pleas.*

*The so-called “LPR” military told the detainees that “captives are animals” and that they “came to take revenge”. On one occasion, PERSON\_129 could no longer stand it and told the Russian military that they were Gestapo officers, for which they severely beat him.*

*At night, they brought the detainees into the basement and tortured them; they listened to these screams of terror. Once they brought PERSON\_133, they beat him very badly.*

PERSON\_129 was held in the basement from August 14 to September 12, 2022.

When the counter-offensive of the UAF began, the detainees were transported through the Hoptivka checkpoint to the pre-trial detention center in Belgorod in Russia. PERSON\_129 was not admitted to the pre-trial detention center due to his poor health. They said that they “don’t need a corpse”.

After that, PERSON\_129 was taken to a concentration camp near the village of Tavorzhanka in the Kharkiv region, where there was an exchange point for prisoners of war. PERSON\_129 was held there for a month, from September 13, 2022, to October 12, 2022.

*There was a tent camp, and the tent was designed for 25 people. They were poorly fed, and the food was low in calories. The toilet was on the street, the detainees were taken there in formation. It was not allowed to go to the toilet on your own. PERSON\_129 suffered from severe stomach pain.*

*Often at night, PERSON\_129 heard Ukrainian prisoners of war being tortured. In the toilet, PERSON\_129 saw that there was no unscathed skin left on their bodies; they were beaten so badly that they all turned blue.*

The Russian soldiers told the detainees that they could “bury them peacefully in the ground” because they did not have any documents. However, at home, in the village of Liptsi, the Russian soldiers took away all the documents from PERSON\_129. The detainees were told that they were “unaccounted for” and, therefore, the Russian military could do whatever they wanted with them.

*In the concentration camp, PERSON\_129 was beaten, tortured with electric shocks, and forced to walk in the “swallow” position. PERSON\_129 testifies that all detainees were beaten and subjected to electroshock torture, even women.*

PERSON\_129 was “interrogated” four times by the Prosecutor’s Office of the Russian Federation. He was asked about his son, who serves in the UAF.

*PERSON\_129 developed acute pneumonia. He was bedridden, but no one provided him with medical assistance. Due to severe inflammation of his lungs, he could no longer breathe.*

On October 12, 2022, shelling of the concentration camp began, wounding the “chief”, and killing and wounding many others. The detainees were lucky, as they were shielded by a wall of debris and were not injured.

*The detainees were transported, but due to the fact that PERSON\_129 could not move on his own, he was dragged on the ground, thrown on the floor of a bus, and taken to the pre-trial detention center in the city of Belgorod in Russia. In the pre-trial detention center, PERSON\_129 was examined and told: “Perhaps we can give an injection immediately so that he dies? We don’t need corpses; take him away”.*

*That night, PERSON\_129 lay on the cold floor in the so-called “commandant’s office”. In the morning, he was thrown into a car. He was very cold, warm clothes were not provided; he took the belongings of a person who was taken to the pre-trial detention center, which saved him, otherwise he would have died from the cold.*

On October 14, 2022, PERSON\_129 was taken to a military hospital in the city of Kursk in Russia, but the head of the hospital refused to admit PERSON\_129 because PERSON\_129 was in a terrible condition.

However, the head of the intensive care unit head insisted that PERSON\_129 be hospitalized. When PERSON\_129 was put in intensive care, the blood pressure in PERSON\_129 was already 40 to 20, and the body temperature was 34 degrees. He was practically dying. PERSON\_129 was treated in the intensive care unit. During the week he spent there, he got better, but the head of the hospital kept coming and shouting: “Why are we keeping him here? We don’t need him, take him away”. PERSON\_129 was guarded by three soldiers who took turns.

A week later, PERSON\_129 was transferred to a regular ward for wounded soldiers, where PERSON\_129 stayed until the beginning of October 2022, *treated for advanced pneumonia and a stomach that did not accept food.*



On February 3, 2023, PERSON\_129 was sent to a concentration camp in the village of Prokhorivka, located in the Belgorod region in Russia. *PERSON\_129 was placed in a room designed for 25 people; approximately 22 people were constantly held there, and they changed often. The detainees were poorly fed. They were only made to sit on a chair by the bed, they were not allowed to walk, and the detainees were not taken out for fresh air. There, PERSON\_129 was often beaten on the back and threatened to be killed.*

On April 2, 2023, PERSON\_129 was taken for exchange. He arrived in the city of Sumy in Ukraine, where he was hospitalized, and the next day, his son took him home. As a result of the terrible conditions of captivity and torture, PERSON\_129's health deteriorated greatly.<sup>233</sup>

**Testimony No. 51** (testified by PERSON\_134<sup>234</sup>)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.

PERSON\_134 lives in the city of Chernihiv, but at the beginning of Russia's full-scale of Ukraine, he moved to his brother's (PERSON\_135) place in the village of Levonky located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

PERSON\_134 was captured together with PERSON\_135 and PERSON\_136, and held by the Russian military on the premises of a psychiatric hospital together with PERSON\_137, PERSON\_138<sup>235</sup>, and PERSON\_139.

PERSON\_134 testifies that, unlike other persons who were captured or held captive together with him, PERSON\_134 was not subjected to physical violence by the Russian military and was not taken to the garages located on the territory of the psychiatric hospital for mock executions by "shooting".

He only remembers **the one-eyed combatant from the Russian military**, who captured and detained him.

**Testimony No. 52** (testified by PERSON\_138)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.

PERSON\_138 lives in the village of Levonky located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

At the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at the entrance to Levonky, local residents made a roadblock of trees to prevent the Russian military equipment from passing through.

PERSON\_138 was detained by the Russian military together with PERSON\_137, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_134.<sup>236</sup> PERSON\_136, and PERSON\_135 were also detained on the premises of the psychiatric hospital in Levonky.

After all the detainees were brought to the premises of the psychiatric hospital, they were taken one by one behind the garages for mock executions by "shooting".

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<sup>233</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

<sup>234</sup> This testimony corroborates the torture of other victims.

<sup>235</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_138 is presented in Testimony No. 52.

<sup>236</sup> The evidence of PERSON\_134 is presented in Testimony No. 51.



The Russian military took PERSON\_138 to the toilet. PERSON\_138 only had his hands tied, and was led into a booth opposite the fireroom. *There, the Russian military removed the pin from a grenade and placed the grenade beneath PERSON\_138's chest, after which he was placed on the floor with his stomach to the ground and told that if he moved, he would explode. The Russian military tortured PERSON\_138 in this way in order to find out from him who made the roadblock at the entrance to the village of Levonky near the bridge.*

At first, PERSON\_138 told the Russian military that he did not know who made those roadblocks (PERSON\_138 previously gave the same explanation when the Russian military "interrogated" all those captured at the gates of the psychiatric hospital).

Then, PERSON\_138 told the Russian military that the person who had informed them that PERSON\_138 allegedly did it was actually the one who did it himself. Afterwards, PERSON\_138 said that it was indeed he who felled those trees.

The Russian military asked who else, besides PERSON\_138, felled the trees. PERSON\_138 replied that he received a call from an unknown number and was told to go and cut down the trees. PERSON\_138 felled one tree, then a car arrived, and everyone from that car started felling those trees. PERSON\_138 told the Russian military that there was a car with other people, but he does not know who was there (although, in fact, PERSON\_138 knew all the people who did the roadblocks).

*All this time, PERSON\_138 was lying on the floor on a grenade. PERSON\_138 lay on the floor for 10–15 minutes, and his hands, which were tied behind his back, began to go numb. PERSON\_138 told the Russian military that his hands were numb.*

There was a wooden door in the booth near PERSON\_138. After five minutes, another Russian soldier entered the booth from the yard, took the grenade, inserted the pin, and scolded the Russian soldier who was in the booth together with PERSON\_138. The Russian soldier who entered from the yard kicked PERSON\_138's butt with the weapon, placed PERSON\_138 in a cage (cell) with other detainees, and told PERSON\_138 that he "would be cut to pieces tomorrow". *As a result of the torture, PERSON\_138 began to suffer from memory lapses.*<sup>237</sup>

**Testimony No. 53** (testified by PERSON\_137)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.

PERSON\_137 lives in the village of Shybyrinivka located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

At the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at the entrance to the village of Levonky, residents made a roadblock made out of trees to prevent the Russian military equipment from passing through.

On March 31, 2022, at approximately 14:00, PERSON\_137 went to the village of Levonky with his girlfriend to her home. There is a thicket between the villages of Shybyrinivka and Levonky. When PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend passed by it, they heard the roar of machinery from the direction of the villages of Shybyrinivka and Zhukotka. The Russian military equipment was driving toward PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend, but they were not noticed. All the roads to the surrounding villages were closed, and PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend decided to go to her home through the thicket.

<sup>237</sup> Medical documentation in the given case can be provided upon request.

PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend went further to Levonky. However, a column of the Russian military equipment traveling from the direction of the village Zhukotka stopped near the tree roadblock. They began searching for those responsible because they thought the roadblock was made of fresh tree rubble, although it had actually been there for about a month. They started shooting, which PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend heard. Also, they heard shots from an under-barrel grenade launcher, which the Russian military used to destroy a transformer in the village of Levonky.

PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend went along the thicket, through the field, and through the gardens to another part of the village to bypass the Russian military. When PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend approached the farthest house in the village of Levonky, they could call the girlfriend's relatives and wanted to wait for the Russian military to arrive.

When PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend were standing near the farthest house, they saw two Russian soldiers approaching them (the soldiers who drove to the tree roadblock). One of the **soldiers was of Slavic appearance, and the other was Dagestani**. As far as PERSON\_137 remembers, the one who was Dagestani wore red sneakers. Prior to that, PERSON\_137 hid his phone under the roof of the nearby house.

PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend saw the Russian soldiers and went to meet them because the soldiers saw them, and there was no point in running away. The Russian military told PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend to come forward. When they approached, and the Russian military began to ask who they were and where they were from.

PERSON\_137 wore boots, and the Russian military thought that the boots were similar to the ones worn by the military. They presumed that PERSON\_137 was a soldier and began to ask leading questions, e.g. the distance to Chernihiv, and why PERSON\_137 wore military boots. PERSON\_137 gave them satisfactory answers (PERSON\_137 showed his shoes, said they were not military shoes but ordinary boots, and told them the distance to Chernihiv).

The family of PERSON\_137's girlfriend lived in the same village. She was worried about her family and asked if they could go home (it was necessary to go through the entire village and pass the Russian military). The Russian military volunteered to take them there and led them through the entire village, bringing PERSON\_137's girlfriend to her home. Once they arrived home, the Russian military were already interrogating people there about who made the roadblocks.

No one touched the girl. PERSON\_137 and his girlfriend stood with her family. Then PERSON\_137 and the girlfriend's brother, PERSON\_139, were taken away by the Russian military and put in the yard.

Other Russian soldiers were in the house, however, not those who walked PERSON\_137 and the girlfriend home. PERSON\_137 looked suspicious to some soldiers in the house, so they took him outside. Those Russian soldiers who brought PERSON\_137 were privates, and those who were in the house and took PERSON\_137 to the street were higher in military rank (they gave orders to others, and wore different and cleaner uniforms).

The Russian soldiers who were inside the house spoke Russian. PERSON\_137 remembers one Russian soldier well because he had the highest rank in the group or was the "chief". He gave orders to everyone and spoke with PERSON\_137.

At the same time, the Dagestani soldier who brought PERSON\_137 began to interrogate the neighbor of the girlfriend's parents, PERSON\_138, in the yard. The Russian military had a "tip-off" about him, so they pressured PERSON\_138 by *shooting near him. First, they fired at his feet, then took him behind the house and fired again, though PERSON\_138 does not know exactly where*. Then, the Russian military summoned two more persons, PERSON\_136 and PERSON\_135.

The Russian military summoned everyone and took them in the direction of the psychiatric hospital (6 people in total). At least five Russian soldiers accompanied the captives, one of them being the most senior officer. The psychiatric hospital was used as the headquarters of the Russian military.

PERSON\_137 and the other detainees had to walk 500 meters. *As they were being led, the Russian military behaved more aggressively, firing shots at the captives' feet if they moved even slightly to the right or left.*

The Russian military asked PERSON\_137 and other detainees to stick to the group, so there was a distance of less than 50 cm between them. The Russian military shouted that if someone left, they would "put him down"; there was one who was the most aggressive.

When the Russian military was leading PERSON\_137 and other detainees, PERSON\_137 saw the Russian military equipment deployed along the entire length of the road, as they passed through the roadblock. The chief of the Russian military asked PERSON\_137 where he came from, what he does here, what he does now, and what he will do next.

The Russian military said they would check the documents and release everyone. They took documents and asked about phones. After they reached the psychiatric hospital, the Russian military officer told them to call "combat" [commanding officer]. After that, PERSON\_137 and other detainees stood waiting.

More Russian soldiers arrived in a truck and took PERSON\_137 and other detainees to an abandoned bus, *tied his hands, and forced him to kneel; his hands were held behind his back. At first, the hands were tied with some kind of cloth, but it was weak, so another Russian soldier came up and tied them with a cable.*

*It was cold outside, and PERSON\_137 asked to be given the opportunity to fasten his jacket, but the Russian military refused him.* Then, the Russian military waited for some people and took PERSON\_137 and other detainees behind a shed and lined them up.

