

HROZA: A SIXTH OF A VILLAGE AT ONE MEAL

One Iskander-M ballistic missile on a village café during a memorial meal, 50 km from the front line. 59 civilians killed — 36 women, 22 men and a boy of eight. The UN found no military target and reasonable grounds to attribute the launch to Russia. In 2026 Ukraine indicted the chain of command, from a colonel-general to the two brothers who passed on the address.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against OHCHR/HRMMU (31 Oct 2023), the Commission of Inquiry (A/HRC/55/66) and the Prosecutor General (5 Oct 2026). Photo slots to be filled from official sources (National Police, Kharkiv regional administration, CC BY).

59

civilians killed: 36 women, 22 men, one boy aged 8 A

OHCHR / HRMMU report, 31 Oct 2023

63

people sat down to the memorial meal at about 13:00 A

OHCHR / HRMMU report, 31 Oct 2023

1 in 6

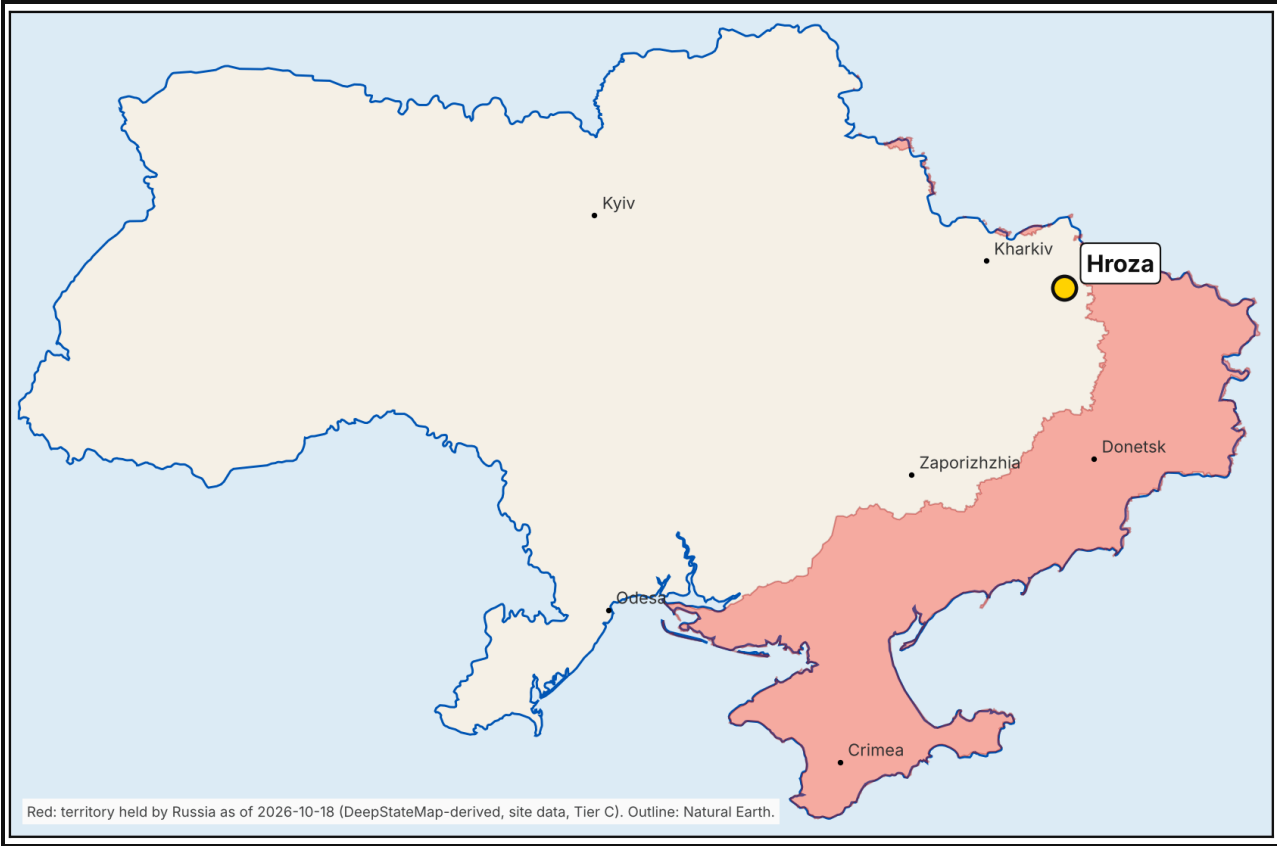
of the village's population killed in a single strike A

USG R. DiCarlo, Security Council, 9 Oct 2023 (S/PV.9431)

7

accused, indicted in absentia: five Russian officers and two spotters B

Office of the Prosecutor General, 5 Oct 2026



BOTTOM LINE

No military target. OHCHR interviewed 35 people and visited the site twice: the 59 dead were civilians, and no military personnel or other legitimate target was present at or near the café.

