

KHARKIV, ELEVEN DAYS IN OCTOBER

Five strikes on residential districts of Ukraine's second city in eleven days: guided bombs on 2, 5 and 11 October, a missile on a grocery store in the suburb of Pischyn, and about ten "Banderol" missiles on the evening of 12 October that collapsed an entrance section of a four-storey block. Sixteen people killed, more than 160 injured.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

16

killed in five strikes, 2–12 Oct (derived from regional and SES figures) B

Kharkiv regional administration; State Emergency Service · derived, 14 Oct 2026

160+

injured, including at least 10 children (derived) B

Kharkiv regional administration; National Police · derived

6

killed and 59 injured on 5 Oct alone — three or more guided bombs on Slobidskyi district B

Kharkiv regional administration, 5–6 Oct 2026

~10

"Banderol" missiles on 12 Oct: 4 killed, 41 injured, four-storey block partly collapsed B

Kharkiv regional administration; State Emergency Service, 13 Oct 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

2 Oct, afternoon. Three KAB guided bombs on Slobidskyi and Nemyshlianskyi districts: 2 women (66 and 80) killed, 36–42 injured incl. 3 children; a residential building destroyed, a school and offices damaged.

5 Oct. At least three guided bombs on Slobidskyi district: 6 killed, 59 injured, children among them; residential buildings and warehouses on fire.

11 Oct. A missile on a grocery store in Pischyn (suburb): 3 killed — a 16-year-old boy and women of 19 and 51 — 25 injured incl. girls of 9 and 13. The same day, two guided bombs on Nemyshlianskyi: 1 woman killed, 8 injured incl. a 7-year-old.

12 Oct, evening. About ten Banderol cruise missiles on Kholodnohirskyi and Shevchenkivskyi districts: an entrance section of a four-storey apartment block collapsed; 4 killed, 41 injured incl. a rescuer; a five-storey block, a bank and ten private homes damaged. On 13–14 Oct the city's energy system was hit.

The UN said. High Commissioner Türk, 2 Oct: the glide-bomb campaign in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Sumy and Zaporizhzhia regions — nearly 2,500 civilian casualties in eight months, +62%. Spokesperson, 14 Oct: energy facilities in Kharkiv targeted; casualties reported in Kharkiv.

Official media. SES Kharkiv region, 12 Oct (41 injured in the massed attack) with photo gallery — kh.dsns.gov.ua/news/nadzvicaini-podiyi/xarkiv-unaslidok-masovanoyi-vorozoyi-ataki-postrazdala-41-liudina



Kharkiv, 12 Oct: firefighters at the block whose entrance section collapsed. Photo: State Emergency Service, Kharkiv region · CC BY 4.0 · kh.dsns.gov.ua

WHO VERIFIED IT

- B Kharkiv regional military administration (O. Syniehubov); State Emergency Service; National Police; Office of the Prosecutor General (proceedings under art. 438 CCU)
- A OHCHR Protection of Civilians, August 2026: Kharkiv region among the regions with the highest civilian casualties; glide bombs a leading cause of death in frontline cities. October verification pending.
- A Human Rights Watch, 8 Oct 2026: documentation of the 6 Oct strike on a hospital in Kryvyi Rih (same weapon family)
- C Kyiv Independent; Ukrinform; Ukrainska Pravda; Kyiv Post; Reuters (2–13 Oct 2026)

LEGAL QUALIFICATION — THREE LAYERS

ESTABLISHED

The Commission of Inquiry has found the glide-bomb campaign against Kharkiv city (from March 2024) to involve indiscriminate attacks and war crimes (A/79/549, Oct 2024). The pattern continues in 2026 with the same weapon and the same targets.

PATTERN

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i), (ii), (iv); AP I arts. 51(4)–(5), 57. Repeated strikes on the same residential districts over eleven days exclude error as an explanation.

POSITION

Ukraine qualifies the bombardment of Kharkiv as a widespread and systematic attack on the civilian population — art. 7(1)(a), (k) — and the strikes on medical facilities (Kharkiv medical facility 10 Oct; Kryvyi Rih hospital 6 Oct) as art. 8(2)(b)(ix). Pending international findings.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Tactical aviation (VKS)	Su-34 regiments at Belgorod-region airfields releasing KAB glide bombs from Russian airspace; Banderol missiles from Orion-type drones	Units identified by HUR and in Ukrainian proceedings; no ICC warrant on this node yet
Aerospace Forces command	Daily tasking against Kharkiv city	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

AMB. POLYANSKIY (OSCE), 8 OCT 2026

"It is simply impossible to hide the scale of the failure of Ukraine's air defence."

RUSSIAN MOD, DAILY STATEMENTS, OCT 2026

Strikes on "military-industrial facilities" and "temporary deployment points" in Kharkiv region.

MFA STATEMENT, 4 OCT 2026

"The population of Ukraine should blame only the head of the Kyiv regime" for intensified strikes.

THE RECORD

Glide bombs are released from Russian airspace and are not engaged by Ukrainian air defence; "failure" of air defence cannot explain a KAB on a residential block. The argument concedes the bombs are Russian.

THE RECORD

A grocery store in Pischyn, a four-storey apartment block, a school, a bank. Sixteen dead, among them a 16-year-old and two women over 65.

THE RECORD

Collective punishment and reprisals against civilians are prohibited (AP I arts. 51(6), 75(2) (d)). The statement announces intent.

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Name Kharkiv as a city under systematic glide-bomb attack — not a series of incidents — and request that the Commission of Inquiry update its 2024 findings for 2026.
- Counter-aviation capability (long-range interceptors, aircraft) is the only defence against glide bombs; air-defence interceptors do not reach the carriers.
- Support HRMMU presence in Kharkiv and publication of city-level verified casualty data.
- No amnesty for war crimes in any settlement; support the Special Tribunal and the Register of Damage.

