

CASE FILE 12SUMY · 26 SEP 2026 · DAYTIME

SUMY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

Guided bombs on residential areas of a regional capital. Two people were killed and 23 injured, four of them children; dozens of apartment buildings, two kindergartens and a cultural institution were damaged (Sumy regional military administration, 26 Sep). It was the deadliest of five glide-bomb attacks on Sumy between 18 September and 4 October.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

SEP 2026

2

killed, in a residential area of Kovpakivskyi district B

Sumy regional military administration (O. Hryhorov) · 26 Sep 2026

23

injured, including 4 children; three girls aged 14, 8 and 11 months hospitalised (first report: 3 injured) B

Sumy regional military administration, via Kyiv Independent and Radio Svoboda · 26 Sep 2026

2

kindergartens damaged, with dozens of apartment buildings, a house, a cultural institution, administrative buildings and 20+ vehicles B

Sumy regional military administration · 26 Sep 2026

6

killed and ~60 injured in five glide-bomb attacks on Sumy, 18 Sep – 4 Oct 2026 B

Sumy regional and city military administrations; SES — compiled from Reuters, Ukrinform, NV, Slovo i Dilo, Kyiv Independent · 18 Sep – 4 Oct 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

Daytime strike on housing. On 26 September Russian aircraft released guided (KAB) bombs on several locations in the Sumy community. Two people were killed in a residential area of Kovpakivskyi district. The regional administration first reported 3 injured including a child; by evening the count was 23, including 4 children.

Kindergartens and homes. The regional administration listed dozens of apartment buildings and a house, two preschool facilities, a cultural institution, administrative buildings and more than 20 vehicles damaged. It noted that residential buildings in the area had been hit before.

A city bombed every few days. 18 Sep: a glide bomb hit an apartment block, 2 killed, 7 injured (Reuters). 25 Sep: two bombs, 8 injured incl. 3 children, an educational institution damaged (city military administration). 29 Sep: four bombs on the centre, 2 killed, 9 injured incl. 3 children; a school was hit during lessons while about 40 pupils sheltered (SES; NV). 4 Oct: six bombs in the afternoon; 13 people sought care regionwide, incl. a 1-year-old (regional administration).

The same night, nationwide. Overnight into 26 September Russia launched 173 strike and decoy drones, more than 50 of them jet-powered; 134 were shot down or suppressed, with hits at 19 locations (Air Force of Ukraine, 26 Sep).

The UN said. High Commissioner Türk told the Human Rights Council on 2 Oct that nearly 2,500 civilians were killed or injured by Russian glide bombs on the frontlines in Jan–Aug 2026, 62% more than a year earlier, within 15,280 civilian casualties overall. No UN statement specific to the 26 September strike was located.

WHO VERIFIED IT

- B Sumy regional military administration (O. Hryhorov); acting mayor of Sumy (A. Kobzar); Sumy city military administration
- B Air Force of Ukraine, overnight summary of 26 Sep 2026
- A OHCHR: aggregate glide-bomb casualty figures (Türk, HRC, 2 Oct 2026); incident-level verification of 26 Sep pending (Tier B figures shown until then)
- C Kyiv Independent; Radio Svoboda; Censor.net; Ukranews (26 Sep 2026); Reuters (19 Sep); NV, Mezha (29–30 Sep)

LEGAL QUALIFICATION — THREE LAYERS

ESTABLISHED The Commission of Inquiry has found that Russia's use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas violates IHL and that attacks on residential buildings without a military objective are war crimes (A/77/533; A/79/549). Russian armed forces are listed by the Secretary-General for killing and maiming children and attacks on schools and hospitals (A/77/895–S/2023/363).

PATTERN Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i), (ii), (iv), (ix); AP I arts. 51(4)–(5), 52, 57. Five glide-bomb attacks on residential areas of one city in 17 days, hitting kindergartens, a school and apartment blocks, is a pattern, not a precaution failure.

POSITION Ukraine qualifies the bombardment of Sumy and other border cities as part of a widespread and systematic attack on the civilian population — art. 7(1)(a), (k) — aimed at depopulating a declared "buffer zone". Pending international findings.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Tactical aviation (VKS)	Aircraft releasing KAB guided bombs on Sumy	Unit not identified in open sources; no ICC warrant
"North" (Sever) grouping	Russian force grouping operating in north-eastern Ukraine; inspected by Gerasimov when the buffer-zone order was announced (RIA via Reuters, 31 Dec 2025)	No ICC warrant
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, 26-27 SEP 2026

No statement on the Sumy strike located.

GEN. GERASIMOV, VIA RIA, 31 DEC 2025

Putin "ordered expansion in 2026 of the buffer zone in Ukraine's regions of Sumy and Kharkiv".

RUSSIA, STANDING POSITION (REUTERS, 19 SEP 2026)

Russia denies targeting civilians.

THE RECORD

Two dead, 23 injured and two damaged kindergartens went unmentioned in open-source MoD, MFA and Kremlin statements reviewed for this file.

THE RECORD

A declared aim to clear territory of a sovereign state. Bombing apartment blocks, kindergartens and a school in a regional capital is how such a "zone" is made uninhabitable — evidence of purpose, not a defence.

THE RECORD

Glide bombs are aimed and released from aircraft. Five attacks on residential areas of the same city in 17 days, with 6 killed, are not stray rounds.

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Name Sumy in Council and GA statements: five glide-bomb attacks in 17 days, 6 killed, kindergartens and a school hit.
- Ask OHCHR/HRMMU to verify the 26 and 29 September strikes and report them at incident level.
- Counter-aviation capability and air defence for border cities, and tighter enforcement of sanctions on components for KAB guidance kits.
- Ask the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict to record the attacks on Sumy kindergartens and schools for the next annual report.

Sources: Sumy regional military administration (O. Hryhorov), 26 Sep 2026, via Kyiv Independent, Radio Svoboda, Censor.net, Ukranews · Sumy city military administration, 25 Sep 2026 (Ukrinform) · SES, 29 Sep 2026 (LB.ua) · Air Force of Ukraine, 26 Sep 2026 (UNN, Ukranews) · Reuters, 19 Sep 2026 · NV, 29 Sep 2026 · Mezha, 30 Sep 2026 · Slovo i Dilo, 4 Oct 2026 · OHCHR, High Commissioner Türk to the HRC, 2 Oct 2026 (Kyiv Independent) · RIA via Reuters (Malay Mail), 31 Dec 2025 · COI A/77/533, A/79/549 · SG report A/77/895–S/2023/363 · ICC warrants, 17 Mar 2023, 24 Jun 2024.

CASE FILE 12V1 · 16 OCT 2026 · TIER B FIGURES
PENDING OHCHR VERIFICATION



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