PERSON\_137 and other detainees were standing in line, when a soldier without one eye came. All soldiers wore the same uniform. The one-eyed man wore a vest. Then, the soldiers pointed their fingers like they chose one or the other captive. They chose PERSON\_137, and before that, they chose PERSON\_138, leading them behind the barn.

PERSON\_137 was taken to an outside wooden toilet. Then the Russian military began to "play" using phrases from computer games (they said, "I'll show you what's crazy" and started shooting at the birds.

Then, the Russian military opened the toilet, handed over the documents, and led PERSON\_137 behind the barn to PERSON\_138, who was there being "interrogated" (PERSON\_137 appears to have been interrogated by the one-eyed soldier).

*PERSON\_137 saw that PERSON\_138 had a knife put to his throat or stomach. Then, PERSON\_137 was placed next to PERSON\_138, and one of the Russian soldiers loaded a machine gun in front of PERSON\_137 and PERSON\_138, pulled the shutter, put the machine gun to PERSON\_137's neck, and told PERSON\_138 that if he did not confess now, PERSON\_137 would be killed.*

In the process, the Russian military asked who made the roadblock and why they did it. Then PERSON\_137 and all the detainees were taken to some room and tied up again. It was a canteen in the psychiatric hospital. Other Russian soldiers were already there, and those who were on the street left.

The Russian soldiers who were in the canteen were not as aggressive as the previous group. PERSON\_137 and other detainees were brought one bottle of non-carbonated water, 1.5 liters for all of them. They were given a drink with their hands tied. At first, the Russian military asked

PERSON\_137 and other detainees to twist their arms behind their backs. One of the soldiers who brought water had a slightly Asian appearance; fair skin, and small eyes.

After that, PERSON\_137 and other detainees were transferred to a warehouse with bars, where they sat until morning. Their hands were untied, a sufficient amount of food was brought to them once or twice. They were told that PERSON\_137 and other detainees would sit there until the Russian military left because it was hit with artillery. PERSON\_137 and other detainees would die together with the Russian military.

PERSON\_137 and other detainees sat until the morning. In the morning, the military allowed them to go to the toilet one by one. PERSON\_137 does not remember whether he went to the toilet from the moment of his arrest until the morning. The Russian military locked the doors. There was very little air. PERSON\_137 and other detainees asked to open the door a little bit, but the Russian military did not react to the request at first. After a couple of hours, they opened the door, making a small crack. There were no windows.

When PERSON\_137 and other detainees were taken to the warehouse, PERSON\_138 was not there. PERSON\_138 was brought to the warehouse when PERSON\_137 was already there with other detainees. *PERSON\_138 had already been beaten (cuts on the face, broken glasses, covered in blood). PERSON\_137 and other detainees sat until the morning as they could not sleep. There was nowhere to lie down (it was a small room, you either squatted or stood), it was very cramped.*

When they were fed, they were given some kind of tea, and PERSON\_137 felt thirsty. At night, PERSON\_137 heard the soldiers cleaning and loading the machine guns. In the morning, when they were taken to the toilet, PERSON\_137 and other detainees asked when they would be released, and the Russian military told them to wait.

Then, the Russian military went and gave the keys to a shelter for the homeless, which was located on the hospital premises. They instructed that PERSON\_137 and other detainees should open the door at a certain hour. But PERSON\_137 and other detainees forced open the lock and left on their own. PERSON\_137 and other detainees began to force open the lock because there were no sounds, the door was slightly open, and PERSON\_137 and the other detainees did not see anyone, but the bars were locked.

Then, PERSON\_137 and other detainees left, looked around the area for a while to ensure no one was there and started to leave when one of the homeless persons approached them. He wanted to open the door for PERSON\_137 and other detainees because he was walking with the keys. PERSON\_137 and other detainees went to the building where homeless women lived because they heard some engine sounds in the village.

When they left the warehouse, PERSON\_137 and other detainees smelled gunpowder. The homeless women said that the Russian military had set a tank on fire. PERSON\_137 and other detainees stayed with homeless people, while the tank was burning, which then exploded and blew out the windows in the houses.

After that, PERSON\_137 walked through the fields to his girlfriend's house at approximately 11:00 on April 1, 2022. Prior to that, PERSON\_137 went to the house where he had hidden the phone and retrieved it. Arriving at the girlfriend's house, PERSON\_137 saw that everything was more or less normal. He called his relatives, and that was it. Only his girlfriend, her younger brothers, and her parents were in the house.

The Russian soldier, who PERSON\_137 believes was **the "chief" in the group of Russian soldiers, had a large and deep scar over his left eye.**

As the events were unfolding, the Russian military mentioned the village of Lukashivka and the village of Sloboda, stating that the UAF destroyed them. When Russian soldiers were in

the house of PERSON\_137's girlfriend at night, they told that they were also fighting in Syria. PERSON\_137 believes the soldiers were from Russian military brigade No. 74.

**Testimony No. 54** (testified by PERSON\_140)<sup>238</sup>  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.

PERSON\_140 lives in the village of Levonky located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

At the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at the entrance to the village of Levonky, local residents made a roadblock of trees to prevent the Russian military equipment from passing through.

On March 31, 2022, the Russian military detained the eldest son of PERSON\_140, PERSON\_139, and kept him until the morning in a psychiatric hospital in the village of Levonky, together with other detainees, who were suspected of making a roadblock of trees at the village entrance.

PERSON\_140 states that, on March 31, 2022, the Russian military equipment was moving from the direction of the village Zhukotki in the Chernihiv district. The Russian military arrived at the street intersection in the village Levonky, where PERSON\_140 lived with his family. Before that, PERSON\_140 heard shots and later learned that the Russian military had destroyed a transformer in the village, which caused power outage.

After that, the Russian military began to walk along the street where PERSON\_140 and others (who were detained later), lived, asking if there were any "Nazis" or "Banderovites", and searched cellars and houses. In the house where PERSON\_140 lived, his eldest son, PERSON\_139, and his two minor children were also present at that time.

Around noon on March 31, 2022, when the Russian military entered PERSON\_140's house for the first time, PERSON\_140 hid his sons in the hayloft between bales of hay. The Russian military began to ask who else was in the house and said it would be worse if they found them. PERSON\_140 called his sons, and the sons came out. The Russian military brought PERSON\_140 and his sons to the house and left.

After that, PERSON\_140 and his sons heard that the Russian soldiers were coming towards them again and went outside so that the soldiers could see them. The military asked for documents, which PERSON\_140 and his sons showed to them.

The Russian soldiers entered the house and rummaged through the clothes because they were looking for military uniforms. Then, the Russian military told them not to go anywhere and left. Later, other Russian soldiers came, entered the house, asked who made the roadblocks and left. Different Russian soldiers came all the time, two or three soldiers at a time, armed with assault rifles. They told them not to go anywhere.

Half an hour passed, and PERSON\_140 heard a chainsaw working near the bridge. After that, about six Russian soldiers came to PERSON\_140's house and took everyone who was in the house, namely PERSON\_140, his eldest son, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_140's brother, PERSON\_138, PERSON\_136, PERSON\_135, and PERSON\_134, and led them to the bridge.

They immediately said that the Russian military would cut down the trees in the roadblock, and the detainees would carry the branches. When they were taking all the detainees to the bridge, they fired a couple of shots into the air. PERSON\_140 and other detainees were brought

<sup>238</sup> This testimony corroborates the facts of torture of other victims.



to the bridge. The soldiers sawed through trees, while PERSON\_140 and other detainees pulled branches.

After that, the Russian military brought a homeless man from the shelter, which was located on the premises of the psychiatric hospital. This homeless person was already beaten and bleeding, but he also helped PERSON\_140 and other detainees pull the branches and trees.

All this work took about 40 minutes, and the Russian military took PERSON\_140 and other detainees back home. When they brought them home, they told them to hang red ribbons and not go anywhere (red ribbons so that other Russian soldiers knew these houses had already been checked).

Then, PERSON\_140 called his daughter (PERSON\_137's girlfriend, who was detained by other Russian soldiers at that time). PERSON\_140 tried to warn her, but she was out of reach. PERSON\_140 turned off the phone. Some time passed, and PERSON\_140 saw that Russian soldiers were taking his daughter and PERSON\_137.

The Russian military brought home PERSON\_137 and the daughter of PERSON\_140. Then, the Russian soldiers again came to the house of PERSON\_140, where other Russian soldiers conducted a so-called "interrogation" of all the people who made the roadblocks. They said that someone told the Russian military in the village that PERSON\_138 had piled up the trees. After that, the Russian military detained PERSON\_139, PERSON\_137, and PERSON\_138. Later, PERSON\_140 found out that PERSON\_135, PERSON\_136, and PERSON\_134 were also taken.

Then, around evening, PERSON\_140 heard gunshots (several times) on the premises of the psychiatric hospital. After these events, the daughter and minor children of PERSON\_140, and the daughter of PERSON\_138 were in the house of PERSON\_140. They did not sleep all night, and they did not go anywhere.

On the morning of April 1, 2022, PERSON\_140 was in his house. Prior to 9–10:00 in the morning, PERSON\_140 heard an explosion in the area of the psychiatric hospital. At first, it was weak, then stronger, and something was flying from the premises of the hospital, which looked like shrapnel.

After some time, PERSON\_138 returned and began to tell how he was interrogated and tortured. PERSON\_138 said that they were held in the place where the medicine was stored; they were locked up until morning, and it was crowded there. PERSON\_138 then said that the Russian military told the homeless women to open the door to them after two hours. The detainees managed to leave earlier when Russian soldiers left the village.

PERSON\_139 was also held until morning along with all other detainees on the premises of the psychiatric hospital.

<p><b>Testimony No. 55</b> (testified by PERSON_135) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.</p>
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PERSON\_135 lives in the village of Levonky located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

At the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, at the entrance to the village of Levonky, local residents made roadblocks out of trees to prevent the Russian military equipment from passing through.

On March 31, 2022, after 11:00, the Russian military entered the village of Levonky from the village of Zhukotky with a column of the military equipment. The approximate distance between the villages of Levonky and Zhukotky was about 2 km. According to PERSON\_135, there was so



much Russian military equipment that the column stretched from the village of Levonky to the village of Zhukotky.

When the Russian military entered the village of Levonky, they ran into a roadblock of trees near the bridge. After stopping nearby, they immediately went to the alley where PERSON\_135, PERSON\_140, and PERSON\_138 lived.

About fifteen, or maybe thirty minutes before the Russian military went to the alley where PERSON\_135 lived, one of the local residents told the Russian military that it was PERSON\_135, PERSON\_138, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_140 that built the roadblock. This is the reason why the Russian military did not go to other streets in the village, but only to the specified alley where they lived.

When the Russian military began to enter the alley, they immediately fired at a transformer, causing power outage in the village. PERSON\_135 had already realized that he needed to hide with his family. At that time, PERSON\_135's house was occupied by his wife, PERSON\_136's son, and relatives from Chernihiv, particularly PERSON\_134.

PERSON\_135, with his family and relatives, hid in the cellar but heard how the Russian soldiers began to knock on the gate of the yard with the butts of a machine gun and began to shout: "Owner, open". PERSON\_135, being the owner of the house, had to go outside and meet the Russian military. PERSON\_135 went out alone, while other relatives were left behind. The Russian military told everyone to get out. The Russian military also asked if there were Ukrainian soldiers or "nationalists", to which PERSON\_135 asked the Russian military whom they meant by "nationalists" and replied that only his relatives were there.

PERSON\_135, with his family and relatives, hid in the cellar as shots were fired in the village. Next to the house of PERSON\_135 was the house of PERSON\_140 and the house where PERSON\_135's mother lived. Russian soldiers entered the house where PERSON\_135's mother lived, broke the door, and threw a grenade into the cellar. According to PERSON\_135, the Russian military entered the yard and knocked on the doors of specific houses, most likely looking for specific individuals.

After PERSON\_135 told the Russian military that he only had relatives at his house, the Russian military told everyone to get out of the cellar and to give their documents. Then, the Russian military went around the yard and did not enter the house.

About four individuals came to PERSON\_135's yard, about ten more Russian soldiers were walking along the street, and an MTLB vehicle was driving with a machine gun. They were mainly Russians (it was visible from their appearance).

The Russian military checked their documents and told PERSON\_135 to enter the yard, not go beyond the fence, but hang a red cloth on the door handle. PERSON\_135 asked the reason for it and the Russian military explained that if another column came, they would understand that PERSON\_135's house had already been checked, and the military would move on.

About 20–30 minutes later, the Russian military appeared again and started knocking on the gate. They told all the men to go outside. Neighbors, PERSON\_140, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_138, were also taken away.

*All the detainees were chained, shot close to the feet, and told to go to the bridge, where they would cut down the trees. While the Russian military was leading the detainees to the bridge, they shot many times, under the feet of the captives and upwards. One Russian soldier said that he had a headache because he had already shot so much today.*

Among the Russian soldiers accompanying PERSON\_135 and other detainees, PERSON\_135 remembered that there was a captain with one eye (he had a plate in place of the missing eye), and he was a commander.

When the detainees came to the bridge, the Russian military gave them their chainsaw and the chainsaw that had been previously stolen from PERSON\_135's mother's house. Then, the Russian military forced PERSON\_135 and other detainees to cut trees. The Russian military said that the sooner the detainees cut down the trees, the sooner they would go home.

