



# MONTHLY DIGEST

## #InFocus

### FOSTERING COOPERATION WITH THE ICC

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin and Brenda Hollis, the International Prosecutor in charge of the International Criminal Court's Ukraine investigation, visited the sites of recent Russian attacks in Kharkiv and the region, where five people were killed and 99 wounded.

Over 21,000 war crimes are being investigated in the Kharkiv region, most of them involving attacks on civilian targets.

"We are closely cooperating with the ICC in investigating the facts of civilian killings, torture, deprivation of liberty, sexual violence, and shelling of critical civilian infrastructure... Our commitment to restoring justice is unwavering, and I am grateful for all the support in these efforts," [said](#) Andriy Kostin.



### UKRAINE'S PEACE FORMULA PRESENTED IN DAVOS

The World Economic Forum in Davos hosted the [4th meeting](#) of national security advisors and political advisors to heads of state on Peace Formula implementation. Representatives of over 80 countries and international organizations joined the discussion.

At the panel on the implementation of Point 7, "Restoring Justice," participants heard testimony from a 16-year-old boy whose father was shot dead by the occupiers in front of him and a young woman who survived sexual violence committed by a Russian soldier.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin called on participants to join efforts in establishing a web of comprehensive accountability for the crimes of the aggressor and to support the establishment of a Special International Tribunal to punish the leadership of the Russian Federation.



**The Peace Formula introduced by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy provides a solid framework for establishing actionable international mechanisms to bring us closer to our victory—a victory of democracy over tyranny and the rule of law over the rule of force; the victory that will lay the foundation for expanding and reinforcing the Euro-Atlantic security architecture.**

*– Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine*

# #WarCrimes

as of 01.31.2024

120,736

war crimes registered

in January, 2024

+1665

146,822

civil infrastructure objects destroyed or damaged

+5787

11,812

civilians killed

+139

among them

522

children

+8

## THE RUSSIAN MILITARY TARGETED UKRAINIANS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AND CONTINUED SHELLING THROUGHOUT JANUARY

**Peaceful civilians, residential buildings, and even museums are affected by the shelling of rockets and artillery. Here are some examples:**

A mass drone attack was perpetrated on [Odesa and the surrounding area](#) on the night of January 1st. A 15-year-old boy was killed, and three other people were injured. Six buildings, cars, and one of the port terminals were damaged.

Also, on New Year's Eve, the enemy launched drone attacks on [Lviv](#), which resulted in the destruction of a museum and damage to a university building.

On January 2, the Russian military attacked Ukraine with drones and missiles again. In the [Kyiv region](#), a couple was killed and six people (including a child) were injured. Residential buildings, warehouses, and a temple were damaged.

Three people were killed and 50 injured in [Kyiv](#) as a result of the attack. Residential buildings, warehouses, and a grocery store were damaged in 9 districts of the city.

One woman was killed and 62 civilians, including 6 children, were wounded in [Kharkiv](#) as a result of a massive missile attack. Residential blocks, commercial buildings, shops, cafés and pharmacies were damaged.

On January 8, the communities of the [Dnipropetrovsk region](#) were shelled. A woman died under the rubble of her own house, and 25 people were injured. A shopping center, residential and administrative buildings were damaged.

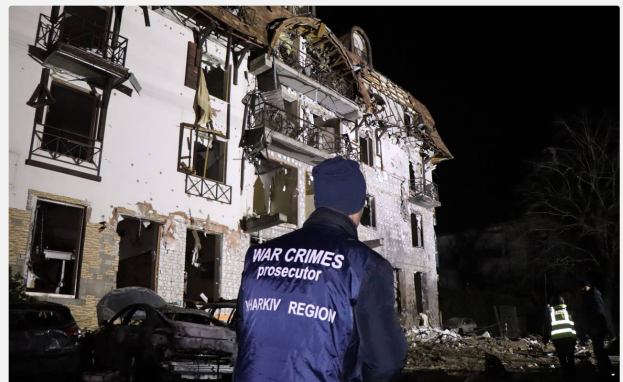
On January 10, S-300 missiles destroyed a hotel in the center of [Kharkiv](#), damaging business and residential buildings. 13 people were injured, including foreign journalists.

On January 23, [Kharkiv](#) faced several waves of missile attacks in the morning. 11 people were killed, including an 8-year-old girl. 45 civilians were injured. Civilian infrastructure, residential buildings, a shopping center, a boarding school, and a fire station were severely damaged.

