CASE FILE

KRYVYI RIH, DNIPROPETROVSK REGION · EVENING OF 20 NOVEMBER 2026

KRYVYI RIH, 20 NOVEMBER: MISSILES AT A PLAYGROUND, THEN DRONES AT THE RESCUERS

At about 20:15 on Friday 20 November 2026, World Children's Day, Russian ballistic missiles hit the car park of a restaurant in the centre of Kryvyi Rih, where children were playing on the playground. Russian drones then struck the same place while rescuers and ambulance crews were at work. A boy aged 7 and a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic were killed; 47 people were injured, among them 6 children, 2 rescuers and 2 ambulance workers. Nineteen months earlier, on a Friday evening in April 2025, a Russian Iskander-M missile had killed nine children at a playground in the same city.

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2

killed — a boy aged 7 and a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic who had come to help B

Head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026, via UNIAN and Focus

47

injured, 27 of them seriously — as of 04:00 on 21 November B

O. Vilkul, 21 Nov 2026, via Glavcom and Novyny.LIVE

6

children among the injured, among them a girl aged 3 and a boy aged 4 B

O. Vilkul, 21 Nov 2026, via Glavcom

4

rescuers and ambulance workers among the injured — hit while they were helping B

O. Vilkul, 21 Nov 2026, via Glavcom

BOTTOM LINE

A playground on a Friday evening. Two Russian ballistic missiles, preliminarily Iskander-M, hit the car park of a restaurant in the city centre at about 20:15; children were on the playground and families and staff in the restaurant grounds. A boy aged 7 died in hospital of head injuries (Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office; O. Vilkul; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi).

Then the people who came to help. About an hour later Russian drones struck again while rescuers, ambulance crews and police were at work; a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic was mortally wounded, and two rescuers and two ambulance workers were among the injured (regional prosecutor's office; O. Hanzha; O. Vilkul).

A city that has been here before. 23 apartment buildings, a hospital and ambulances were damaged. On 4 April 2025 a Russian Iskander-M exploded over a playground in Kryvyi Rih and killed 20 people, nine of them children — a strike the UN human rights office documented (HRMMU).

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

2 KILLED, AMONG THEM A BOY AGED 7, AND 47 INJURED IN KRYVYI RIH, 20 NOVEMBER — ESTABLISHED (UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES)

REPEAT STRIKES ON RESCUERS AND MEDICS WHO ARRIVE AFTER A FIRST STRIKE — PATTERN (UN COMMISSION OF INQUIRY)

RUSSIA: "ONLY MILITARY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE" — POSITION

Established. On the evening of 20 November 2026 Russian ballistic missiles and then drones hit the centre of Kryvyi Rih, killing a boy aged 7 and an ambulance paramedic and injuring 47 people, among them 6 children, 2 rescuers and 2 ambulance workers (Ukrainian authorities). **Pattern.** The UN Commission of Inquiry has found that Russian drone operators have attacked first responders — ambulance crews, fire brigades and their vehicles. **Position.** Russia says its targets are only military facilities and infrastructure; it has not commented on this strike.

WHAT WE ASK

Ask HRMMU to verify the casualties of 20 November in Kryvyi Rih; at the Security Council, ask Russia what military objective a restaurant car park next to a playground served, and why rescuers and medics were struck again.

Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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CASE FILE HOW IT HAPPENED

ONE EVENING: THE PLAYGROUND, THEN THE RESCUE

Kryvyi Rih is an industrial city in the Dnipropetrovsk region, struck again and again since 2022. On a Friday evening families were at a restaurant in the city centre; children were on its playground.

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4 Apr 2025	A Russian Iskander-M missile explodes over a playground and a restaurant in Kryvyi Rih on a Friday evening; 20 civilians are killed, nine of them children. A — HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025
20 Nov, about 20:15	Two Russian ballistic missiles, preliminarily Iskander-M, hit the car park of a restaurant in the centre of Kryvyi Rih; children are on the playground. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, via Slovo i Dilo; O. Vilkul, 20 Nov 2026
20 Nov, evening	Rescuers, ambulance crews and police arrive; in the first minutes of the evacuation a Russian drone strikes the site again. B — Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026, via Radio Svoboda and Kyiv Independent
20 Nov, about 21:13	The regional prosecutor's office records a repeat strike by a drone; the city's head says further jet-powered drones hit the rescue site. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, via Slovo i Dilo; O. Vilkul, via Kyiv Post
20 Nov, evening	The head of the regional administration reports 21 injured, 2 rescuers among them, and that the 20-year-old ambulance paramedic has died in hospital. B — O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026, via UNIAN
20 Nov, about 22:20	The boy aged 7 dies in intensive care of severe head injuries; "doctors did everything possible". B — O. Vilkul, 20 Nov 2026, via Kyiv Post and Focus
20 Nov, 23:00	2 killed and 42 injured, 4 children among them, 27 in serious condition; 23 apartment buildings, a hospital and business premises damaged. B — O. Vilkul, 20 Nov 2026, via Focus and Shelter
21 Nov, night	A Russian jet-powered drone hits an industrial enterprise in the city and starts a fire; no casualties are reported. B — O. Vilkul, 21 Nov 2026, via Shelter
21 Nov, 04:00	The count rises to 47 injured, 27 seriously: 6 children, among them a girl aged 3 and a boy aged 4, 2 rescuers and 2 ambulance workers. B — O. Vilkul, 21 Nov 2026, via Glavcom and Novyny.LIVE
20 Nov	Russia makes no statement on the strike; its President had said on 20 November that Russia's response to Ukraine's strikes on the Crimean bridge would be "much more painful". RUSSIA SAYS — V. Putin, 20 Nov 2026, via Hromadske