*While PERSON\_135 and other detainees were working, the Russian military shot at their feet and upwards, and constantly rushed them. At that time, there was shelling, and the Russian military were afraid to be hit.*

There was a lot of work, but since the Russian military was constantly rushing them and shooting, PERSON\_135 and other detainees worked quickly, and it took them 1.5 hours. After PERSON\_135 and other detainees finished their work, they also formed a line, and the Russian military took them home, but they no longer shot at their feet. When PERSON\_135 was going home, he took his chainsaw.

Russian soldiers brought them home and told them not to go beyond the fence. PERSON\_135 and other detainees did not even have time to drink water, as about fifteen minutes later, there was another knock on the door. When PERSON\_135 went outside, the Russian soldiers were already surrounding PERSON\_140.

The Russian military told PERSON\_135 to get all the men out, wait outside the yard, and take their phones with them. When PERSON\_135, his son PERSON\_136, and relative PERSON\_134 went outside, neighbors PERSON\_138, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_137 were already standing on the street. The neighbors in the yard were "interrogated", and all of them (six persons in total) were taken to the premises of the psychiatric hospital. PERSON\_140 told the Russian military that he had small children, and they did not take him.

On the way, PERSON\_135 and other detainees walked in a line; they were pushed and constantly told to hurry. When they entered the premises of the psychiatric hospital, the Russian military equipment was already there. PERSON\_135 and other detainees were told to look down at their feet and nowhere else.

After PERSON\_135 and other detainees were brought to the psychiatric hospital, they were told to hand over their phones. One Russian soldier who had some kind of satellite-like device approached the detainees. He checked the detainees' phones and said that there were no outgoing calls made from the phones.

The Russian military took the phones and said they would return them later, but no one returned them, and the phones are still with the Russian military. Then, the soldiers took the detainees to the garages on the psychiatric hospital grounds.

The Russian military took them to the premises of the psychiatric hospital and began asking questions, in particular, who sawed the trees and made the roadblock. The one-eyed captain asked the questions. *After several questions, the captain started yelling at PERSON\_135 and beating him. The captain hit PERSON\_135 in the face with his hand approximately three times.*

*The captain also threatened that if PERSON\_135 did not say who felled the trees, the Russian military would shoot PERSON\_135's son. After that, the Russian military took the son of PERSON\_135 (PERSON\_136 behind the garage), and PERSON\_135 heard automatic fire or shots.*

*After that, the Russian military told PERSON\_135 that he, too, would be shot now. Russian soldiers beat PERSON\_135 and led him to be shot at the place where PERSON\_135's son was. The Russian military forced PERSON\_135 to kneel, and PERSON\_135 saw that there was a pamphlet on the ground with the image of the Mother of God, and the Russian soldier said, "Pray", to which PERSON\_135 replied that he is a person who believes in the soul.*

*Also, the Russian soldier told PERSON\_135 to take off his sweater, lift his trousers, and show the Russian soldier his legs. After that, the Russian soldier put a machine gun to PERSON\_135's*

forehead and shot upwards (*PERSON\_135 does not know whether the shots were consecutive or a single shot*).

After that, the Russian soldier hit PERSON\_135 with his leg in the arm (as a result, his left arm was dislocated and hurt for a week) and cursed, "Go to your son".

Then, this Russian soldier was ordered to summon all the detainees into a group and take them to a broken bus. The Russian military forced the detainees to kneel, cut the clothesline that was hanging nearby, and used it to tie the hands of all the detainees.

The Russian military once again asked PERSON\_135 where he served, to which PERSON\_135 said that he served in the Soviet army and the Russian military asked where specifically, to which PERSON\_135 replied that it was in Ussuriysk. The Russian military said that it was their "land" (he was originally from that area), and once again, they asked where specifically. PERSON\_135 replied: "Rozdolne", to which the Russian military once again said that it was their "land". After that, PERSON\_135 realized that the Russian soldiers were from Ussuriysk. After the conversation, the Russian soldiers acted a bit better towards the detainees.

Then, all the detainees were ordered to stand up and were sent to the canteen. A guard in the canteen was ordered to throw a grenade at the detainees if they were to move. All the detainees had their hands tied.

Then, the Russian military brought one bottle of water to the detainees and cut PERSON\_136's rope so he could feed the detainees. Only PERSON\_138 was not among the detainees because he was taken to another place.

The detainees sat for about one hour in the canteen, after which they were taken to the administrative building, where the office used to be. They walked with their hands tied. There were brought into a room 2 by 1 meters, in which medicine was stored when the psychiatric hospital was working.

The soldiers untied the detainees' hands before they were thrown into the room. There was also a large safe in the room, in which drugs were once stored. It was very crowded there, and the detainees could only stand. There was a welded cage in the room, where the detainees were thrown. Then, PERSON\_138 was brought in, but there was no room for everyone.

The Russian military locked the detainees in the cage and assigned a guard. After some time, they opened the cage and asked if anyone wanted to go to the toilet. Not all detainees wanted to, but PERSON\_135 was the first one to volunteer.

One Russian soldier guarded the psychiatric hospital building, and another led the detainees to the toilet. It was dark, and the soldier was using a flashlight (the lights were not turned on for security reasons). All the Russian soldiers were very drunk, and when PERSON\_135 went outside with another Russian soldier, the soldier guarding the psychiatric hospital building pulled the shutter of his gun and almost fired. The Russian soldier who was taking PERSON\_135 to the toilet, started shouting, "Hold fire".

PERSON\_135 quickly went to the toilet and was brought back to the cage again. After some time, the detainees were given food and tea (those who wanted ate some of it). The detainees put the food into disposable plates (the food then stood there for a long time afterwards).

*The detainees were locked in the cage and the room, and it was stuffy there. PERSON\_135 asked to open the door. There was no light, and it was difficult to breathe. There were cracks, and some fresh air was coming from there. PERSON\_135 and other detainees sat in turn, some sitting, some standing (because there was very little space). During the night, the detainees did not hear anything. Only a couple of times the guard opened the door because PERSON\_135 asked.*

No one was sleeping, and blankets or mattresses were thrown at the detainees to sit on. The next morning, the detainees heard that a soldier came to the guard, boasting about his

bravery. He spoke about how they [Russian military] fought, how he killed a Ukrainian soldier, about his trophies, and what he collected there. PERSON\_135 believes that the story was told to intimidate PERSON\_135 and other detainees. The soldier said that he took some expensive hair clippers and found a new Kalashnikov assault rifle, which he took for himself. The Russian soldier guarding the building addressed the Russian soldier telling him stories by the name **Eldar**. Eldar was wearing white sneakers, and PERSON\_135 asked him if he was cold, to which Eldar said, “No” because he was from the “north”.

After that, the Russian soldiers left without a word, and PERSON\_135 asked to leave a small crack in the door so that he could at least breathe. Following this, there was silence. PERSON\_135 and other detainees did not hear anything. The detainees did not know whether the Russian military had left. Around noon on April 1, 2022, after a long period of silence outside, the detainees decided to break the door and leave the room. The detainees were afraid to leave because they did not know anything. They looked out the windows and thought about where to go, fearing the area could have been mined.

After that, PERSON\_135 and other detainees heard the door open, and the homeless who lived on the grounds of the hospital (regional shelter for the homeless) entered. The homeless said that they were told by the Russian military to release the detainees not earlier than 13:00. The homeless told the detainees to join them because the Russian military ordered them not to release the detainees early. Otherwise, if the Russian soldiers returned, they would kill everyone.

When PERSON\_135 asked the homeless who was shooting, to which they replied said that the Russian military poured gasoline into the tank and set it on fire (PERSON\_135 and other detainees heard the explosions when they were moving from the administrative building to the building where the homeless stayed). When the detainees asked the homeless where the Russian troops were, they replied that they did not know anything.

Before the Russian military left, they forced the homeless persons to pull an anti-aircraft gun onto the road and aim it toward the village of Zhukotka. When PERSON\_135 and other detainees were sitting with the homeless people, they heard an extremely loud explosion as the tank exploded.

The tank was standing behind an old warehouse, and when it exploded, the warehouse shielded PERSON\_135, other detainees, and the homeless people, saving their lives. After the explosion, no one looked anywhere, and the detainees only saw that the tank exploded, after which everyone ran home.

PERSON\_135 remembers the captain of the Russian military who constantly complained that his whole family was fighting and his mother was sick with cancer.

<p><b>Testimony No. 56</b> (testified by PERSON_136) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.</p>
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PERSON\_136 lives in the village of Levonky located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region.

At the beginning of Russia’s full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, at the entrance to the village of Levonky, local residents made a roadblock out of trees to prevent the Russian military equipment from passing through.

On March 31, 2022, at approximately 16:00, the Russian military entered PERSON\_136’s house, where he lived with his father, PERSON\_135, and his mother, and other relatives from Chernihiv (namely PERSON\_134 and his family). The soldiers began to check documents. The two individu-

als who entered introduced themselves as Russian soldiers. Later, PERSON\_136 found out that those **soldiers were from Siberia** in Russia.

After the Russian military checked the documents, they left and told PERSON\_136 and others not to leave the house. About fifteen minutes later, the Russian military returned and told PERSON\_136 and all the men to gather. Then, they were taken away.

At gunpoint, the Russian military led PERSON\_136 and other detainees to clear the trees that had been felled at the entrance to the village of Levonky, near the bridge. *As they led PERSON\_136 and other detainees to the bridge, the soldiers fired shots at their feet and asked why they did not fight.*

After PERSON\_136 and other men in his house were taken outside, neighbors were brought to join them, namely PERSON\_137, PERSON\_139, and PERSON\_138. The Russian military detained those persons because someone in the village told the Russian military that they cut down those trees.

PERSON\_136 and other detainees were sawing trees *at gunpoint. The Russian military threatened them, told them to work faster, and fired shots into the air.*

After that, when PERSON\_136 and other detainees cleared those trees, they were escorted home. The Russian military then left but returned very quickly.

Then, after some time, the Russian military took PERSON\_136 and detainees to their headquarters, which they set up in a former psychiatric hospital in the village of Levonky. When the Russian military brought the detainees to the premises of the hospital, they began so-called “interrogations”. First, they took the phones from those who had them, tied their hands, and forced them to kneel.

On the first or second day after the beginning of Russia’s full-scale invasion, the Ukrainian Armed Forces were in the village. When they retreated, they left ammunition and cars (hid them), but the Russian troops found them and began to question PERSON\_136 and other detainees why the military equipment was there.

*After that, they tied their hands, forced them to kneel, and threatened in every way, in particular, to kill those who sawed trees. The shutter of the machine gun was constantly pulled.* After that, when neither PERSON\_136 nor other detainees said anything, **the Russian one-eyed commander** told PERSON\_136 and other detainees that they would be shot.

After that, PERSON\_136 and his father, PERSON\_135, were led one by one behind the garages where the equipment used to be, forced to kneel, and said that they would be shot, after which the Russian military shot over the detainee’s head. First, the Russian military took PERSON\_136 behind the garage, forced him to kneel, shot over his head, and then told PERSON\_136 to hide behind the garage so that PERSON\_136’s father would think that PERSON\_136 had been killed.

Then, PERSON\_135 was brought to the same place where PERSON\_136 was. They forced him to kneel and shot over his head, and said they would kill him. PERSON\_136 had to watch it.

Afterward, all the detainees were gathered together again, but PERSON\_137 and PERSON\_138 were not with other detainees.

When PERSON\_136 and other detainees were kneeling, they held their hands behind their backs. After they were taken one by one behind the garages and then brought back again together, their hands were tied. All were taken to the premises on the grounds of the hospital. After that, PERSON\_136 and other detainees were locked in a room and given several bottles of water.

On the grounds of the psychiatric hospital, there were many Russian soldiers (about 30 people) and new ones were arriving all the time. The same Russian soldiers were both on the street and in the hospital — they constantly went back and forth.



The Russian military gave detainees water, but PERSON\_136 and the other detainees had their hands tied. The military cut PERSON\_136's rope and told PERSON\_136 that he could give his friends water. Then, another Russian soldier came to PERSON\_136 and other detainees, and started asking about the life in Ukraine. PERSON\_136 remembers that the Russian soldier's last name was "**Beryoshin**" (that's how he introduced himself). PERSON\_136 remembers that the soldier said he was in his 30s, maybe 32 years old.

After that, PERSON\_136 and other detainees were taken to another room, which contained a metal cage that was used to store medicine for patients. The Russian military kept PERSON\_136 and other detainees behind bars until morning.

*It was very cramped in the cage. PERSON\_136 and other detainees sat on the floor first, and then the Russian military gave them one or two mattresses. PERSON\_136 and other detainees sat on them taking turns. It was very stuffy in the room — there were six detainees, no windows, and everything was closed (the Russian military even shut the door). PERSON\_136 and other detainees were guarded by one Russian soldier who sat on the other side of the door. Then, in the evening, the detainees were brought tea and something to eat. Some ate, some didn't. Then, the detainees who wanted to use the toilet were taken out and guarded at gunpoint. PERSON\_136 and other detainees were held all night until 5:00 or 6:00 in the morning on April 1, 2022. None of the detainees slept because there was not enough space, and it was uncomfortable.*

On the morning of April 1, 2022, the Russian military again brought the detainees something to eat. At approximately 6:00, *the Russian military departed, leaving the detainees behind in the cage. At the same time, the Russian military threatened the detainees and said that they would throw a grenade.*

Most of the Russian soldiers were intoxicated and searching for vodka. After the Russian soldiers left, PERSON\_136 and other detainees broke through the bars and doors.

