

BUCHA

Nobody on Yablunska Street was killed in combat. They were shot after Russia took the town.

BOTTOM LINE

Verified by the UN, by satellite, by phone records and by Russian soldiers' own calls. The perpetrator units are named. Moscow's answer was a medal.

73

civilians killed in Bucha, individually documented by the UN

54 men, 16 women, 2 boys, 1 girl · 105 more under corroboration · OHCHR, 7 Dec 2022

637

civilians killed in the town of Bucha; 1,400+ in Bucha district

incl. 37 children · Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, 2026

88%

of summary-execution victims were men and boys

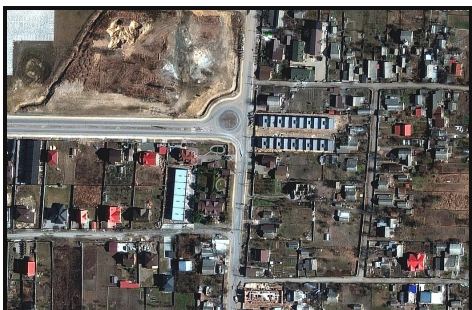
targeted by gender after "filtration" checks · OHCHR, Dec 2022

102

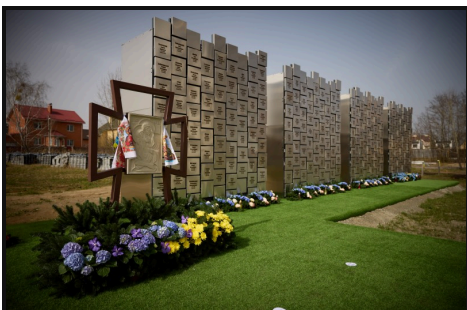
towns and villages with the same pattern — Bucha was not an exception

441 civilians killed under Russian control in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy regions · OHCHR

THE EVIDENCE IS INDEPENDENT AND VERIFIED



Satellite, Yablunska Street, 31 Mar 2022. The street where the executions took place, imaged the day Russian forces withdrew. Maxar's 9–21 March passes show the bodies already in place. © 2022 Maxar Technologies / AFP



Wall of Remembrance, Church of St Andrew. 509 names of identified civilians; some plaques remain nameless. 116 bodies were exhumed from the mass grave on this site. Photo: Office of the President of Ukraine, 31 Mar 2024 (CC BY 4.0)



The mass grave site, 2024. Behind the church, a trench of 100+ bodies was uncovered on 4–8 April 2022 and documented by OHCHR and the ICC. Photo: Office of the President of Ukraine (CC BY 4.0)

1 · UNITED NATIONS (OHCHR / HRMMU)

Field visits, witness and survivor interviews. Of 100 killings examined in detail, 57 were summary executions, 30 of them in detention. Finding: strong indications of the war crime of wilful killing.

Thematic report, 7 Dec 2022

2 · UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Reasonable grounds to conclude that war crimes were committed in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Sumy regions; Russian armed forces responsible for the vast majority. Bucha visited in June 2022.

A/77/533 (18 Oct 2022); A/HRC/52/62 (Mar 2023)

3 · SATELLITE IMAGERY

Maxar images of 9–11, 19 and 21 March 2022 show bodies on Yablunska Street weeks before Russian withdrawal (30–31 March). Russia's claim that the scene was "staged" after it left is refuted by the record.

Maxar Technologies; NYT analysis, 4 Apr 2022

4 · PERPETRATORS IDENTIFIED BY NAME

Phone records, video and radio call signs tie the Yablunska Street executions to the 234th Air Assault Regiment (Pskov), commanded by Lt Col Artyom Gorodilov. Soldiers called home on victims' phones within hours of the killings.

NYT Visual Investigations, 22 Dec 2022; RFE/RL 2025

5 · STATE DESIGNATIONS

United States designated the 234th Regiment, its parent 76th Air Assault Division and the 64th Motor Rifle Brigade for atrocities in Bucha. Commanders are on UK and EU sanctions lists.

US Department of State, 28 Jun 2022

6 · COURTS

First verdict: nine Russian servicemen convicted in absentia (Irpın court, Aug 2023, 11–12 years). 34 Russian servicemen charged; 72 murders solved; indictments in court. ICC Prosecutor: reasonable grounds to believe crimes within ICC jurisdiction.

National Police of Ukraine, 2025; ICC OTP, Apr 2022

LEGAL QUALIFICATION

WAR CRIMES — ESTABLISHED

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(a)(i) wilful killing · (ii) torture, inhuman treatment · (vii) unlawful confinement · 8(2)(b) (xvi) pillage · (xxi) outrages upon personal dignity · (xxii) rape and sexual violence.

Geneva Convention IV arts. 3, 27, 32, 147 (grave breaches). Found by OHCHR and the UN Commission of Inquiry.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY — THE PATTERN

Rome Statute art. 7(1)(a) murder · (e) imprisonment · (f) torture · (g) rape. The same conduct in 102 settlements across three regions, after "security checks", under one chain of command, meets the "widespread or systematic attack" threshold Ukraine asks the international community to recognise.

GENOCIDE — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Verkhovna Rada (Apr 2022) and the parliaments of several States qualify Bucha as part of genocide (Genocide Convention art. II). The UN Commission of Inquiry has not yet reached that conclusion; investigation continues. Ukraine v. Russia is pending before the ICJ.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Direct. 234th Air Assault Regiment, 76th Division (Pskov); 64th Separate Motor Rifle Brigade (Khabarovsk); Rosgvardia units. Named, designated and sanctioned.

Command (Rome Statute art. 28). Regiment and brigade commanders; the commander of Russia's Central Military District, charged by Ukraine for the occupation of Kyiv, Chernihiv and Sumy regions.

State. On 18 April 2022 President Putin awarded the 64th Brigade the honorary title "Guards" for "mass heroism and valour". The regiment commander was promoted to colonel. Reward, not punishment.

RUSSIA SAID · 3 APR 2022

Ministry of Defence: the images are "another hoax", bodies placed after all Russian units "withdrew completely" on 30 March.

RUSSIA TOLD THE SECURITY COUNCIL · 5 APR 2022

Ambassador Nebenzia: while Bucha was under Russian control, not a single civilian suffered any violence.

THE RECORD SAYS

Satellite imagery dates the bodies to 9–21 March. Russian soldiers' calls from victims' phones are logged. The UN documented killings between 4 and 30 March. Two Russian citizens were jailed in Russia for speaking about Bucha.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO EVERY MEMBER STATE

On 7 April 2022 the General Assembly suspended Russia from the Human Rights Council — 93 votes in favour — with Bucha as the trigger (res. ES-11/3). Impunity for Bucha means impunity for the next occupied town, anywhere.

01 No amnesty. Any peace settlement must exclude amnesty for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

03 Renew the Commission of Inquiry mandate and fund the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

02 Cooperate with the ICC and join the Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression.

04 Reparation. Support the Register of Damage and the International Claims Commission for victims.