

NOVA VODOLAHA, 19 OCTOBER 2026: A DRONE ON A PARK

At about 16:30 on Monday 19 October a Russian Geran-3 attack drone hit the central park of Nova Vodolaha, a town about 27 km from Kharkiv, while families with children were walking there. Six people were killed, three of them children, among them an infant in a stroller; 15 were injured, seven of them children (Kharkiv regional military administration, 19 Oct, preliminary).

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

6

killed, three of them children, incl. an infant in a stroller B

Kharkiv regional military administration (O. Syniehubov), 19 Oct 2026, 18:20

15

injured, seven of them children; taken to hospitals in Kharkiv B

Kharkiv regional military administration, 19 Oct 2026 (preliminary)

~16:30

time of the strike, on a park in the town centre in daylight B

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, preliminary data

Geran-3

the weapon identified by law enforcement: a jet-powered attack drone B

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 19 Oct 2026

WHAT HAPPENED

A park on a Monday afternoon. At about 16:30 a drone hit open ground in the central park of Nova Vodolaha, Kharkiv region. Interior Minister I. Vyhivskiy: many people, including families with children, were in the park at the time. A café in the park was damaged.

The toll. First reports named two women and an infant in a stroller killed and at least 14 injured. By 18:20 the head of the regional military administration, O. Syniehubov, reported six killed, three of them children, and 15 injured, seven of them children. The regional emergency medical centre (V. Zabashta): nine adults and six children with shrapnel wounds, taken to Kharkiv hospitals. One of the women killed was about 25. All figures preliminary.

The same day. In Kryvyi Rih a Banderol missile on an industrial enterprise killed two and injured seven, incl. a boy of 15. The night before, Russia launched 269 drones with ballistic and cruise missiles at Ukraine; a woman was killed in Irpin and 17 injured, eight of them children.

WHO VERIFIED IT

- B Kharkiv regional military administration (O. Syniehubov, 19 Oct, 18:20); Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office (time, weapon); Minister of Internal Affairs I. Vyhivskiy; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre
- A UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine: Russian drone attacks on civilians in Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson and Mykolaiv regions are crimes against humanity of murder and war crimes of attacking civilians (A/80/497, Oct 2025). No UN body has yet reported on this strike.
- C Suspilne Kharkiv; Ukrinform; Interfax-Ukraine; RBC-Ukraine; Gwara Media; Censor.net (19 Oct 2026)

LEGAL QUALIFICATION — THREE LAYERS

ESTABLISHED

No mandated body has yet ruled on this strike. The Commission of Inquiry has found Russian drone attacks on civilians elsewhere in Ukraine to be war crimes and crimes against humanity of murder (A/80/497).

PATTERN

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i), (ii); AP I arts. 51(2), 51(4), 57. A park in daylight with families present: no military objective has been named, and a guided attack drone is not an area weapon that strays by chance.

POSITION

Ukraine qualifies the strike as a deliberate attack on children and civilians. Pending international findings.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE

Drone units and producers	Geran launch crews and their commanders; manufacture of the Geran series	Units identified by HUR; sanctions on producers (Alabuga) and suppliers.
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

RUSSIAN MOD AND MFA, 19 OCT 2026

No statement on Nova Vodolaha found as of the evening of 19 October.

THE RECORD

The Hub will add any Russian statement on this strike and check it against the record.

AMB. NEBENZIA, UNSC, 9 OCT 2026

Russia strikes "only military facilities".

THE RECORD

A town park, families with children, an infant in a stroller. No military object has been named in Nova Vodolaha.

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Cite the strike: six killed, three of them children, in a town park in daylight, 19 October 2026.
- Request HRMMU verification of the Nova Vodolaha strike and its inclusion in the next OHCHR update on the protection of civilians.
- Air defence and electronic-warfare support for Kharkiv region against jet-powered drones; sanctions on every node of Geran production.
- No amnesty for attacks on children in any settlement.