

KRAMATORSK, 8 OCTOBER 2026: TWO BUSES

A guided aerial bomb struck two passenger buses on a city street in the morning. Thirty-three people were killed. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights called it a "horrifying strike" that "could amount to war crimes". Russia has not commented on it by name.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

OCT 2026

33

killed on two passenger buses (prosecutor's midday figure: 30)

B

State Emergency Service, final, 8 Oct 2026 · UN ASG Khiari cited "at least 33", 9 Oct

18

injured (regional administration: 22)

B

State Emergency Service · Donetsk regional administration

1

UMPB D-30SN guided (glide) bomb identified by police — an aircraft-released weapon, not an interceptor or debris

B

National Police of Ukraine; Project Leaflet weapon analysis

+3

killed the same day in Bilenke, Kramatorsk community; all public transport in Kramatorsk and Sloviansk suspended

B

Donetsk regional administration, 8 Oct 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

Morning, city street. At about 10:00 a guided bomb exploded beside two city buses carrying passengers. Most of the dead were on board. Rescue and identification continued through the day; the toll rose from 12 to 30 to 33.

Weapon. Police identified fragments of a UMPB D-30SN — a winged guided bomb released from a Su-34 at distance. It cannot be mistaken for an air-defence interceptor or its debris.

Context. Kramatorsk is 20–25 km from the front and under daily glide-bomb attack; on 5 Oct FPV drones hit three ambulances in the city (1 killed, 3 medics injured). Donetsk region recorded the highest civilian casualties of any region in 2026 (OHCHR).

The UN said. High Commissioner Türk, 8 Oct: "today's horrifying strike hitting two public buses" — deliberate attacks on civilians "could amount to war crimes". ASG Khiari, Security Council, 9 Oct: "at least 33 killed, 18 injured".

Official media. SES Donetsk region, 8 Oct 18:45 (30 killed, 20 injured at that hour; photos and video) — dn.dsns.gov.ua/news/nadzvicaini-podiyi/kramatorsk-kilkist-poranenix-vnaslidok-udaru-po-reisovomu-avtobusu-zroslo-do-20-liudei-video



Kramatorsk, 8 Oct: the strike site; the burnt-out bus behind the fire engine. Photo: State Emergency Service, Donetsk region · CC BY 4.0 · dn.dsns.gov.ua

WHO VERIFIED IT

A

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk, Geneva, 8 Oct 2026: "today's horrifying strike hitting two public buses that left at least 30 civilians dead... Civilians are strictly protected under the laws of war and may never be attacked"; deliberate attacks "could amount to war crimes".

A

UN ASG Khaled Khiari, Security Council, 9 Oct 2026: "at least 33 people were reportedly killed in a Russian glide bomb attack that hit two civilian passenger buses".

B

State Emergency Service; Donetsk regional military administration (V. Filashkin); Donetsk regional prosecutor; National Police (weapon identification)

C

Ukrinform; Kyiv Independent; CBS News; Project Leaflet (8–9 Oct 2026)

LEGAL QUALIFICATION — THREE LAYERS

ESTABLISHED

Direct attacks on civilians are prohibited in all circumstances (Common Art. 3; AP I art. 51(2)); the High Commissioner stated this on the day. A guided bomb aimed at a city street with buses on it is a direct attack on civilians or, at minimum, an indiscriminate one.

PATTERN

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i), (iv). Pattern: 2026 strikes on civilian transport — a passenger minibus near Nikopol (16 Sep, 5 killed), passenger train Kyiv–Mykolaiv (16 Sep), ambulances in Kramatorsk (5 Oct), buses in Kramatorsk (8 Oct).

POSITION

Ukraine qualifies the targeting of civilian transport in frontline cities as part of a widespread and systematic attack — crimes against humanity, art. 7(1)(a). Pending international findings.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Tactical aviation (VKS)	Su-34 regiments releasing UMPB D-30SN and KAB glide bombs from Russian-controlled airspace	Pilots and units identified in Ukrainian proceedings; no ICC warrant on this node yet
Aerospace Forces command	Daily tasking of glide-bomb sorties on Donetsk-region cities	EU/UK/US sanctions on VKS command
General Staff	Gen Valery Gerasimov	ICC arrest warrant, 24 Jun 2024
Supreme Commander	Vladimir Putin	ICC arrest warrant, 17 Mar 2023; command responsibility, art. 28

RUSSIA SAID / THE RECORD SAYS

RUSSIA, 8 OCT 2026

No statement on Kramatorsk. Kremlin spokesman Peskov commented the same day only on the absence of "a basis for a near-term peace settlement".

THE RECORD

Silence is itself a position: Russia does not deny the strike, offer an alternative target, or allege staging. OHCHR and the Security Council recorded the attack within 24 hours.

AMB. NEBENZIA, UNSC, 9 OCT 2026

"Terror against civilians... has long become one of the tools of Zelensky's state policy. Residential neighborhoods, civilian buses, hospitals, ambulances... are targeted time and time again."

THE RECORD

Said the day after a Russian bomb killed 33 bus passengers. A mirror claim — attributing to Ukraine the act Russia committed — one week after MFA envoy Miroshnik alleged "216 buses" attacked by Ukraine (1 Oct).

AMB. NEBENZIA, UNSC, 9 OCT 2026

Casualties result from "the inadequate performance of Ukraine's air defense systems".

THE RECORD

A glide bomb is not intercepted by Ukrainian air defence at all; fragments were identified by police. No interceptor was involved.

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

Cite Kramatorsk and the High Commissioner's words in national statements; the UN has already qualified the conduct.

Support a dedicated HRMMU field verification of the 8 Oct strike and public release of its findings.

Raise the targeting of civilian transport and medical vehicles as a pattern with the Commission of Inquiry.

Longer-range air defence and counter-aviation capability for frontline cities — glide bombs cannot be intercepted by existing systems.