WHAT IS ON THE RECORD SO FAR

First strike: two ballistic missiles, preliminarily Iskander-M, hit the restaurant's car park at about 20:15 (Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office; O. Vilkul).

Repeat strike: in the first minutes of the evacuation a Russian drone struck the site again; the prosecutor's office records a drone strike at about 21:13, the city's head speaks of further jet-powered drones hitting rescuers, medics and utility workers (I. Vyhivskyi; regional prosecutor's office; O. Vilkul).

Damage: 23 apartment buildings, a hospital, business premises, educational institutions, garages, ambulances and cars (O. Vilkul; city defence council).

Overnight a further drone hit an industrial enterprise and started a fire; water pressure and gas supply were limited in parts of the city (O. Vilkul).

WHO WAS HARMED

Killed: 2 — a boy aged 7, who was on the playground, and a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic who came to the scene and was mortally wounded (O. Vilkul; O. Hanzha).

Injured: 47, 27 of them seriously, as of 04:00 on 21 November (O. Vilkul).

Among the injured: 6 children, among them a girl aged 3 and a boy aged 4; 2 State Emergency Service rescuers and 2 ambulance workers (O. Vilkul). The Interior Minister also reported 2 police officers injured during the evacuation.

Counts are preliminary and rose through the night; the ages of the injured children differ between official updates.

Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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CASE FILE THE EVIDENCE, BY TIER

THE PROSECUTOR, THE CITY, THE REGION AND THE INTERIOR MINISTER ON THE RECORD

The record rests on the Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, the head of the city military administration, the head of the regional military administration and the Interior Minister. No UN body had verified the casualties as of 21 November.

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ESTABLISHED BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, October 2025: "Drone operators have attacked first responders – ambulance crews, fire brigades, and their vehicles." A

UNICEF, 20 Nov 2026: 114 children killed and 1,030 injured in Ukraine from January to October 2026, the highest level in almost four years (HRMMU data). A

HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025: the strike on Kryvyi Rih on 4 April 2025 killed 20 civilians, nine of them children. A

No HRMMU verification of the strike of 20 November as of 21 Nov 2026. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026: time of the strikes, preliminary weapon type. B

Head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026: casualties, damage, the repeat strikes. B

Head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026: casualties, the death of the paramedic. B

Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026: the repeat strike during the evacuation, rescuers and police injured. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, 20–21 Nov 2026. C

Hromadske on the Russian President's remarks, 20 Nov 2026. C

— C

— C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED

Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
21 · 42 · 47	injured, as the count grew through the night: the region at about 22:00, the city at 23:00 and at 04:00	O. Hanzha; O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026
4 · 6	children among the injured: the city's count at 23:00, then at 04:00	O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026
1 · 3	drones in the repeat strike: "a drone" for the prosecutor's office, three jet-powered drones for the city's head	Regional prosecutor's office; O. Vilkul, 20 Nov 2026

The Hub does not name the dead or the injured.

Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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CASE FILE RESPONSIBILITY

THE FORCES BEHIND THE MISSILES AND THE DRONES

No individual has been named for this strike. What is on the record is the weapons, the time, the place hit, the repeat strike on the rescue and Russia's standing account of its targets.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Armed Forces of the Russian Federation missile and drone units not identified	Launched ballistic missiles, preliminarily Iskander-M, at the centre of Kryvyi Rih, then drones at the rescue site	Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office; O. Vilkul, 20 Nov 2026	B
Russian Ministry of Defence	Made no statement on a target in Kryvyi Rih on 20 November	Searches of Russian official channels, 21 Nov 2026	RU
President of the Russian Federation	Said on 20 November that Russia's response to Ukraine's strikes on the Crimean bridge would be "much more painful"	V. Putin, 20 Nov 2026, via Hromadske	RU

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

Ukraine's police and prosecutors document each strike; the Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office has reported this one.

HRMMU may verify the casualties for its November update, as it did for the strike on the city in April 2025.

The Security Council is a place to ask Russia to account for repeat strikes on rescuers and medics.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

Russia's standing line at the UN is that its targets are only military facilities and infrastructure (V. Nebenzia, Security Council, 9 Oct 2026).

In April 2025 Russia said it had struck "a meeting of unit commanders and Western instructors" in a restaurant in Kryvyi Rih; the UN found nine children among the 20 dead.