A tank remained on the premises of the hospital, which seems to have broken down in the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion. Before leaving, the Russian military set the tank on fire, which exploded extremely loudly in front of the detainees.

The Russian military told PERSON\_136 and other detainees that they would be released, but no one came. PERSON\_136 and other detainees first went to the homeless people who lived on the grounds of the hospital, because they did not want to be seen by the Russian military, before they went home.

PERSON\_136 remembers that the Russian military said that they were **signalmen**.

<p><b>Testimony No. 57</b> (testified by PERSON_141) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.</p>
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PERSON\_141 lives in the village of Andriivka, located in the Chernihiv district of the Chernihiv region, where he served as the head of the village. On March 20, 2022, Russian troops entered the village and began to set up roadblocks at the exit and entrance to the village.

On the same day, PERSON\_141 was away on business (he went to get bread for locals from neighboring villages). Around 16:00, on March 20, 2022, when PERSON\_141 was returning to his village, he was stopped by Russian soldiers who forced him to get out of the car, took his mobile phone, and started looking for something in the phone.

When inspecting PERSON\_141's phone, the Russian military saw many photos of documents and began to ask him what these documents were. PERSON\_141 replied that they were work related. The Russian military asked who PERSON\_141 worked for, to which PERSON\_141 replied



that he was the head of the village, to which the Russian military replied that they had been looking for him all day.

After that, the Russian military contacted the commander by radio, and an armored car “Tigr” drove up to them. The “senior” got out of this car and told other soldiers to take off PERSON\_141’s jacket and blindfold him with it. Afterward, they put PERSON\_141 in a car. In the car, PERSON\_141 realized that two other persons were already detained there. As PERSON\_141 later found out, they were PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_136.

The Russian military drove PERSON\_141, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_136 around the village for about an hour. When they arrived to a particular place, PERSON\_141, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_136 were pulled out of the car. At that moment, PERSON\_141 heard familiar sounds and realized that it was the center of the village. They were made to disembark at a bus stop and, one by one, taken to the Russian commander who asked them various questions.

When PERSON\_141’s turn came, he was led to a car standing next to the bus stop. From the car, the Russian commander asked how many people lived in the village and how many went to fight. PERSON\_141 did not give exact answers to the questions. Also, the commander asked if PERSON\_141 had seen “Nazis” in the village.

The Russian military took PERSON\_141 to three or four Russian soldiers in different cars who asked the same questions. After that, they promised to release him in the evening of March 20, 2022.

It began to get dark, and PERSON\_141 asked if he would be released. The Russian military said he would not be released until morning and would be “detained to clarify the circumstances”.

PERSON\_141, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_136 were taken to the headquarters in the “Vital” medical facility in the center of Andriivka village. The medical center, housed in a two-storey building, was no longer operational.

*PERSON\_141, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_136 had their hands tied and blindfolded all night. They sat on the bench all night. Only in the morning the Russian military took PERSON\_141, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_136 out into the street and untied their hands and eyes.* The Russian military released PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_136. PERSON\_141 was held for about an hour, after which he was put into the “Tigr” armored car.

PERSON\_141 told the Russian military that the bread he had collected the previous day need to be distributed. The Russian military allowed him to go but escorted him to the house (two Russian soldiers went with him and followed him for about two kilometers).

PERSON\_141 took the car with bread and, together with the Russian military, arrived and unloaded the bread. After that, he was told that he could go home, park the car, and come to the center of the village for work at 9:00 (the village council is located there). After that, PERSON\_141 went home and ate for the first time in a day.

*When PERSON\_141 and other persons were kept in the “Vital” medical center, the Russian military gave them only water and some biscuits. One of the Russian soldiers shouted that PERSON\_141 should be shot.*

On March 21, 2022, PERSON\_141 came to work at the village council at 9:00. A Russian commander in the village council introduced himself as the **“commandant” of the Russian military, Armen.**

Armen was the so-called “commandant” of the Russian military in occupied Andriivka for ten days (before the Russian military left Andriivka). PERSON\_141 communicated with Armen every day. For example, in cases where the Russian military caught someone, they asked if the person was local.

Armen told PERSON\_141 to tell the locals not to say on the phone that there were Russian soldiers in the village. Otherwise, he would “drive 20 tanks and raze the village to the ground”.

Around noon on March 21, 2022, after the Russian military released PERSON\_141, the village was shelled. After the shelling, Armen came with other Russian soldiers to PERSON\_141's home, and one Russian soldier *pressed the barrel of the machine gun against PERSON\_141's back and pressed it so hard that PERSON\_141 bent over*. With threats, Armen began to ask PERSON\_141, who was the informer.

On March 30, 2022, at 14:00, the Russian military left the village of Andriivka.

After the deoccupation of the village of Andriivka, the so-called "commandant" Armen was identified by the Security Service of Ukraine as the **commander of the 74th Separate Motorized Rifle Brigade, Armen Abgharyan, born in 1990, originally from the Kemerovo region of the Russian Federation**.

<p><b>Testimony No. 58</b> (testified by PERSON_142) <b>Place of the event:</b> t. o. t. of the Chernihiv region.</p>
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PERSON\_142 lives in the village of Andriivka located in the Chernihiv district in the Chernihiv region. On March 20, 2022, Russian troops entered the village of Andriivka and began to set up roadblocks at the exit and entrance to the village.

On March 20, 2022, PERSON\_142, PERSON\_165, and the store owner went to the village of Goncharivske in two passenger cars. A truck with bread, which they were supposed to bring to the village of Andriivka, was there. The store owner asked PERSON\_165 and PERSON\_142 to drive with bread to Andriivka through the woods.

After noon on March 20, 2022, PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 from the village of Goncharivske reached the village of Zheved in the Chernihiv district. The acquaintances called PERSON\_165 and informed that the Russian military entered the village of Andriivka. After that, PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 started driving through the woods to avoid passing through a field or an open area where they could be seen.

In the forest, PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and the store owner agreed to divide the bread between the cars and go to the village of Andriivka in different cars at different times.

The store owner was the first one to leave in his truck with bread. PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 were supposed to follow in a passenger car with bread.

PERSON\_165 asked the store owner to give a signal that he reached the store. PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 waited for a signal for about 30–60 minutes on the outskirts of the forest (approximately 1.5–2 km to the village of Andriivka). However, no one got in touch because there was no phone connection.

PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 decided to drive closer to the village of Andriivka and walk home. After they drove approximately 900 meters — 1 km, they decided to leave the car with the bread because they were already in an open field and could be seen.

After they left the car in the forest, they walked to PERSON\_165's home. When they were halfway (about 200 meters to the house of PERSON\_165), they were noticed by a group of 4–5 Russian soldiers. At that time, the Russian military was in the village and spread out along the roads, blocking the entrances to the village of Andriivka.

One of the Russian soldiers told PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 to approach him and raise their hands. When PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 approached the Russian soldier, he began to ask who they were and where they were from. PERSON\_165 had a loaf of bread in his hands, which he took from the abandoned car so that they could eat something at home.

After PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 approached the Russian military, they began to search them, took away their mobile phones, began checking their phones, and demanded documents.

The Russian military organized a so-called “interrogation” of PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 on the spot. They asked PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 who they were, where they were going, where they lived, etc. PERSON\_165 received more attention because he had a short haircut and was wearing military trousers and boots (PERSON\_165 was a former soldier).

The Russian military also ordered PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_165 to undress completely. *PERSON\_165 asked why they were taking off their shoes, to which the Russian military replied that they were looking for a “fascist swastika”.*

PERSON\_165 wore a medallion around his neck containing his personal information, including surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth, and blood type. He also had a tattoo of a scorpion with a sword, a military-style tattoo symbolizing “I will never fight again”.

The Russian military began to ask whether PERSON\_165 was in a special unit, to which PERSON\_165 replied that he was not, and one of the Russian soldiers *hit PERSON\_165 with the butt of a machine gun. At that moment, there was an order to “lie down”, and they also said that they would shoot.* Regarding the tattoo, PERSON\_165 said that he was a Scorpio according to the horoscope, and the Russian military calmed down a little bit after the given explanation.

Next, the Russian military began to ask whether there were military or police officers in the village. PERSON\_165 replied that there was no military or police presence in the village; only local residents.

After that, the Russian military told PERSON\_165 and PERSON\_142 to get up and get dressed. Then, a “Tigr” armored car drove up, from which the “senior” got out (his face was covered and he wore a balaclava).

PERSON\_165 and PERSON\_142’s jackets were taken off and their faces were covered with the jackets, as they were told to get into the “Tigr” car. About 1–2 minutes later, another person was seated next to them, and from the conversation, PERSON\_142 understood that it was the head of the village of Andriivka, PERSON\_141.

After PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 were put in the car, the Russian military made various maneuvers, both backward and forward (most likely to disorient the captives in the area). Along with them in the car, besides the driver and the “senior”, there was someone else, apart from the Russian soldiers who detained PERSON\_165 and PERSON\_142.

After about 30 minutes of such maneuvers, the detainees were brought somewhere. PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 sat in the car for about twenty minutes, while the Russian military were talking to each other.

Then, PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 started talking about how to sit more comfortably because their legs were sore. The Russian military told them to sit and suffer. After the Russian military talked to each other, PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 were told to get out of the car, with the soldier being assigned to each of them.

They led the detainees by hand to the bus stop and told them to sit down. PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 were separated by about 50 cm, so they did not touch each other. The Russian military asked everyone different questions.

One of the Russian soldiers scoffed and started reloading the machine gun next to PERSON\_165, after which he asked PERSON\_165 if he was scared, to which PERSON\_165 replied that there was a plan for everyone in life. After those words, *the Russian soldier became angry and hit PERSON\_165 on the left leg with the butt of a machine gun.*

The Russian soldiers were talking to each other, and PERSON\_165 told them that he understood from their conversation where they were coming from. Also, PERSON\_165 asked if they

had ever come to Chernihiv and if they knew where they were. After that, the Russian military began to speak more quietly.

During those conversations, PERSON\_142 heard how the Russian military mentioned some geographical locations in Belarus. Their military uniform looked different from that worn by Russian soldiers, as it was lighter in color. PERSON\_142 presumed that those soldiers were most likely from Belarus.

Then, the military began to take PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 separately for so-called “interrogation”, spending about 10–15 minutes with each detainee in the car.

PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 sat at the bus stop until it got dark. After the “interrogations”, the detainees were offered some food (pate and galettes), but they refused.

PERSON\_141 said it was freezing and asked that the military to make a decision. The detainees were led to the car, with the engine running constantly. It was very uncomfortable to climb into the car and sit there because there were many Russian soldiers and things inside. The detainees sat in silence, while the Russian soldiers talked to each other.

After twenty minutes, the detainees were taken out of the armored car and told to put their hands on each other’s shoulders and follow the soldiers on foot. Before the detainees were brought to the center of the village, the “senior” told other soldiers that if there was any “kipish” [a slang word in Russian for making noise and trouble] on the part of the detainees, he would drive tanks into the village and “level their village to the ground”.

The detainees were brought to the “Vital” medical center (everything was located in the center of the village — the school, the “Vital” medical center, and the village council) and made them to sit on a sofa. One Russian soldier said that the detainees’ hands should be tied for the sake of the Russian military’s security.

PERSON\_142 asked the military if PERSON\_142 and PERSON\_141 could move closer to PERSON\_165 to warm him up a bit. One of the Russian soldiers allowed it. After that, another Russian soldier came in and offered to give the detainees a blanket.

One Russian soldier stayed with the detainees all night, allowing them to cover themselves with a blanket, but the detainees’ hands had to be kept above the blanket. The detainees sat until morning and did not move.

At night, the detainees wanted to use the toilet. Each detainee was taken out to the toilet separately by the Russian military.

Around 5:00–6:00 on March 21, 2022, PERSON\_165, PERSON\_142, and PERSON\_141 were taken to a “Tigr” car, where they were “interrogated” the previous evening. The “senior” Russian commander ordered to take off the sweaters, which were used to blindfold them, and untie their hands. After that, he examined PERSON\_165’s hands and said that they were tied too tightly.

The Russian soldier returned their passports. His face was uncovered and he said that had nothing to fear. He asked how far their homes were and informed them that there would be as few from now, telling them to hurry up home. After that, PERSON\_142 went home.

**Testimony No. 59** (testified by PERSON\_143)  
**Place of the event:** t. o. t. of the Kherson region.

PERSON\_143 is a civilian who worked as a driver for a private entrepreneur few times a week in the village of Komishany located in the Kherson region. PERSON\_143 used a Mercedes Benz car to pick up corpses from the morgue and drive them to their destination.

On July 14, 2022, around 9:00 o'clock, PERSON\_143 and his colleagues drank coffee at work. After that, when PERSON\_143 went to pick up the car (he took the registration card), the Russian military armed assault rifles with unexpectedly entered the building.

*The Russian soldiers knocked PERSON\_143 to the floor, began to beat him on the legs and ribs, put a foot on his neck, took everything from his pockets (phone and driver's license), and tied his hands with a rope.*

The Russian military "interrogated" PERSON\_143 and asked about the whereabouts of his brother-in-law. PERSON\_143's brother-in-law also worked for the same entrepreneur, but he was not at the company at that time, as the Russian military were already at his home.