A precision weapon that hit what it was aimed at. The UN found reasonable grounds to believe the missile — likely an Iskander — was launched by Russian forces, and that Russia's own claim that the wake was a legitimate target suggests the attack struck its intended target.

A named chain of command. In July 2026 the SBU and the Prosecutor General served notices of suspicion on five officers up to a colonel-general; on 5 Oct 2026 the indictment went to court.

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

ATTACK ON CIVILIANS WITH NO MILITARY TARGET — ESTABLISHED (OHCHR)

PRECISION STRIKES ON GATHERINGS — PATTERN

DELIBERATE KILLING OF CIVILIANS, WAR CRIME — POSITION (ART. 438 CCU)

Established. OHCHR: the dead were civilians; no military objective was present; either Russia failed to verify the target or targeted civilians deliberately — a violation of international humanitarian law in either case (31 Oct 2023). The Commission of Inquiry records the attack among explosive-weapon attacks that were indiscriminate or failed to take feasible precautions (A/HRC/55/66, paras. 27, 31). **Pattern.** A single precision missile against a known civilian gathering, after a day's notice of the wake. **Position.** Ukraine qualifies the strike as a war crime combined with premeditated murder (Art. 438(2) CCU) and has indicted the officers who proposed, verified and ordered it.

WHAT WE ASK

Cite OHCHR's Hroza findings in national statements and in the Third Committee. Support the in-absentia trial with evidence-sharing and mutual legal assistance. Designate the officers named in the indictment — Kim, Pinchuk, Petrushin, Kozlovsky, Petrov — and the 119th Missile Brigade under national sanctions regimes. Keep Hroza on the record of the Security Council each time Russia claims it strikes only military targets.

A WAKE ANNOUNCED A DAY AHEAD

The reburial of a soldier killed in 2022 was a public event in a village of a few hundred people. The meal that followed was the only gathering in Hroza that day — and the missile arrived twenty-five minutes after it began.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

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OCT 2026

Sep 2022	Hroza liberated after six months of occupation; about 330 residents remain in the village. C — Ukrainska Pravda Life, 16 Oct 2023
4-5 Oct 2023	The remains of serviceman Andrii Kozyr, killed in 2022, are reburied in his home village; a memorial meal is announced for the next day at the Suputnyk café. A — OHCHR / HRMMU, 31 Oct 2023
5 Oct 2023, ~13:25	A ballistic missile hits the café as 63 people sit down to the meal. First toll: 51 (Interior Minister Klymenko). A — OHCHR; AP/PBS, 5 Oct 2023
6 Oct 2023	High Commissioner Türk condemns the strike; HRMMU field team deployed; 27 names confirmed. A — OHCHR briefing, Geneva
6 Oct 2023	Kremlin spokesman Peskov: Russian forces do not strike civilian targets. RUSSIA SAYS — The Insider; Meduza
7 and 10 Oct 2023	OHCHR fact-finding missions on site: 35 interviews, remnants examined with independent military experts. A — OHCHR / HRMMU, 31 Oct 2023
9 Oct 2023	Security Council: USG DiCarlo — the attack wiped out a sixth of the village. Nebenzia: a wake for a nationalist attended by collaborators — a legitimate target. A — S/PV.9431; DPPA
11 Oct 2023	SBU names two brothers, former police officers who fled to Russia, as the spotters; notices of suspicion in absentia. B — SBU
12 Oct 2023	Identification complete: 59 dead, all civilians; 19 identified by DNA. B — Interior Minister Klymenko; Meduza
17 Oct 2023	Russian MFA summons the Czech chargé d'affaires and calls the Hroza deaths an invention. RUSSIA SAYS — Ukrainska Pravda, 21 Oct 2023
31 Oct 2023	OHCHR publishes its dedicated report on the attack: no military target; likely an Iskander; reasonable grounds to attribute the launch to Russia. A — OHCHR / HRMMU
14 Nov 2023	HRMMU: Hroza accounted for a third of all civilians killed in Ukraine in October 2023. A — HRMMU monthly update
3 Jan 2024	Prosecutor General Kostin visits the site with an ICC team. B — Interfax-Ukraine
18 Mar 2024	Commission of Inquiry records the attack: 36 women, 22 men and one boy killed. A — A/HRC/55/66, para. 27
19 Jul 2024	Memorial unveiled on the site, built on the relatives' initiative. C — Svidomi
25 Oct 2024	Volodymyr Mamon sentenced in absentia to 15 years — for treason during the occupation, not yet for Hroza. B — Kharkiv regional prosecutor; LB.ua
Feb 2025	HUR: Capt. Konstantin Nagaiko, 112th Missile Brigade, named as implicated in Hroza, dies after an explosion in Shuya. B — HUR, 8 Feb 2025
10 Jul 2026	Notices of suspicion to five commanders — Col-Gen Kim, Vice-Adm Pinchuk, Rear-Adm Petrushin, Col Kozlovsky, Col Petrov (119th Missile Brigade). B — SBU; Prosecutor General
3 Jul 2026	Hroza placed in the mandatory evacuation zone as the front moves west. B — Kharkiv regional administration
5 Oct 2026	Third anniversary: indictment against seven accused sent to court; trial in absentia; more than 270 forensic examinations. B — Office of the Prosecutor General