In the evening of the same day, [another missile attack](#) damaged an office center, a scientific institution, residential buildings, shops, cafés, pharmacies, a post office, and other facilities. Nine people were injured, including a 4-year-old girl.

On the same day, 20 people were injured as a result of a missile attack on [Kyiv](#). Apartment buildings and non-residential premises were damaged.

A pre-trial investigation is being conducted into the violations of the laws and customs of war, as stipulated by Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.



# #WarCrimes

Investigation  
results

483 <sup>+10</sup>  
suspects

337 <sup>+19</sup>  
Indictments  
submitted to court

79 <sup>+6</sup>  
convicted

## ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES

The commander of the battalion of the 74th Separate Guards Motorized Rifle Brigade of the Russian Armed Forces was sentenced to [life imprisonment](#). In March 2022, he tortured three civilians in the village of Lukashivka (the Chernihiv region) and shot a prisoner of war.

A Russian serviceman was sentenced to [life imprisonment](#) for illegally detaining three residents of the village of Haivoron (the Chernihiv region) in April 2022 and shooting two of them.

A senior lieutenant of the 5th Separate Guards Tank Brigade was sentenced to [life imprisonment](#) for shooting two unarmed employees of a private enterprise with assault rifles in March 2022 in the village of Mriya (the Kyiv region), jointly with other Russian servicemen.

Two members of the Makhachkala Special Purpose Police Unit (OMON) were sentenced to [12 years in prison](#). It was proven that they tortured civilians during the occupation of the Zaporizhzhia region with electricity and chemical agents and threatened to kill their relatives.

The commander of a reconnaissance platoon and five of his subordinates will be tried for shooting a [family](#) with two children in March 2022. The family was trying to evacuate from the occupied Bucha district in two vehicles.

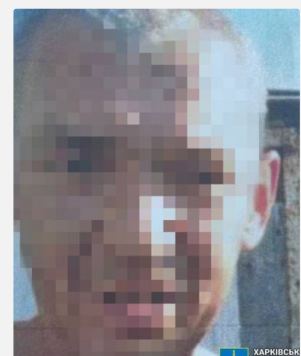
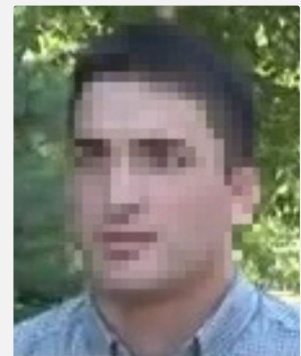
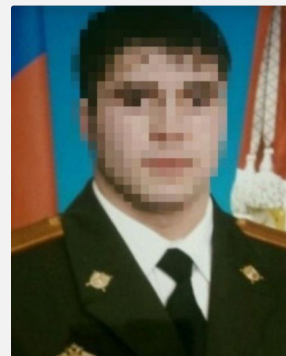
An FSB colonel who ordered the illegal [detention and torture](#) of residents during the occupation of the Kherson region will be tried.

A Lieutenant General, Commander of the "Dnipro" Troop Group, a Major General, Commander of the 22nd Army Corps of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation, and a Lieutenant Colonel, Commander of the 8th Artillery Regiment of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation, will stand trial. Investigations have established that they were directly responsible for the [shelling of Kherson](#), which caused casualties.

Two Russian servicemen were charged with the [murder](#) of children's book author Volodymyr Vakulenko in the Kharkiv region in March 2022. They are also suspected of torturing civilians and killing three men: two were shot and the third one was beaten to death.

Two Russian servicemen suspected of [killing a civilian](#) in May 2023 in the village of Nova Zburivka (the Kherson region) have been identified. According to the investigation, they came to a private household, beat the 64-year-old owner and then shot him.

All of the above crimes are classified as violations of the laws and customs of war (Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #AntiCorruption

### ERADICATING CORRUPTION AT ALL LEVELS

The Chief [State Inspector](#) of the State Tax Service in Kyiv has been notified of suspicion of demanding \$6,000 monthly from an entrepreneur for unimpeded work (Article 368 Part 3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [Deputy Mayor](#) of a town in the Odessa region was notified of suspicion of establishing a "kickback" system: he demanded 10% of the contract value for winning tenders. The official was arrested while receiving a bribe of UAH 53,000 (Article 368 Part 3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The Deputy Chairman of the [Federation of Trade Unions](#) of Ukraine and his accomplice have been notified of suspicion of attempting to bribe the Kyiv Court of Appeal Panel of Judges. He was expected to reduce his preventive measure for a bribe of USD 150,000 (Part 3 of Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [senior police investigator](#) was arrested in the Sumy region on suspicion of accepting a bribe. He was notified of suspicion of demanding \$2,000 to "accelerate" the pre-trial investigation in a criminal case (Article 368 Part 3 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The first [Deputy Head](#) of the Main Department of the State Geocadastre in the Ivano-Frankivsk region was notified of suspicion of illegal transfer of a land plot near the Bukovel ski resort.