After the office was searched, PERSON\_143 was taken to the workshop, his hands twisted and bound with tape so tightly that they turned blue, where they started another "search".

Then, they brought in the head of the workshop, whose hands were also bound with tape. He was interrogated and tortured in the next room: *he was beaten, a circular saw was placed near his hands, causing the skin on his hand to peel from the heat, he was struck on the back and knees with a metal rod, and he was also suspended by his hands from a steel rebar.* PERSON\_143 witnessed it through the window.

During the "interrogation", the Russian military asked PERSON\_143 about his brother-in-law. PERSON\_143 replied that he did not know anything, but *they kicked him in the middle of the chest and the face, forced him to kneel and put gun to his head. The torture continued for 20 minutes.*

Then, PERSON\_143 and another man were thrown into different cars, and PERSON\_143 was taken to his house for a so-called "search". PERSON\_143's wife was at home and saw him covered in blood. She got scared and started asking why he was covered in blood, to which the Russian military replied that it was the blood of a traitor. PERSON\_143's father-in-law and children were also in the house. When the Russian military found nothing, they took him back to the workshop.

The men (PERSON\_143's colleagues) were still kneeling in the workshop. The Russian soldiers chatted on their walkie-talkies, rested, and took them to the embankment in the city of Kherson after a couple of hours.

The Russian military approached boatmen, as they were looking for a boat to go to local country houses. As they did not find what they were looking for, they took PERSON\_143 and others to Perekopska Str in Kherson and later to the ITT premises located at Popovych Str.

PERSON\_143 was seated near the fence and given a bottle of water. When PERSON\_143 started drinking, one of the Russian soldiers came up, *put a cap on PERSON\_143's head, and twisted his arms. PERSON\_143 lost his balance and fell on the ground together with the Russian soldier, which made the Russian soldier angry and prompted him to beat PERSON\_143 severely on his torso and head.*

Then, the Russian military took PERSON\_143 to the second floor. *There, PERSON\_143 was beaten with a baton on his legs and back.* After that, PERSON\_143 was put in a cell facing Antonivka. The cell was for two people (2 beds): there was a table, a sink, and a toilet, but PERSON\_143 was detained alone.

About five-ten minutes later, PERSON\_143 saw the Russian military who beat and threatened him. They asked what to write on PERSON\_143's grave, after which PERSON\_143 was taken to another cell. A man with a bruise under his eye was put in a cell with PERSON\_143. The man was studying to become a firefighter in Kharkiv and was about 40 years old.

In the evening, they first took the man, and then ten minutes later, they came to the cell for PERSON\_143. He was blindfolded again with a cap and led to another cell (No. 11), which was located below, with the window facing the yard. There were already four detainees in this cell, and



PERSON\_143 was the fifth. The cell was designed for four people, with a table, a sink, and a toilet. *There was a torture chamber under the cell, from where the screams of the detainees who were beaten could be constantly be heard. This happened both during the day and at night.*

At night, two more persons were brought into the cell, while the other two were taken away. This happened every night. *The light was constantly on, which caused PERSON\_143's eyes to hurt greatly and prevented him from sleeping. The detainees slept where there was available space — on the tables and on the floor, as there were more people than beds.*

*PERSON\_143 testifies that he saw one man brought into the cell undressed — he was all black and blue from torture with many bruises.* In the evening, he was taken away again (the man was from Fontanka).

*PERSON\_143 testifies that the detainees were fed pasta in the morning, nothing at lunch, and given tea in the evening. From July 14, 2022, to July 18, 2022, the detainees were not fed because there was no food delivery.* PERSON\_143 had to divide his breakfast into two portions.

From July 20, 2022, the Russian military rotated, *and detainees began to be given small curds and bread with tea. The bread was always moldy. The detainees used to hang moldy bread so that it would dry up and turn into rusks. PERSON\_143 testifies that sometimes detainees were given stew and sweets, but this was rare. For three days, the detainees were only given tea with moldy bread.*

*The Russian military also made the detainees drink at least 1.5 liters of tap water (the detainees' only source of water), telling that "no one would die" from drinking it.*

On Friday, (as PERSON\_143 understood from the words of the Russian military), the captives were "fingerprinted" (fingerprints were taken), and biological samples were taken. PERSON\_143 testifies that the Russian military had its own laboratory.

On Tuesday, a so-called "interrogation" was conducted. The Russian military wanted to find out information about PERSON\_143's brother-in-law and how close they were. PERSON\_143 replied that he did not communicate or keep in touch with him, but the Russian military did not like the answer and continued to ask same questions for fifteen minutes. At the end of the "interrogation", PERSON\_143 was given a piece of paper and told to think about his answers to the questions he had been asked. PERSON\_143 began to write down what the Russian military demanded. For about ten days, the Russian military did not touch PERSON\_143.

Then, he was summoned for another "interrogation". The Russian military read what PERSON\_143 wrote and said it did not suit them. After that, *the Russian military began to beat PERSON\_143 brutally with hands and feet.*

*Next, the Russian military connected a device with a wire to PERSON\_143's ear in order to torture him with electroshock, but it broke. Then, the Russian military suddenly ripped the device from PERSON\_143's ear, injuring the earlobe. Given that the device had already had blood and remnants of other people's skin, PERSON\_143's wounded ear got infected and healed poorly afterwards.*

The Russian military also threatened to bring PERSON\_143's wife or daughter into the torture chamber and "interrogate" them. PERSON\_143 asked them not to do this.

*After that, one of the Russian soldiers approached PERSON\_143 from behind, reloaded his weapon, and hit him in the head from behind. At first, PERSON\_143 did not understand what had happened and thought that he had been shot, but then he realized that it was a blow. PERSON\_143 testifies that, at that moment, he was terrified. After that "interrogation", the Russian military returned PERSON\_143 to the cell and told him to "think harder".*

On August 1, 2022, the Russian military began conducting another "interrogation", during which PERSON\_143 was offered a cigarette, to which PERSON\_143 agreed. Later, the Russian military apologized to him and said it was a "test".



After that, the Russian military put a cap on PERSON\_143's head and took him to Komyshani, where he was released.

**Testimony No. 60** (testified by PERSON\_145)

**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kherson region.

PERSON\_145 is a resident of Petrivka village located in the Boryslav district in the Kherson region.

On April 4, 2022, PERSON\_145 and his friend (neighbor) were captured by the Russian military under the pretext of "clarifying the circumstances".

The Russian military drove PERSON\_145 and his friend for about a day. During the entire journey, they conducted harsh "interrogations", accompanied by *brutal beatings with the purpose to find out information where the "Nazis" and ATO soldiers were*. However, the detainees did not know anything and could not say anything. The Russian military *threatened the detainees they would come to their village and destroy it*.

On April 5, 2022, the Russian military brought detainees to a school in the village of Bilyaivka in the Boryslav district. At that time, the detainees where they were brought, as they were blind-folded. They were confined in a cell (2.5 by 6 meters), in which four men were held.

The Russian military forbade detainees to speak. However, other men told PERSON\_145 that they were transported from the village of Lyubimivka, where they had been held captive for twenty-one days. For the first two-three days, PERSON\_145 and his friend were taken away, "interrogated", and detained again.

Between the time of PERSON\_145's capture and Easter, another sixteen local residents were brought in, from whom the detainees learned that they were being held at a school in the village of Bilyaivka.

The detainees tried to keep track of time, but it was nearly impossible because the room had no windows and it was completely dark. Later, several more men were brought in.

On April 11, 2022, a man from Trudolyubivka was brought to the cell. PERSON\_145 *heard how this man was tortured and electrocuted*. After the "interrogation", the Russian military brought him to the basement where PERSON\_145 was kept and banned other detainees from talking to him and untying his hands or eyes.

*The man told the captives that something was attached to his nose during the torture, and his nose was burning. The detainees untied him. In front of the captives, this man began to suffocate and died about 40 minutes later. The corpse lay in the basement with the detainees until the morning of April 12, 2022.*

*The detainees called the Russian military and asked for help, but the Russian military only threatened to throw a grenade into the basement and did not provide any help. Regarding the request to bring a doctor, the Russian military responded that if the man did not die by morning, then they would get a doctor. In the morning, the doctor came and pronounced him dead.*

A little later, persons who introduced themselves as the Russian military police arrived, loaded the corpse into a bag (used for storing saltpeter (Potassium Nitrate)) and took it to an unknown place.

The detainees were not allowed to leave the basement. When the Russian soldiers closed the door, they said that everything would be fine and "they would pay", but the detainees did not know what they meant. The next day, the captives were told that the man was allegedly "strangled by a local drug addict (PERSON\_146)".

*For five days, the detainees were not given water and starved. Some detainees drank their urine.*

*When PERSON\_146 was brought in, he had been injected with something. PERSON\_146 tore off his clothes and crawled on the floor, banging frantically his head against the wall.*

*It was freezing then, and the detainees tore off the wallpaper and put it in their clothes to warm up somehow. The detainees begged to call a doctor, but the Russian military categorically refused because they said that PERSON\_146 was a “Nazi” and a “drug addict”.*

The locals from the village of Bilyaivka knew PERSON\_146 because he came to the village many times. They said he was an ordinary man, suffering from a speech defect. Locals also said that PERSON\_146 had a 2-year-old son. PERSON\_146 died on April 20, 2022.

*When the detainees told the Russian military about it, they did not even open the door. Through the closed door, the Russian military said that if there were a doctor, he would come. Also, the Russian military alleged that the detainees who “crushed” PERSON\_146 so that they could get more water.*

The body of PERSON\_146 lay in the room where the detainees were kept for another day until the doctor came and pronounced him dead. After that, one of the Russian soldiers took the body of PERSON\_146 by the leg and dragged it out of the basement. The fate of the body is unknown to the captives.

*All the time, the detainees were kept in the basement and not released anywhere. During the first month, the detainees were fed four times. Then they were fed every evening, but each time, the Russian military mocked the detainees, comparing them to “pigs” and “offering” to urinate in the detainees’ food.*

On June 10, 2022, the Russian military brought buckets of water and bars of soap to the detainees, ordered them to wash, and then began to take the detainees out, asking the same questions. Each detainee was “interrogated” for 5–10 minutes.

On June 11, 2022, the detainees heard that the Russian military was preparing for the arrival of their commanders; they were cleaning and tidying up before their arrival.

Then, the captives’ blindfolds were removed, and they were instructed to read a text. The Russian military told the captives they had a choice: either stay there or read the text on camera. The Russian soldiers were masked, so the detainees could not see their faces. PERSON\_145 testified that the text contained complete lies and Russian propaganda about Ukraine and its authorities, which the detainees were supposed to read during the video recording. PERSON\_145 stated that the detainees had no real choice, as the Russian military forced each of them to read the text on camera and intimidated them into silence, warning them not to “say anything to anyone”.

On June 12, 2022, PERSON\_145 overheard a conversation among the Russian military about preparing eight bandages and tape, though they then remarked that it might be better to shoot the detainees. At that moment, the eleven detainees were terrified.

After some time, a Russian commander entered the room where the detainees were kept and began calling them by names. The detainees were taken out one by one, with their eyes and hands covered with tape. In total, eight men were taken out, including PERSON\_145. The detainees asked if they should take their things (they wanted to know if there was any hope of survival or if they were being taken to be shot), but the Russian military replied that “the things will not be needed” in the place where the detainees were going.

Then, one Russian commander told the remaining three to hand over their belongings. The captives were led out two by two, holding each other’s shoulders. When the detainees walked, they heard noise from people and equipment.

The detainees were taken to an unknown place. When the car stopped, the Russian soldiers called out the names of the detainees, and they walked in pairs. The detainees were told that their village was behind on the right side, and they were ordered to wait until the Russian soldiers left before removing the tape from their eyes. The Russian military handed over individual bags to the detainees, containing cigarettes, a small juice package, and some stew cans.

When PERSON\_145 and his neighbor removed the blindfolds, they realized where they had been dropped off. It was about 4 kilometers from their village. They walked very slowly because they had no strength. The neighbor's mother met them in the village; she kissed them but did not immediately recognize them.

*PERSON\_145 testifies that he lost 22 kilograms during 69 days of captivity.*

After the release, the Russian military came to PERSON\_145 and his neighbor several more times to check whether PERSON\_145 and his neighbor had escaped.

**Testimony No. 61** (testified by PERSON\_144)  
**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Donetsk region.

PERSON\_144 resigned from service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine after the end of his contract on March 29, 2021. Since 2018, he has lived with his family in the city of Mariupol in the Donetsk region. After the discharge from military service, he worked at the warehouse of the "Nasha Ryaba" poultry farm.

At the time of Russia's full-scale invasion, PERSON\_144 and his wife remained in the city without the possibility of leaving, and continued to live in the apartment they rented.

PERSON\_144 and his wife lived under constant shelling without electricity, water, gas, and food, but their home was almost undamaged. PERSON\_144 and his family, including his wife and two small children could not leave because they had no transport. Some neighbors took a risk and drove away in their cars, but their fate was unknown to PERSON\_144.

On April 3, 2022, around 9:00, PERSON\_144's home in Mariupol was visited by two armed men who identified themselves as representatives of the so-called "DPR". They inspected the documents of PERSON\_144 and began to ask what PERSON\_144, who was registered in western Ukraine, was doing in Mariupol. As PERSON\_144 later found out, one of his neighbors (an elderly man) reported PERSON\_144 to the military of "DPR" as a former member of the ATO.