WHAT THE UN ESTABLISHED ON THE GROUND

OHCHR teams visited on 7 and 10 October 2023, interviewed 27 residents, two survivors, medical and morgue staff and officials, reviewed open-source material and had remnants assessed by independent military experts.

The café stood in territory controlled by Ukraine, about 50 km from the front line. 63 people sat down at about 13:00; the explosion came at about 13:25.

The weapon was a precision-guided short-range ballistic missile, likely an Iskander — a system Ukraine does not possess.



The site of the Suputnyk café in Hroza after the strike, 5 Oct 2023. Photo: National Police of Ukraine · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

WHO THE DEAD WERE

All 59 were civilians: 36 women, 22 men and one boy of eight, Ivan Kozyr, killed with his father, aunt and grandfather. His mother survived.

Pensioners, medics, farmers, teachers and small traders, in the words of the regional governor a year later. Fifteen families lost more than one member; by 2026 the regional prosecutor counted 14 children orphaned.

The village had about 330 residents after liberation in 2022 and 344 on the aid lists HRMMU used. By 2024 the village was described as almost empty; in July 2026 it entered the mandatory evacuation zone.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza, 5 October 2023* (31 Oct 2023); OHCHR briefings 6 and 31 Oct 2023; HRMMU monthly update, Oct 2023 (14 Nov 2023); UN Security Council S/PV.9431 (9 Oct 2023); Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/55/66 (18 Mar 2024), para. 27. B — SBU 11 Oct 2023 and 10 Jul 2026; Office of the Prosecutor General 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026; Kharkiv regional prosecutor 11 Oct 2023, 25 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2025; HUR 25 Jul 2024, 8 Feb 2025; Kharkiv regional administration 6 Oct 2023, 5 Oct 2024, 3 Jul 2026. C — AP/PBS 5 Oct 2023; Mediazona 7 Oct 2023; The Insider 6 Oct 2023; Meduza 9 and 12 Oct 2023; Ukrainska Pravda 9, 11, 21 Oct 2023, 12 Feb 2024; Ukrainska Pravda Life 16 Oct 2023; Ukrinform 5 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2026; Svidomi 5 Oct 2024; LB.ua 25 Oct 2024; KHPG 2 Jul 2025; The Telegraph 2026; OpenSanctions / Lursoft (sanctions status). All accessed 20 Oct 2026.