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Use "On the evening of 20 November 2026 Russian ballistic missiles and then drones hit the centre of Kryvyi Rih, killing a boy aged 7 and an ambulance paramedic and injuring 47 people, 6 of them children" and give the sources and dates.

Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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CASE FILE FACT-CHECK · WHAT RUSSIA SAYS

"ONLY MILITARY FACILITIES" — A PLAYGROUND AND AN AMBULANCE CREW

Russia says its targets are only military facilities and infrastructure. The claim is tested here against what is known about 20 November in Kryvyi Rih.

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VASSILY NEBENZIA · PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RUSSIA, SECURITY COUNCIL, 9 OCT 2026

"Our targets have been and remain only military facilities and infrastructure."

Russian Mission to the UN, statement of 9 Oct 2026

NOT CONSISTENT WITH A MISSILE STRIKE ON A RESTAURANT CAR PARK WHERE CHILDREN WERE PLAYING, FOLLOWED BY DRONES ON THE RESCUERS

At about 20:15 on 20 November 2026 Russian ballistic missiles hit the car park of a restaurant in the centre of Kryvyi Rih and drones struck the rescue that followed; a boy aged 7 and a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic were killed and 47 people injured, 6 of them children (Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office; Kryvyi Rih city military administration).

What the claim concedes: That the law requires attacks to be limited to military objectives.

FAIR TO SAY

Russia has made no statement about a target in Kryvyi Rih on 20 November.

The record shows a restaurant car park with children on the playground, and a second strike on the people who came to help.

The counts are preliminary and come from one party to the conflict; UN verification is pending.

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Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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CASE FILE THE LAW AND WHAT WE ASK

CHILDREN, AND THOSE WHO COME TO HELP, ARE PROTECTED

Civilians and civilian objects may not be attacked, and every feasible precaution must be taken to spare them. Medical personnel and civil-defence workers who come to help the wounded have specific protection; children are entitled to special respect.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

On the evening of 20 November 2026 Russian ballistic missiles and then drones hit the centre of Kryvyi Rih, killing a boy aged 7 and a 20-year-old ambulance paramedic and injuring 47 people, among them 6 children, 2 rescuers and 2 ambulance workers (Ukrainian authorities).

The UN Commission of Inquiry found that Russian drone operators "have attacked first responders – ambulance crews, fire brigades, and their vehicles" (A/80/497, October 2025).

No body with an international mandate has yet verified the casualties of 20 November (as of 21 Nov 2026).

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PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Kryvyi Rih: an Iskander-M over a playground on 4 April 2025, 20 killed, nine of them children (HRMMU); a repeat strike that injured two rescuers on 4 July 2025 (State Emergency Service).

Ukraine's President said on 20 November that repeat strikes on the same site are a "new and increasing Russian tactic" (via Kyiv Independent).

POSITION — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Russia says its targets are only military facilities and infrastructure.

Ukraine's Prime Minister says Russia struck Kryvyi Rih twice within an hour, first with missiles, then with a drone.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I arts. 48, 51 and 52: civilians and civilian objects may not be attacked; indiscriminate attacks are prohibited.

Additional Protocol I arts. 12, 15, 62 and 77: medical units and personnel and civil-defence personnel must be respected and protected; children are the object of special respect.

Security Council resolution 2286 (2016): attacks on medical personnel and their means of transport must stop.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

The exact number of drones in the repeat strikes and their timing.

Under which article prosecutors have opened proceedings.

Whether HRMMU will verify the casualties.

WHAT WE ASK

Cite the record — with its sources. On the evening of 20 November 2026 Russian ballistic missiles and then drones hit the centre of Kryvyi Rih, killing a boy aged 7 and an ambulance paramedic and injuring 47 people, 6 of them children (Ukrainian authorities).

Ask Russia to explain. At the Security Council, ask Russia what military objective a restaurant car park next to a playground served, and why the rescue was struck again.

Ask the UN to verify. Ask HRMMU to verify the casualties of 20 November and to report on repeat strikes on rescuers and medics.

Protect children and those who help. Cite resolution 2286 on medical care and back air defence for frontline cities such as Kryvyi Rih.

Sources: A — UN Commission of Inquiry, A/80/497, Oct 2025; UNICEF press release, 20 Nov 2026; HRMMU, 24 Apr 2025. B — Dnipropetrovsk regional prosecutor's office, 20 Nov 2026; head of the Kryvyi Rih city military administration O. Vilkul, 20–21 Nov 2026; head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration O. Hanzha, 20 Nov 2026; Interior Minister I. Vyhivskyi, 20 Nov 2026; State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 4 Jul 2025; President of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026; Prime Minister of Ukraine, 20 Nov 2026. C — Glavcom, Novyny.LIVE, UNIAN, Focus, Slovo i Dilo, Shelter, Radio Svoboda, Kyiv Post, Kyiv Independent, Hromadske (20–21 Nov 2026). RU — Russian Mission to the UN (9 Oct 2026); Russian President (20 Nov 2026); Russian Ministry of Defence (4 Apr 2025, via Reuters).

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