PERSON\_144 answered that he works and lives with his family in Mariupol. Then the Russian military said that they were taking PERSON\_144 away for "filtering".

PERSON\_144 was put in a white bus with the inscription "АДЧ" ("administrative duty unit") and taken to a damaged kindergarten that was located nearby. There were about 12–15 people on the bus. The detainees were guarded by the armed men and waited for a decision to be made.

About four hours later, PERSON\_144 and four other men were left, while the others were released. The five detainees who were left in the bus had their hands tied behind their backs with construction screeds and were taken to the village of Vynogradne.

There, at the checkpoint, the detainees were handed over to representatives of the so-called "Donetsk UBOZ [Directorate for Combating Organized Crime]". PERSON\_144 was brought to the "UBOZ" for a so-called "interrogation", during which he was severely beaten. *The "interrogation" accompanied by beating lasted several hours*, after which PERSON\_144 was taken to a cell. 16 detainees were held in a cell designed for four people. *Before being taken to the cell, the Russian military removed the engagement ring from PERSON\_144's finger and took it away.*

*In the morning, the detainees were given one loaf of bread to be shared by five persons and four liters of water for all 16 detainees. This was the entire ration for the whole day. After lunch, PERSON\_144 and two other detainees were taken out of the cell and taken to the premises of the Donetsk ITT, where PERSON\_144 spent the night. In the morning, he and other sixteen men were taken to the premises of Olenivska Correctional Colony (No. 120).*

*When PERSON\_144 and other detainees were brought in there, they were stripped, searched and beaten. Then, the detainees were locked in a cell, which was designed for 6 people, but 20 people were held there.*

*The detainees were given about 10 liters of water per day. They used it to satisfy all their needs: to drink, to wash themselves, and to flush the toilet. Water was extremely scarce. PERSON\_144 testified that it was barely enough to quench his thirst.*

*The detainees were fed tiny portions and were not given a spoon. PERSON\_144 was held in such conditions for about seven days. During that time, the detainees only went out for a walk once.*

*After one week, PERSON\_144 was transferred to a barrack, where the detainees were given little water and food. PERSON\_144 was held there for about fifteen days and then again moved to a cell, where a total of 57 detainees were held (the cell was designed for 6 people). The detainees had to sleep while sitting and were taking turns, as there was not enough room for everyone. The detainees were kept there for several days, after which the detainees began to be taken out in small groups to the premises of the Donetsk ITT. PERSON\_144 was brought to the premises of the Donetsk ITT on May 7, 2022.*

*PERSON\_144 did not have the opportunity to wash himself from April 3 to May 7, 2022.*

*When PERSON\_144 was brought to the premises of the Donetsk ITT, he was again stripped and searched, during which he was beaten and tortured with a stun gun. Under the threat of even harsher beatings, the Russian military forced PERSON\_144 to step on a printout of the coat of arms of Ukraine.*

*Then, the detainees were placed in cells, where 2 detainees had to share a single bed. The cells were damp, infested with bedbugs, lice and had no windows. Sometimes, the Russian military, who were guarding the detainees, entered the cells and beat them.*

*Also, during the day, detainees were only allowed to stand — lying down and sitting were only allowed from 22:00 to 06:00. Food portions were tiny. The detainees washed themselves with cold tap water.*

*There was no medical help. PERSON\_144 had a very high fever for three days, but no one provided medical assistance. PERSON\_144 testifies that there were detainees who died from high fever.*

*PERSON\_144 indicates that detainees were also forced to sign some documents without reading them during the period of detention.*

*After being held in the premises of the Donetsk ITT, PERSON\_144 weighed about 65 kilograms, while his average weight is about 85 kg.*

*On July 1, 2022, PERSON\_144 was moved to the premises of the Kalinin correctional colony in Horlivka in the Donetsk region. There, the detainees were also stripped, searched, and beaten.*

*During his detention in the Kalinin correctional colony, PERSON\_144 washed himself with lukewarm water for the first time during his entire period of captivity.*

*The detainees were held in barracks — 250 people in a single barrack. They were allowed to wash once a week, but warm water was not always available. Clothing was scarce, so the detainees had to walk around in rags and torn shoes with worn-out soles. Sometimes, the detainees were driven out into the street in this condition when it was cold and raining.*

Later, the detainees were allowed to receive letters and packages up to 20 kg, *most of the content of which was taken by the Russian military*, who guarded the detainees in the colony. The letters arrived, but they were subjected to strict censorship.

*PERSON\_144 testifies that the guards could beat anyone at any time, without any reason. They simply invented new rules and prohibitions, any alleged “violation” led to an immediate beating. Once every 3–4 months, masked men armed with rubber batons and police impact shields would come and selectively beat some detainees in the barracks.*

In May 2023, the detainees, including PERSON\_144, were moved from barrack 3 to 8, *which had no water supply and partially no floor and windows.*

On July 28, 2023, PERSON\_144 was released from the colony premises without his phone or identity documents, but was not allowed to contact his relatives. Strangers sheltered PERSON\_144 for the night so he did not have to sleep on the street.

Later, PERSON\_144 recovered his documents and tried to leave through the Novoazovsk checkpoint to Russia to be reunited with his family in Finland. *At the checkpoint, PERSON\_144 was subjected to severe psychological pressure — he was thrown into a cell for five hours, then released from the cell, turned back, and told not even to try to leave again under the threat of being detained again.*

After some time, PERSON\_144 drove through another checkpoint and managed to leave the territory of the “DPR”, and then two days later, he managed to cross into the Russian territory.

As PERSON\_144 later learned from his wife, she wandered around the city looking for him when he was captured. *During that time, she was subjected to a humiliating strip search and moral abuse.*

**Testimony No. 62** (testified by PERSON\_147)  
**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Donetsk region.

On February 24, 2022, PERSON\_147 lived in Mariupol in the Donetsk region, with his family — his wife, his disabled son, and his wife’s 90-year-old mother. PERSON\_147’s son is nonverbal autistic from childhood. PERSON\_147 and his family lived in an apartment on the 9th floor of a multi-storied building.

PERSON\_147 is a well-known actor in Mariupol who founded his theater “Terra Incognita”. The theater’s repertoire includes productions based on the plays written by modern Ukrainian authors.

Since March 2, 2022, Mariupol has been without electricity, heating, or communication. It was under siege, with no access to food and water. PERSON\_147 cooked meals on the bonfire from the leftover ingredients.

His son lost 20 kilograms of weight because he had not eaten anything due to his illness. He did not tolerate loud sounds very well. Due to constant shelling and explosions, he began to howl for several hours.

After the siege of Mariupol began, PERSON\_147 did not have the opportunity to evacuate quickly, as he did not have a car. The official evacuation did not take place until the beginning of May 2022.

On April 2, 2022, the mother of PERSON\_147’s wife died of physical and emotional exhaustion, and they buried her on the lawn in front of the entrance to the multi-storied building.

In order to leave the occupied territory and escape to the government-controlled territory of Ukraine, on May 17, 2022, PERSON\_147, together with his wife and son, went to the village



of Mangush to undergo the so-called “filtering” procedure. During the procedure, Russians took fingerprints, stripped men, and searched for tattoos. After undergoing “filtering” measures, PERSON\_147 and his family returned to their apartment in Mariupol and were supposed to leave the city on May 21, 2022.

On May 20, 2022, armed men in military uniform came to his home. They threatened PERSON\_147 with a weapon and ransacked the apartment. PERSON\_147’s wife was not in the apartment.

The Russian military informed PERSON\_147 that he was “detained”. *PERSON\_147 asked the Russian military to wait for his wife, as his son was disabled and could not be left home alone, but the Russian military refused.*

The Russian military put a bag over PERSON\_147’s head and took him in an unknown direction. While the car was driving, the Russian military conducted a so-called “interrogation” of PERSON\_147. Later, PERSON\_147 learned that those were “operational workers” from the so-called “DPR”.

PERSON\_147 was taken to the premises of a sanatorium in the Primorsky district of Mariupol, where he was held for several hours and then taken to Donetsk.

PERSON\_147 was transported *with a bag on his head for the entire time. It was impossible to breathe due to the heat, and PERSON\_147’s blood pressure went up. PERSON\_147 asked to remove the bag, but the Russian military refused.* During the trip, the Russian military “interrogated” PERSON\_147 regarding his alleged cooperation with the Security Service of Ukraine. *They demanded a confession from PERSON\_147. He was threatened to be killed at gunpoint and his family to be killed.*

*PERSON\_147 testifies that he was captured based on someone’s reporting of his active pro-Ukrainian position.*

When the Russian military brought PERSON\_147 to the city of Donetsk, he was taken to the former school, where the so-called “Ministry of State Security of the DPR” had its office.

*There, PERSON\_147 was subjected to psychological and physical pressure. The Russian military beat PERSON\_147 on the back with a stick.* The “interrogations” were conducted on the school premises located at 3 Svitlyy Shlyakh Street.

PERSON\_147 testifies that he was taken for “interrogation” to that school several times.

*The detention conditions at the “Izolyatsia” prison were inhumane. The detainees were forced to wake up at 6:00. From that time until 22:00 every day, they were forbidden to sit or lie on the bed — they could only take turns sitting on a small bench in the cell.*

*Twenty detainees were held in a cell measuring 6 by 6 meters. There were not enough places to lie down — the detainees had to sleep in turns. During captivity, PERSON\_147’s blood pressure was constantly rising, but no medical assistance was provided.*

In total, the Russian military held PERSON\_147 in captivity for ten months.

<p><b>Testimony No. 63</b> (testified by PERSON_148) <b>Place of event:</b> t. o. t. of the Donetsk region.</p>
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On March 10, 2022, PERSON\_148, together with her husband PERSON\_149, were captured in the city of Torez in the Donetsk region by the so-called military of the “DPR”. At the time of capture, the family had two children: a minor PERSON\_150 and an adult PERSON\_151.

Four unknown individuals introduced themselves as the “employees of the so-called “DPR” security agencies”. They searched the residence of PERSON\_148 and PERSON\_149, seized com-



puter equipment, other household items, money, and jewelry, and stole the couple's car. After that, the couple was detained.

PERSON\_148 and PERSON\_149, with bags on their heads, were taken away by a car in an unknown direction. However, PERSON\_148 and PERSON\_149 estimated that judging by the car's speed and travel time, they were not taken far away. After that, the couple was pulled out of the car and dragged to different cells, where the bags were removed from their heads and they were detained.

From that moment, PERSON\_148 had no contact with her husband. PERSON\_148 was held in a small cell equipped on the site of a factory. As other women explained to PERSON\_148 who were held in the same room, they were held at the "Isolyatsia" plant. The factory was famous among local residents, as it had been used as a torture chamber by the Russian military for the past seven years.

*The cell where PERSON\_148 was held was no more than 8 square meters. Four to ten women were held in the cell. As there was not enough room for everyone, the detainees had to take turns to sleep.*

*When PERSON\_148 was detained, it was spring and unbearably cold; she was not allowed to take warm things. Food was provided 1–2 times a day and was of very poor quality. Also, the detainees were given a certain amount of water, which was constantly changing, and it was forbidden to drink more. The detainees were taken to the toilet twice daily, so the cell had a constant stench.*

PERSON\_148 is unable to provide accurate identification information about other women with whom she was detained, as she either does not know their personal details or fears for the safety of the women who are still being detained.

*All the women who were detained with PERSON\_148 were subjected to physical violence.*

*PERSON\_148 testifies that she was beaten several times during the period of detention but cannot specify the exact dates. She was taken outside and beaten in a car or a specially equipped room.*

*The Russian military first beat PERSON\_148 a few days after she was captured. She was visited by representatives of the so-called "DPR" who required PERSON\_148 to sign documents. When PERSON\_148 refused, they began to beat her. They beat PERSON\_149 on the body, face, legs and hands. The beating could go on for a very long time and PERSON\_148 felt it lasted for hours. According to PERSON\_148, the persons who took part in the beatings were under the influence of drugs or other psychotropic substances.*

*The Russian military demanded PERSON\_148 to undress completely several times in the presence of unknown men who mocked her, stared at her, and threatened her with rape. The Russian military also repeatedly beat PERSON\_148 when she was undressed.*

*For the purpose of beatings, the "DPR" representatives used improvised items, particularly sticks and batons. Although electroshock was not applied to PERSON\_148, she knows it was applied to other women.*

*PERSON\_148 also notes that several times (she does not remember exactly how many), she was strangled by putting a bag on her head. During the strangulation, she lost consciousness.*

After approximately two months of captivity at the "Isolyatsia" factory, PERSON\_148 was transferred to the premises of the Donetsk pre-trial detention center.

There, PERSON\_148 was held in a cell with other women but had no contact with the other detainees.

*PERSON\_148 was not beaten during her detention in the second place, but she was held in poor conditions. The cell was very humid and dark, with insufficient light. During the cold season,*

*PERSON\_148 suffered from the frost, as the room was not heated. Bad and often spoiled food was provided, so she was severely food poisoned several times. The cell room was designed for 4–6 people, but at times, around 20 people were held there.*

During the period of PERSON\_148's captivity, their children (PERSON\_150 and PERSON\_151) were in custody of the so-called "custody services of the DPR" that tried to convince them that their parents had already been executed for their alleged crimes. As they managed to convince PERSON\_150 and PERSON\_151 that their parents were dead, the children were deceitfully taken to the territory of the Russian Federation, where the youngest child, a minor PERSON\_150, was being prepared for adoption into a Russian family.