THREE TIERS, ONE CONCLUSION

The UN record, the Ukrainian investigation and independent reporting converge on the same facts. Where their numbers differ, the differences are shown rather than reconciled.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

VERIFIED RECORD

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ESTABLISHED BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR / HRMMU, report of 31 Oct 2023: 59 civilians killed; no military personnel or other legitimate target at or near the café; reasonable grounds to believe the missile was launched by Russian forces; Russia either failed to verify the target or deliberately attacked civilians — a violation of IHL either way. A

USG DiCarlo to the Security Council, 9 Oct 2023: the attack wiped out a sixth of the village's population. A

Commission of Inquiry, A/HRC/55/66, para. 27 (18 Mar 2024): the attack killed 36 women, 22 men and one boy; the Commission interviewed bereaved villagers. A

HRMMU monthly update, 14 Nov 2023: Hroza was 33 per cent of civilians killed in Ukraine in October 2023. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

SBU, 11 Oct 2023: spotters identified — Volodymyr and Dmytro Mamon, former police officers from the area who served the occupation in 2022 and fled to Russia; informants among relatives passed the time and place of the meal. B

Kharkiv regional prosecutor, 5 Oct 2025: the missile was an Iskander-M 9M723F with a 480 kg warhead, launched from the Rossosh area of Voronezh region. B

SBU and Prosecutor General, 10 Jul 2026: notices of suspicion to five officers of the Joint Grouping of Forces and the 119th Missile Brigade; the launch order was given by Col Ivan Petrov. B

Prosecutor General, 5 Oct 2026: indictment of seven sent to court; more than 270 examinations, 3D scanning, trajectory and launch site established. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Mediazona, 7 Oct 2023: the district prosecutor on site — no military personnel, only civilians. C

Ukrainska Pravda Life, 16 Oct 2023: the victims named; six children fully orphaned. C

The Telegraph, 2026: HUR dossier on the 112th Missile Brigade (Shuya) links the brigade to Hroza — a different unit from the one indicted (see page 4). C

Svidomi, 5 Oct 2024: the memorial on the impact site, funded by relatives. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED		
Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
51 · 52 · 53 · 55 · 59	killed — the count on 5, 6, 11, 11 and 12 Oct 2023 as identification progressed; 59 is final	Klymenko; Syniehubov; SBU; regional prosecutor; Klymenko · B
59 (36 / 22 / 1)	killed — women / men / boy aged 8	OHCHR, 31 Oct 2023; Col A/HRC/55/66 · A
4 · 5 · 6 · 7	injured — HRMMU on 6 Oct; police and PGO 2024–26; SBU 11 Oct 2023; media	A / B / B / C
63 · 64	people at the meal — HRMMU's own text gives both	OHCHR, 31 Oct 2023 · A
260 – 497	village population — 2001 census (497), ~330 after liberation, 344 on aid lists, 260 by Oct 2024	Wikipedia; UP Life; HRMMU; community head · C/A/B
1/6 · 17% · 1/5	share of the village killed — the share depends on the population base used	DiCarlo; HRMMU; media · A/A/C
6 · 10 · 14	children orphaned — Oct 2023, Oct 2024, Oct 2026; definitions differ	UP Life; community head; regional prosecutor · C/B/B



Rescuers search the rubble of the café. Photo: Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

The hub shows the UN figure first (Tier A), the national figure as 'according to Ukrainian authorities' (Tier B) and independent figures as support (Tier C). The share of the village killed is derived and depends on the population base; the UN's 'a sixth' is used in the headline.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza, 5 October 2023* (31 Oct 2023); OHCHR briefings 6 and 31 Oct 2023; HRMMU monthly update, Oct 2023 (14 Nov 2023); UN Security Council S/PV.9431 (9 Oct 2023); Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/55/66 (18 Mar 2024), para. 27. B — SBU 11 Oct 2023 and 10 Jul 2026; Office of the Prosecutor General 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026; Kharkiv regional prosecutor 11 Oct 2023, 25 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2025; HUR 25 Jul 2024, 8 Feb 2025; Kharkiv regional administration 6 Oct 2023, 5 Oct 2024, 3 Jul 2026. C — AP/PBS 5 Oct 2023; Mediazona 7 Oct 2023; The Insider 6 Oct 2023; Meduza 9 and 12 Oct 2023; Ukrainska Pravda 9, 11, 21 Oct 2023, 12 Feb 2024; Ukrainska Pravda Life 16 Oct 2023; Ukrinform 5 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2026; Svidomi 5 Oct 2024; LB.ua 25 Oct 2024; KHPG 2 Jul 2025; The Telegraph 2026; OpenSanctions / Lursoft (sanctions status). All accessed 20 Oct 2026.