### COUNTERING CORRUPTION IN THE DEFENSE SPHERE



A former Deputy Minister of Defense and the former Head of the Procurement Department were notified of suspicion of embezzlement of [UAH 948 million](#) in the procurement of body armor (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A beneficiary and four company managers were notified of suspicion of supplying the army with low-quality clothing and causing damage to the state of [UAH 934 million](#) (Parts 1-2 of Article 255, Part 5 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The director of a private enterprise was notified of suspicion of supplying low-quality winter uniforms and causing damage to the state of [UAH 25 million](#) (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The former and current Heads of the Department of the Ministry of Defense have been notified of suspicion of almost [UAH 1.5 billion](#) embezzlement in procuring ammunition for the army (Part 5 of Article 191 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

## #AntiCorruption

## THE NABU AND SAPO ON THE RESULTS OF COMBATING CORRUPTION ON AN ESPECIALLY LARGE SCALE

The lawyer and the second individual will be tried for [incitement to bribe](#) in the case of attempted bribery of SAPO prosecutors and High Anti-Corruption Court judges (Part 4 of Article 190, Part 3 of Article 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). They were exposed while transferring \$50,000 in November 2022.

An indictment against a [judge](#) of the Brovary Court (the Kyiv region) was sent to court. The investigation established that the judge offered to deliver a judgment in favor of one of the parties in a civil case for \$4,000 (Part 3 of Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A [member](#) of the Volyn Regional Council, who was exposed to receiving an unlawful benefit for \$35,000, will be brought to trial. He promised to ensure the local authorities' decision to transfer the land plot into ownership in exchange for these funds (Part 3 of Article 369-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The second episode of the [Rotterdam+ case](#) was sent to court. A total of 14 people were charged, including two former heads of the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission (NEURC) and other former and current officials of the Commission. The investigation established that due to the introduction of the Rotterdam+ formula, electricity consumers overpaid more than UAH 20 billion in 2018-2019 (Part 2 of Article 364, Part 2 of Article 367 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

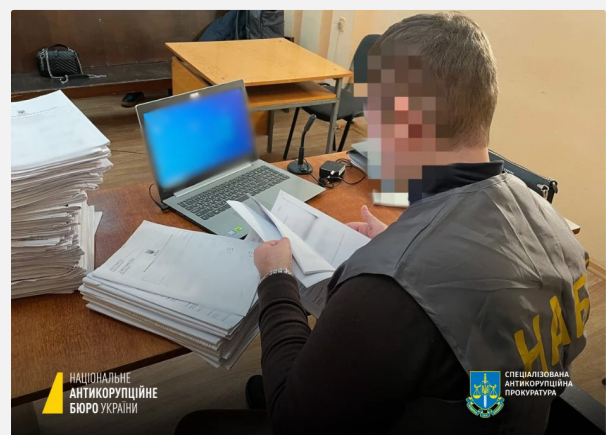
The accused will be tried for [attempted bribery](#) of the commander of the Odesa Operational and Strategic Group of Troops. The commander was offered a bribe to permit the catching of bioresources in a prohibited nature protection zone (Part 1 of Art. 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

[The Member of Parliament](#) is suspected of falsely declaring cryptocurrency worth over UAH 24 million (Part 2 of Article 366-2 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A scheme to [illegally travel](#) abroad to avoid mobilization was exposed in the district court of the Odesa region. One of the judges was notified of suspicion (Part 3 Article 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine), and investigative actions against other scheme participants are ongoing.