On October 17, 2022, during the exchange of prisoners, PERSON\_148 was released from captivity. Later, with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, her children, PERSON\_150 and PERSON\_151, were returned to the territory of Ukraine.

PERSON\_149 continues to be held captive. The contact with him has been lost.

**Testimony No. 64** (testified by PERSON\_152)  
**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Kyiv region.

On February 24, 2022, PERSON\_152 lived with his family in Bucha in the Kyiv region.

On February 27, 2022, the Russian Armed Forces entered Bucha. From February 28, 2022, to March 4, 2022, fierce battles took place in Bucha between the Russian forces and the Ukrainian forces. On March 5, 2022, the Russian forces captured Bucha.

PERSON\_152 testifies that on March 18, 2022, at approximately 15:00, fourteen Russian military vehicles entered Ivan Rudenko Street. There were approximately 100 Russian soldiers.

On the same day, three Russian soldiers came to the house of PERSON\_152.

The Russian military checked the documents of PERSON\_152 and his family members, and ordered them to go down to the basement of the house, *where the Russian military unlawfully detained PERSON\_152 and his family until March 28, 2022.*

The Russian military also drove military vehicles into PERSON\_152's yard and occupied his house and garage as a deployment point.

During the period of detention in the basement of his own house, *PERSON\_152 and his family were subjected to systematic psychological and physical violence.*

On March 25, 2022, a Russian soldier called **"Pyotr"** ordered PERSON\_152 and his son, PERSON\_153, to get out of the house, after which *he ordered his subordinates to shoot PERSON\_153 for looking into the window of the house where the Russian military was stationed at the time.*

The Russian military *put a bag on PERSON\_153's head and wrapped his hands with tape. After that, the Russian military forced PERSON\_153 to kneel near the wall of the house and fired several shots from an automatic weapon over PERSON\_153's head.*

After that, *the Russian military used physical force against PERSON\_153, in particular they beat him and hit him in the neck with a knife.*

At the end of April 2023, PERSON\_152 sought legal assistance from KHPG. Based on the above-mentioned events, PERSON\_152 filed a crime report to the Security Service of Ukraine.<sup>239</sup> At the end of June 2023, PERSON\_152 and PERSON\_153 identified by photographs the Russian military, who held them captive and tortured them.

<sup>239</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 22023101110000507.

**Testimony No. 65** (testified by PERSON\_154)**Place of event:** t. o. t. the Zaporizhzhia region.

On February 24, 2022, PERSON\_154 (a minor at that time) lived in the city of Melitopol in the Zaporizhzhia region with his mother, PERSON\_155, and his younger sister, PERSON\_156.

On April 7, 2022, PERSON\_154 was contacted by his father, PERSON\_157, and told that the next day (April 8), PERSON\_154 had to leave Melitopol by an evacuation bus bound for the city of Zaporizhzhia. However, because the buses were stolen by the Russian occupation administration, PERSON\_154 was unable to evacuate.

After that, PERSON\_157, through his acquaintance, agreed to evacuate PERSON\_154 by a car.

On April 8, 2022, at 8:00, PERSON\_154 left for Zaporizhzhia. Several other people were traveling in the car.

Later, at 11:22, when passing through the checkpoint in Vasylivka near the Chumatskyi Shlyach café, the car was stopped for the inspection of documents.

During the inspection of documents, PERSON\_154 was viewing information on his phone. One of the Russian soldiers asked to give him a phone because he suspected that PERSON\_154 was filming the checkpoint on video.

The Russian military did not find any video in PERSON\_154's phone but found the "Ukraine-News" information channel in one of the messengers, which prompted a conflict.

When PERSON\_154 got out of the car, the Russian soldier showed him the phone screen, pointed a machine gun at PERSON\_154, and began threatening PERSON\_154 that he would shoot him or break the phone.

After that, a Russian soldier called an unknown person, and five minutes later, a Russian soldier with the **call sign "225"** arrived at the scene, took PERSON\_154 to the inner courtyard of the Chumatsky Shlyach cafe, and sat him down in one of the pavilions.

At the same time, the documents and the phone were taken away from PERSON\_154. The Russian soldiers began to question PERSON\_154 about his attitude towards the war, whether he considered Russians to be "fascists" and "Orcs". PERSON\_154 answered all questions neutrally and discreetly, because he wanted to save his life.

PERSON\_154 believes that one key reason for his detention was that the Russian military at the checkpoint was able to obtain information that he was the son of a civil servant. PERSON\_157, the father of PERSON\_154, held a senior position in the state administration of the city of Zaporizhzhia.

PERSON\_154 was held at the checkpoint for about 2–3 hours. During that time, the Russian military was deciding whether to release him.

Before making the decision, the Russian military at the checkpoint questioned PERSON\_158 (the driver of the car, in which PERSON\_154 was travelling). One of the Russian soldiers approached her and showed her the "electronic (tax) declaration" of PERSON\_157, which was publicly available on the Internet.

The Russian military began to ask PERSON\_158 whether she knew PERSON\_154, to which the woman answered negatively.

When the Russian military brought PERSON\_154 to the car, he answered that he knew PERSON\_158. However, after some time, it was established that PERSON\_154 was not acquainted with PERSON\_158. The Russian military wanted to establish whether PERSON\_158 knew PERSON\_157 or whether she received money for transporting PERSON\_154.

After the Russian military failed to establish the above-mentioned facts, they ordered PERSON\_158 to leave despite her attempt to rescue PERSON\_154. The Russian military then

threatened that everyone would be detained. After that, PERSON\_158 and the rest were forced to leave without PERSON\_154.

After that, PERSON\_154 was put into a “Ural” military truck, and taken to the building of Vasylivskyi VP. PERSON\_154 was placed in solitary confinement on the premises of the VP and ordered to wait. Immediately after he was placed in the cell, PERSON\_154 heard *screams and requests for help from the neighboring cells*.

The Russian military did not beat or torture PERSON\_154 during his detention. For the first 3–4 days, PERSON\_154 did not go outside, drink, or eat. After some time, he was allowed to take 15–20-minute walks in the courtyard.

On April 9, 2022, PERSON\_157 was contacted by a man named **Murad Saidov** who began negotiations regarding the exchange of PERSON\_154 for his son. The negotiations took place through phone calls, text messages, and WhatsApp calls. In some cases, PERSON\_157 communicated with Murad Saidov through PERSON\_154’s mobile phone. Almost all conversations were recorded; these video recordings are available for listening.

On the second-third day of detention, *PERSON\_154 had a panic attack triggered by intense emotional stress. The attack was accompanied by heavy breathing, stiffness in the hands, and a sensation of impending loss of consciousness.*

*During his captivity, PERSON\_154 repeatedly witnessed the use of torture on detainees whom the Russian military was transporting to the prison premises. One of the men who was tortured by the Russian military was held in the same cell with PERSON\_154 for some time. On the sixth day of torture, in the presence of PERSON\_154, he cut his veins using a can lid.*

*PERSON\_154 also witnessed other incidents of torture as the Russian military forced him to clean the room, in which those actions took place. As PERSON\_154 recounts, there was so much blood in some cases that it was difficult to wipe it off the room’s walls and floor. PERSON\_154 describes the torture he witnessed in great detail.*

*Regarding the detention conditions, PERSON\_154 indicates that the toilet in his cell did not work, and he was forced to pour water into his food plate to flush the toilet. The cell window was almost always closed. The window was opened during the last 15 days of detention because there was a strong smell of blood. The cell itself was 2 by 2 meters in size. The bed was wooden, with an old mattress and a thin blanket. PERSON\_154 was given dry rations, canned food, and sometimes porridge. PERSON\_154 got access to a shower for the first time after two weeks of captivity.*

As part of the pre-trial investigation conducted in the case involving PERSON\_154 as a victim, the Ukrainian investigative bodies interrogated PERSON\_159 who was also held by the Russian military in the Vasylivskyi VP for four days and tortured. On April 22, 2022, the Russian military took PERSON\_159 into the corridor outside the cell, where he saw a young man being led into another cell. When investigators showed PERSON\_159 photos of PERSON\_154, he recognized the young man he had seen before.

The Russian military detained PERSON\_154 from April 8 to May 26, 2022. On the evening of May 26, 2022, Murad Saidov arrived and said he was taking PERSON\_154 to Melitopol.

Along the way, Murad Saidov briefed PERSON\_154 on the so-called “criminal case” against him concerning the alleged sale of drugs — the case was specially fabricated for blackmail. During PERSON\_157’s conversation with Murad Saidov, the latter mentioned the fabricated “criminal case” in order exert pressure on PERSON\_157. Around 21:00, PERSON\_154 was brought to the “Royal Plus” hotel in Melitopol.

The living conditions in the hotel were significantly better to that at the Vasylivskyi VP. There was access to a shower, telephone, and food. During his stay in Melitopol, PERSON\_154 also had the opportunity to visit his relatives — his aunt and grandmother.

*PERSON\_154 regularly experienced health problems, including high blood pressure, which sometimes reached 180 mm Hg. He measured his blood pressure with a tonometer that his aunt brought him.*

On July 7, 2022, the Russian military released PERSON\_154 from captivity, where he was held for a total period of three months.

**Testimony No. 66** (testified by PERSON\_160)  
**Place of event:** t. o. t. of the Sumy region.

PERSON\_160 is a resident of the city of Trostyanets in the Sumy region, located 30 kilometers from the border with the Russian Federation. PERSON\_160 was born and lived in this city all his life. PERSON\_160 is a civilian.

On February 25, 2022, the Russian troops temporarily occupied Trostyanets until the UAF liberated the city on March 25, 2022.

On March 19, 2022, PERSON\_160 and his friend, PERSON\_161, agreed to go to one of the private entrepreneurs to buy food the next day (March 20).

On the morning of March 20, 2022, PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 went to the entrepreneur's place. Upon arrival, they discovered that he was not working. PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 then headed back home.

On their way home, near the entrance to the Trostyanets market, PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 saw two Russian soldiers passing through the market alley. The Russian military saw them and ordered them to come closer. The Russian soldiers were armed.

The Russian military ordered PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 to show their documents and hand over their mobile phones for "inspection". The Russian military also asked them where they were heading and for what purpose.

Next, the Russian military took PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 to the market and placed them with their backs turned to the trade pavilion. While they were standing, three more residents were placed next to them, but after some time, those residents were released, and the Russian military took away PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161.

Next, the Russian military pulled the caps and hoods of PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 over their heads, forced them into a bus-type car, and drove them in an unknown direction.

The journey to where the detainees were dropped off took about 3–4 minutes. When the car stopped, PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 got out, and the Russian military led the detainees in an unknown direction, after which they led them into a building.

In the room, PERSON\_160 and PERSON\_161 were subjected to the so-called "interrogation", in particular, they were asked why they stayed in the city and whether they knew anything about the deployment of the UAF. During the detention, the Russian military tied PERSON\_160's hands and feet with a metal cable.

*During his captivity, the Russian military tortured PERSON\_160 physically and psychologically. The Russian military inflicted blows on his face, torso, head, neck, back, buttocks, and other parts of the body.*

*The Russian military ordered PERSON\_160 to lower his hands, and after he did so, they hit him. When PERSON\_160 tried to cover the place of the blows with his hands, he was ordered to lower them, after which new blows were inflicted.*

*After the third blow, PERSON\_160 bent down to his knees, and they started beating him again on the back, head, and neck. PERSON\_160 felt the blows were inflicted with a rifle butt and*



rubber batons. The beating lasted for about an hour. PERSON\_160 lost consciousness from the blows and fell to the floor.

The Russian military began to beat PERSON\_160 after PERSON\_160 answered that he did not know anything about the deployment of the UAF. PERSON\_160 testifies that during the beating, one of the Russian soldiers said that it was “revenge for the fact that Ukraine destroyed the DPR and the LPR”.

PERSON\_160 came to his senses when he was lifted from the floor and put back on the bench.

After that, the Russian military began to repeatedly ask questions about the deployment of UAF. When PERSON\_160 again replied that he did not know, the Russian military began to strike (approximately 5 blows) his legs, and then cut PERSON\_160’s jacket from shoulder to shoulder and struck again with a rubber baton. After that, the Russian military stopped beating PERSON\_160 and asking questions.

The Russian military also used psychological violence against PERSON\_160. They threatened to maim him by shooting him in the legs and also threatened to kill him.

PERSON\_160 repeatedly asked the Russian military to let him return to his family, but the Russian military ignored the request.

Next, the Russian military pushed an unknown object between the rope with which PERSON\_160’s hands were tied, and began to drag him down the stairs.

At approximately 13:00 on March 20, 2022, PERSON\_160 was dragged into the basement. As it later turned out, it was the basement of the Trostyanets train station. PERSON\_161 was brought to the same room about ten minutes later and left on the floor next to PERSON\_160.

When PERSON\_160 was brought into the basement, he saw a man, PERSON\_162, lying on the floor.

The next day, on March 21, 2022, another man, PERSON\_163, was brought to the same room. Prior to that, PERSON\_160 heard his cries and pleas not to be beaten.

