

NIKOPOL DISTRICT, 16 SEPTEMBER 2026

An FPV drone struck a scheduled passenger minibus on the road in Nikopol district, across the Dnipro from Russian-occupied Enerhodar. Five passengers were killed at the scene, four men and one woman aged 29 to 60. Seven were injured (Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration, 16–17 Sep). The district declared a day of mourning.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

SEP 2026

5

killed at the scene — 4 men, 1 woman, aged 29–60

Head of Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha · 16–17 Sep 2026

7

injured, under medical care

Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration · 16 Sep 2026

3

Russian strikes on buses in Nikopol district in 2026 that we could document: 7 Apr (4 killed, 16 injured), 8 Aug (driver killed), 16 Sep

Hanzha / President of Ukraine via Current Time, 7 Apr; ArmyInform, 8 Aug; regional administration, 16 Sep 2026

300+

km

of the Dnipro right bank where the UN Commission of Inquiry found that drone attacks on civilians are crimes against humanity

UN COI, A/80/497 · 21 Oct 2025

WHAT HAPPENED

A drone on a scheduled bus. On the morning of 16 September a Russian FPV drone hit a passenger minibus running a scheduled route in Nikopol district (Prosecutor General's Office). Media place it on the Pokrov–Nikopol–Dnipro intercity route. The regional council head said the passengers were "going about their business". The district declared a day of mourning.

A district hunted from across the river. Nikopol had about 100,000 residents before 2022; local officials say about half have left (CNN via Mezha, 18 Jul 2026). Russian positions on the occupied left bank are about 3 km away. On 8 April 2026 local monitoring channels counted 132 attacks on the district in a single day (Ukrainska Pravda, 9 Apr 2026).

Buses are repeat targets. Marhanets, Nikopol district, 23 Apr 2025: drone strike on a bus, 9 killed and 49 injured. Nikopol city centre, 7 Apr 2026: FPV drone hit a bus at a stop, 4 killed and 16 injured. Nikopol, 8 Aug 2026: bus driver killed in a strike that set the bus on fire.

The UN said. The UN Commission of Inquiry found in October 2025 that Russian drone attacks on civilians in Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts are crimes against humanity of murder and forcible transfer (A/80/497). HRMMU, 14 Jul 2026: short-range drones caused most civilian casualties near the front; 1,396 civilians were killed in January–June 2026, 37% more than a year earlier. No UN statement specific to the 16 September strike was found.

Russia said. Nothing. Russia made no comment on the strike (Al Jazeera/AFP, 16 Sep).



Nikopol district, 16 Sep: the front of the passenger minibus, marked by fragments (cropped). Photo: State Emergency Service, Dnipropetrovsk region · CC BY 4.0 · dp.dsns.gov.ua

WHO VERIFIED IT

- Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration (O. Hanzha); Dnipropetrovsk regional council (M. Lukashuk), 16–17 Sep 2026
- Office of the Prosecutor General: FPV drone; proceedings under art. 438 CCU (violation of the laws and customs of war)
- UN COI finding on the drone campaign, including Dnipropetrovsk oblast (A/80/497). HRMMU verification of this incident not yet published, so Tier B figures are shown.
- Kyiv Post; UNN; Euromaidan Press; LIGA.net; Al Jazeera; Euronews; Meduza (16–17 Sep 2026)

LEGAL QUALIFICATION — THREE LAYERS

ESTABLISHED The UN Commission of Inquiry has found that Russian armed forces' drone attacks on civilians along more than 300 km of the Dnipro right bank, in Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts, amount to the crimes against humanity of murder and forcible transfer of population, and to war crimes of attacking civilians. It found them widespread and systematic, carried out under an organisational policy (A/80/497, paras 51–54, 21 Oct 2025; earlier Kherson finding A/HRC/59/CRP.2, 28 May 2025). The Commission has not yet examined this specific strike.

PATTERN Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i); art. 7(1)(a); AP I arts. 51(2), 57. An FPV operator flies by live camera to the target. A scheduled minibus with passengers on a public road is a civilian object. This is the third bus strike in the district in 2026.

POSITION Ukraine qualifies the strike as a war crime (art. 438 CCU, Prosecutor General's proceedings) and treats it as part of the drone campaign against Nikopol district that the COI found to be a crime against humanity. The perpetrating unit has not yet been publicly identified.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Drone units, "Dnepr" Group of Forces	Operate from the occupied left bank against the Dnipro right bank, including Dnipropetrovsk oblast	Identified by the UN COI (A/80/497, Oct 2025). No public attribution yet for the 16 Sep strike.
"Dnepr" Group of Forces command	Centralised command of the drone campaign along the Dnipro	Commanders identified by the UN COI; names not published
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, 16–17 SEP 2026

No statement on the strike. No immediate comment (Al Jazeera/AFP, 16 Sep).

RUSSIA, STANDING POSITION (AS REPORTED BY AFP, 16 SEP 2026)

Russia denies deliberately targeting civilians.

THE RECORD

The MoD, the MFA and the Kremlin did not mention five dead passengers on a scheduled bus. Russia did not respond to the UN COI on its drone inquiry (COI, 27 Oct 2025).

THE RECORD

A UN mandated body found the opposite. The COI found drone attacks on civilians along the Dnipro to be "widespread" and "systematic", run under centralised command and an organisational policy, and amounting to crimes against humanity of murder (A/80/497).

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Cite the UN COI finding (A/80/497) by name. Drone attacks on civilians in Nikopol district are a crime against humanity of murder, established by a UN mandated body.
- Support HRMMU verification of the 16 September strike and of the 2026 bus strikes in Nikopol district, and their inclusion in the next OHCHR update.
- Fund counter-drone protection for frontline roads and public transport in Nikopol district: electronic warfare, anti-drone netting, protected buses.
- Sanction the "Dnepr" Group of Forces drone units and commanders identified by the COI.

Sources: Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration (O. Hanzha, Telegram), 16–17 Sep 2026, via UNN and Kyiv Post · Dnipropetrovsk regional council (M. Lukashuk), 16 Sep 2026 · Office of the Prosecutor General, 16 Sep 2026 (art. 438 CCU), via UNN and Euromaidan Press · Al Jazeera/AFP; Euronews; Meduza; LIGA.net, 16 Sep 2026 · UN COI A/80/497 (21 Oct 2025) and press release of 27 Oct 2025; A/HRC/59/CRP.2 and press release of 28 May 2025 · HRMMU press release, 14 Jul 2026 · Current Time, 7 Apr 2026; ArmyInform, 8 Aug 2026; LIGA.net, 23 Apr 2025 · Ukrainska Pravda, 9 Apr 2026; Mezha/CNN, 18 Jul 2026 · ICC warrants, 17 Mar 2023, 24 Jun 2024.

CASE FILE 11

V1 · 16 OCT 2026 · TIER B FIGURES

PENDING OHCHR VERIFICATION



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