The scheme of electricity misappropriation and money laundering at [Ukrenergo](#) was exposed. The losses are estimated at UAH 716 million. The head of the Ukrenergo department and three other persons were notified of suspicion (Part 5 Article 191, Part 3 Article 209 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Six people, including two former members of the Odesa Regional Council, were notified of suspicion of [seizing the vessels](#) of the Ukrainian Danube Shipping Company. The investigation alleges that 32 lighter ships were re-registered for the rights of a commercial company (Part 4 of Article 190, Part 5 of Article 191, Part 3 of Article 209 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #FightingOrganizedCrime

34 members of a [criminal organization](#) will stand trial. They organized an extensive network of illegal gambling facilities in Kyiv, the Kyiv region, and Odesa under the cover of law enforcement (Part 1-2 of Art. 255, Part 2 of Art. 203-2, Part 3 of Art. 369 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The work of an illegal [tobacco factory](#) that produced cigarettes for sale in Ukraine and the EU was halted in the Odesa region. Four persons were notified of suspicion (Part 2 Article 204 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Four individuals were arrested in Dnipro for recruiting people for [labor slavery](#) under the guise of a "rehabilitation center" (Part 2 of Article 149 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). A total of 50 illegally detained men were released during the searches.

Members of a criminal organization involved in [robberies](#) in the Kyiv region were notified of suspicion and arrested (Part 4 Art. 187, Part 1-2 Art. 255 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #CombattingDrugTrafficking

[38 members](#) of a criminal organization from Kryvyi Rih will stand trial. Throughout 2022-2023, they produced and sold methamphetamine, creating a well-organized hierarchical group with a militarized united to "solve issues," with rivals (Part 3 of Art. 307, Part 1, 2 of Art. 309 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

The court is considering a case against the resident of the Kyiv region who acted as a [drug courier and seller](#), distributing cocaine worth USD 450,000 per month (Part 3 of Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

A criminal organization of [six people](#) was eliminated in the Ternopil region. According to the investigation, they produced and distributed drugs in several regions of Ukraine and Poland (Part 3 Article 305, Part 3 Article 307 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

[Two foreigners](#) were caught trying to smuggle 1.2 kg of a psychotropic substance through the green corridor in the Odesa region at a checkpoint with Moldova. Both were arrested.



## #FightingCybercrime

Ukrainian law enforcement, in cooperation with Europol, exposed a [hacker](#) who caused USD 2 million in losses to a US company. A resident of Mykolaiv infected servers with a miner virus and, for two years, was transferring cryptocurrency to controlled electronic wallets. The investigation is ongoing to identify the hacker's possible accomplices (Part 5 Article 361 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

Four prisoners of a penal colony were notified of being suspected of organizing a [fraudulent call center](#). According to the investigation, they posed as bank representatives and fraudulently withdrew funds from other people's accounts (Part 4 of Article 190 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

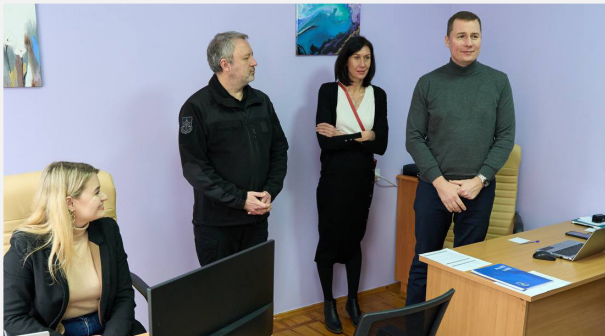
## #ProtectingNature

Four policemen will be tried for [illegal fishing](#) in the Kremenchuk reservoir and for an attempt to avoid responsibility by passing off fishing as a preventive raid (Article 249, Part 1, Article 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).

An official of the state enterprise "Forests of Ukraine" was notified of suspicion of issuing permits for [illegal deforestation](#) in the territory of the Kuialnytsky National Nature Park (Odesa region). The damage to the state is estimated at UAH 145 million (Part 3 of Article 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine).



## #Reform&Cooperation



The [new office](#) of the Victims and Witnesses Coordination Center was opened with the support of our partners. The new premises will ensure efficient work and comfort for people who address the Center seeking help and protection of their rights.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin [held a meeting](#) with the Business Ombudsman Council and business community representatives. The meeting participants discussed recent high-profile cases, investment protection and cooperation between law enforcement agencies and businesses in an open dialogue format.

Deputy Prosecutor General Dmytro Verbytskyi and Head of the Department of Criminal Policy and Investment Protection Oleksiy Bonyuk held a meeting with representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce. They discussed the [implementation](#) of the EU MEDICRIME Convention and combating illicit tobacco trafficking.

Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin and heads of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies held a meeting with a [delegation](#) of U.S. Inspectors General, concluding with the signing of Memorandums of Understanding. The document aims to strengthen cooperation in combating fraud, corruption and other illegal activities which could affect international aid intended for Ukraine.