On the same day, on March 21, the Russian military gave the detainees food in the form of dry rations and water. PERSON\_160 was not tortured on that day.

On March 22, 2022, PERSON\_160 was not physically tortured, but *the Russian military threatened to torture and kill him.*

On March 23, 2022, PERSON\_160 begged the Russian military to remove the handcuffs from his hands, but when PERSON\_160 put his hands forward, *the Russian soldier inflicted a strong blow on his head instead. On that day, other detainees were also beaten, namely PERSON\_162 and PERSON\_163. On that day, the detainees were also given dry rations and water.*

On March 24, 2022, the Russian military did not torture detainees. In the evening, another man named PERSON\_164 was brought to the room. *The man was beaten and intoxicated.*

On March 25, 2022, the Russian military began to collect their belongings hastily and depart. Later, two Russian soldiers entered the room. One of them said that PERSON\_160 and other detainees should be shot, but another Russian soldier denied that this should be done.

After the detainees were left alone, they thought that the Russian military had left the premises and tried to free themselves from their handcuffs. However, they saw the light of a lantern and were forced to stop.

A Russian soldier entered the cell and ordered all the detainees to approach him in turn. When PERSON\_160 approached him, he asked if he could see him. When PERSON\_162 and PERSON\_161 approached the Russian soldier, he struck them. After that, the Russian soldier left.

After that, the detainees lay on the floor for about 15 minutes and decided to leave the room where they were held. They freed themselves from the handcuffs and were able to get out of the railway station basement. After his release, PERSON\_160 headed home.



On March 30, 2022, after the de-occupation of the city of Trostyanets, based on the above-mentioned events, the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies started a pre-trial investigation,<sup>240</sup> during which the physical injuries sustained by PERSON\_160 were recorded; an inspection of the crime scene where the torture took place was conducted; a genetic examination of blood samples was carried out, which were obtained from the surfaces of the station basement; and units of the Russian forces, which were present in the temporarily occupied city of Trostyanets, were established.

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<sup>240</sup> The information was entered into the URPTI under No. 42022202520000068.

### **Annex 3.**

## **FORMS OF STANDARDIZED DOCUMENTS USED BY KHPG IN THE PROCESS OF COLLECTING AND PROCESSING INFORMATION FROM VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF ILL-TREATMENT<sup>241</sup>**

#### **Form 1. THE APPLICATION FORM REQUESTING LEGAL ASSISTANCE<sup>242</sup>**

To the DIRECTOR of the non-governmental organization  
“Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group”  
Zakharov Ye.Yu.

[FULL NAME OF THE APPLICANT]  
[HOME ADDRESS]  
[CONTACT DETAILS (E.G. PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL)]

#### **Application requesting legal assistance**

I, [SURNAME, NAME, PATRONYMIC], [DATE OF BIRTH], phone number [CONTACT PHONE NUMBER], request the provision of legal assistance due to the fact that [A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES]

[DATE]

[SIGNATURE] [FULL NAME]

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<sup>241</sup> In the forms provided in this Annex, information in square brackets [] should be completed by the applicant.

<sup>242</sup> Based on this application, an individual receives qualified legal assistance from KHPG. This assistance includes, but is not limited to, support in national proceedings in Ukraine (initiation and legal representation during pre-trial investigation), assistance with legal communication with authorities of the Russian Federation, applications to international human rights mechanisms (such as UN treaty bodies), submission of testimony to the ICC, and more.

## Form 2. THE FORM OF CONSENT TO PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA<sup>243</sup>

To the DIRECTOR of the non-governmental organization  
“Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group”  
Zakharov Ye. Yu.

[FULL NAME OF THE APPLICANT]  
[HOME ADDRESS]  
[CONTACT DATA (PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL)]

### Consent to processing of personal data

I [SURNAME, NAME, PATRONYMIC], born on [DATE OF BIRTH], passport series [PASSPORT SERIES] No. [PASSPORT NUMBER], issued by [THE BODY THAT ISSUED THE PASSPORT]

In accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of Personal Data”, and for the purposes of providing me with legal, psychological and humanitarian assistance, documenting war crimes, and preparing statistical, administrative and other personal information, I hereby consent to:

- the processing of my personal data from primary sources, including, in particular, information about my profession, passport details, personal information (age, gender, marital status, family information), my registered or actual place of residence, health status as permitted by law, as well as information on benefits and special social status;
- the use of personal data, which includes any actions by the data owner to process, protect, or transfer partial or full rights to process personal data to other parties involved in personal data relations, conducted with the consent of the personal data subject or as provided by law (Article 10 of the Law).
- the dissemination of personal data, which includes transferring information about an individual with the consent of the personal data subject (Article 14 of the Law);
- in the event of changes to my personal data, I shall promptly provide updated, accurate information and originals of relevant documents to supplement my personal data.

[DATE]

[SIGNATURE] [FULL NAME]

<sup>243</sup> Drafted in accordance with the requirements of the domestic legislation of Ukraine on personal data protection and used by the KHPG in national proceedings.

### Form 3. INFORMED CONSENT FORM<sup>244</sup>

#### INFORMED CONSENT FORM

This informed consent is given to the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (“KHPG”) and the Danish Institute against Torture (“DIGNITY”).

Your informed consent is required to both collect and use information you provide for the purpose of criminal investigation and/or prosecution and broader accountability efforts in response to alleged serious violations of international law, such as international crimes and human rights violations committed since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.

By giving your informed consent, you acknowledge that you have been informed and that you understand the nature and the scope of documentation activity, accept to participate in it and accept that the information you provide can be shared with the competent national and/or international investigative authorities, including the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

You also accept that the provided information may be shared with other international bodies, such as the European Court of Human Rights, UN treaty bodies and/or other international/regional mechanisms mandated to foster accountability efforts in Ukraine.

By signing this document, you are providing your informed consent.

I hereby acknowledge and confirm that:

- This is a voluntary process and I have provided information, documentation or physical items freely, without any form of coercion, threat or duress.
- I was informed that the information, documentation or physical items I have provided might be used in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions and be shared with the competent national and/or international investigative authorities, including the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC.
- I was informed that the information, documentation or physical items I have provided might be also used in international human rights litigation, UN human rights procedures and/or reparations proceedings.
- I was informed about my right to withdraw my consent at any time prior to such information being shared with the competent international and/or national authorities.
- I am aware that my identity, as well as any information I have provided, might be disclosed to the parties in future criminal and/or other legal proceedings.
- I understand the nature and the purpose of the documentation activity, the potential use of the information I have provided, as well as all the potential risks associated with my participation in this activity.

I hereby consent to:

#### 1. Check consented activity

- give an account of what you have experienced or witnessed;
- hand over information, documentation or other items;
- being photographed and having physical injuries documented;
- dissemination of information in media and on the Internet;
- other [please describe]

<sup>244</sup> Developed by the KHPG in partnership with the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY); used by the KHPG in cases where there are international procedures.

2. Sharing the information, documentation or physical items that I have provided with:

- the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions;
- competent Ukrainian national authorities and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions;
- competent foreign national authorities acting under the principle of universal jurisdiction and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions abroad;
- other competent international mechanisms and their use in human rights litigation and/or other broader accountability efforts, UN human rights procedures and/or reparations proceedings.

3. Any limitations (please elaborate):

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Name:

Signed:

Dated:

#### **On processing of personal data:**

I accept that the KHPG holds personal data and my informed consent to the processing of my personal data by KHPG and its partner organization DIGNITY — acquired by KHPG documenters/lawyers in the process of their documentation activities and/or legal aid work — for the purpose of advancing accountability arising out of the Russia-Ukraine war since 24 February 2022.

I have read the KHPG/DIGNITY Statement on Processing of Personal Data in full and understand their policies regarding collection and the use of my personal data, as well as the exercise of my privacy rights in accordance with the Law of Ukraine No. 2297 “On Personal Data Protection” (“PDP”), and the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) when the information is shared with the KHPG’s partner institution DIGNITY, headquartered in Denmark.

### **Statement on Processing of Personal Data**

This statement explains how and why the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (“KHPG”) and the Danish Institute against Torture (“DIGNITY”) use the personal data you provide in the course of your interview. The reason we need to explain this before the interview is to ensure you are fully informed of your right to data protection and privacy that you are entitled to in accordance with the Law of Ukraine No. 2297 “On Personal Data Protection” (“PDP”) and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) once the information has been further processed by DIGNITY (headquartered in Copenhagen, Denmark).

#### **I. Information we collect**

In the course of this interview, the KHPG will collect **personal data** about you that will be further processed by the KHPG and its partner organisation (DIGNITY). The types of personal data which we may collect from you include your name, address, and contact details; your date and place of birth; your educational background; information about incidents and events involving you as a victim or witness (for example, details of torture or other alleged crimes you have been subjected to or witnessed). We may also collect and use **special categories of personal data**

about you including your racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, physical and mental health, religious or philosophical beliefs, trade union membership, sexual orientation and gender identity.

### ***1. How we use this information***

We collect, store, review, and further process this personal data to:

- Share the information regarding alleged international crimes with competent national and/or international investigative and prosecutorial bodies, including the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, for the purpose of criminal investigations and prosecutions.
- Share the information regarding alleged international crimes and human rights violations with other international accountability mechanisms, which have been set up since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022.
- Provide you with information and support, where needed and possible; and
- Allow us to contact you in the future if we need to.

We will only collect the amount of personal data required to fulfil these functions effectively.

### ***2. Sharing personal data***

The KHPG and DIGNITY may share your personal data with the following third parties:

- The Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions.
- Competent Ukrainian national authorities and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions.
- Competent foreign national authorities acting under the principle of universal jurisdiction and their use in criminal investigations and/or prosecutions abroad.
- Other competent international mechanisms and their use in human rights litigation and/or other broader accountability efforts, UN human rights procedures and/or reparations proceedings.

When we have given you enough information to enable you to make an informed decision, we will be asking you if you consent to the sharing of your personal data with these third parties. We may also share your personal data where the person or entity who is receiving it has a legitimate interest for which processing is necessary and proportionate.

In very exceptional cases, we may be required to share your personal data with other bodies if we are under a legal duty to do so, where doing so would not violate international human rights law. This may be where we are required to do so by a court order or for the purposes of prevention of fraud or other crime.

### ***3. Storing personal data***

We will store and transfer your personal data using methods that are secure in order to prevent your personal data from being accessed in an unauthorised way, altered, or lost. We monitor for any suspected data breach and will notify you and any applicable regulator of a suspected breach where we are legally required to do so.

### ***4. International Data Transfer***

When your personal data is being transferred from the legal jurisdiction of Ukraine to the European Union, a third country or an international organization, this may only be done if the third country or the international organization in question meets the legal requirements of providing an adequate level of protection for individuals' rights to privacy and data protection.



## 5. Data retention

We will only retain your personal data for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes for which we collected it, including for the purposes of satisfying accounting, or reporting requirements. When determining the retention period, we consider the amount, nature, and sensitivity of the information, the potential risk of harm from unauthorised use or disclosure of your personal data, the purposes for which we process your personal data and whether we can achieve those purposes through other means, and the applicable legal requirements.

## 6. Your rights

Under certain circumstances, by law you have the right to:

- **Withdraw consent** at any time.
- **Request access** to your personal data (commonly known as a “data subject access request”). This enables you to receive a copy of the personal data we hold about you and to check that we are lawfully processing it.
- **Ask us to correct personal data** that we hold about you that is incorrect, incomplete, or inaccurate.
- **Ask us to erase your personal data** from our files and systems where there is no good reason for us continuing to hold it.
- **Object to us using your personal data** to further our legitimate interests.
- **Ask us to restrict or suspend the use of your personal data**, for example, if you want us to establish its accuracy or our reasons for using it.
- **Ask us to transfer your personal data** to another person or organisation, for example a medical or legal professional supplying services to you.

## 7. Contact

If you want to exercise any of your rights, wish to withdraw consent, complain or have any queries about the processing of your personal data or the safeguards we put in place to protect it, please contact:

- **Email:** KHPG at [consent@khpg.org](mailto:consent@khpg.org) and DIGNITY at [gdpr@dignity.dk](mailto:gdpr@dignity.dk)
- **Mail:** KHPG, 27 Svobody Street, #4, Kharkiv, 61002, Ukraine  
DIGNITY, Bryggervangen 55, 2100 København, Denmark

## 8. Complaints

You also have the right to make a complaint at any time to the data protection regulator in the country in which your data is being processed.

Complaints regarding processing of personal data could be filed respectively with  
In **Ukraine**, the Ombudsman / Commissioner for Human Rights — <https://ombudsman.gov.ua>.  
In **Denmark**, where DIGNITY is located, the Danish Data Protection Agency — [datatilsynet.dk](https://datatilsynet.dk).

*Наукове видання*

Владислав Должко, Ірина Марчук,  
Геннадій Токарев

**СТАТТЯ 15.  
ПОДАННЯ ДО ОФІСУ ПРОКУРОРА  
МІЖНАРОДНОГО КРИМІНАЛЬНОГО СУДУ  
ЩОДО ЙМОВІРНИХ ВИПАДКІВ КАТУВАННЯ,  
ВЧИНЕНИХ РОСІЙСЬКИМИ ВІЙСЬКОВИМИ  
В УКРАЇНІ**

*(англійською мовою)*

Відповідальний за випуск  
*Євгеній Захаров*

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