FROM THE ORDER TO THE ADDRESS

Ukraine's indictment of 5 October 2026 names a chain of five officers who proposed, verified, organised and ordered the strike, and the two brothers who supplied the time and place. None has been designated under a Western sanctions regime for Hroza.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Col-Gen Aleksei Kim chief of staff / first deputy commander, Joint Grouping of Forces	Made the final decision to strike (SBU, 10 Jul 2026)	Notice of suspicion, Art. 438(2) CCU, 10 Jul 2026; indicted 5 Oct 2026, trial in absentia	No EU / US / UK / Canada listing found — to verify
Vice-Adm Sergei Pinchuk deputy commander, Joint Grouping	Proposed the strike	Notice of suspicion 10 Jul 2026; indicted	EU (28 Feb 2022), UK, Canada, Australia, Japan, Switzerland — as Black Sea Fleet commander, unrelated to Hroza
Rear-Adm Aleksei Petrushin intelligence control centre, Joint Grouping HQ	Received and verified the information on the gathering	Notice of suspicion 10 Jul 2026; indicted	No listing found
Col Dmitry Kozlovsky Missile Forces and Artillery, chief of staff	Organised execution	Notice of suspicion 10 Jul 2026; indicted	No listing found
Col Ivan Petrov commander, 119th Missile Brigade	Gave the launch order (SBU)	Notice of suspicion 10 Jul 2026; indicted	No listing found; 119th Missile Brigade not listed as an entity
Volodymyr Mamon (b. 1993) former police officer; in Russia since Sep 2022	Passed the address and time of the meal (SBU)	Suspicion 11 Oct 2023 (treason; aiding a war crime); 15 years in absentia for treason, 25 Oct 2024; indicted for Hroza 5 Oct 2026	International wanted list, 19 Oct 2023
Dmytro Mamon (b. 2000) former police officer; occupation 'traffic police' in 2022	Co-spotter (SBU)	Suspicion 11 Oct 2023 and 12 Feb 2024 (treason); indicted for Hroza 5 Oct 2026	International wanted list

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The investigation's sequence: Petrushin's centre received the information → Pinchuk proposed the strike → Kim took the decision → Kozlovsky organised execution → Petrov ordered the launch from the Rossosh area of Voronezh region (Prosecutor General, 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026).

The weapon, an Iskander-M with a 480 kg warhead, can only be used on the authority of the operational command: Hroza is a command decision, not a battery's error.

An earlier Ukrainian line (HUR, 2024–25) attributed the strike to the 112th Missile Brigade in Shuya and named Capt. Konstantin Nagaiko, who died after an explosion there in early 2025. The indictment names the 119th. Both are Ukrainian state sources; the discrepancy is unresolved and is shown as such.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

Russia's permanent representative told the Security Council on 9 Oct 2023 that the gathering was a legitimate target — the only official Russian account of the strike. OHCHR reproduced the statement in its report and treated it as evidence that the café was the intended target.

The Ministry of Defence never commented on the strike (Meduza, 9 Oct 2023). On 17 Oct 2023 the MFA told the Czech chargé d'affaires the deaths were invented.

In June 2025 a Russian military court convicted two women in absentia of 'terrorism' for the killing of Capt. Nagaiko — the only Russian judicial act connected to Hroza.

Sanctions status from aggregator data (OpenSanctions, Lursoft, Tier C) — to be verified against the EU Official Journal, OFAC, UK and Canadian lists before release.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza, 5 October 2023* (31 Oct 2023); OHCHR briefings 6 and 31 Oct 2023; HRMMU monthly update, Oct 2023 (14 Nov 2023); UN Security Council S/PV.9431 (9 Oct 2023); Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/55/66 (18 Mar 2024), para. 27. B — SBU 11 Oct 2023 and 10 Jul 2026; Office of the Prosecutor General 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026; Kharkiv regional prosecutor 11 Oct 2023, 25 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2025; HUR 25 Jul 2024, 8 Feb 2025; Kharkiv regional administration 6 Oct 2023, 5 Oct 2024, 3 Jul 2026. C — AP/PBS 5 Oct 2023; Mediazona 7 Oct 2023; The Insider 6 Oct 2023; Meduza 9 and 12 Oct 2023; Ukrainska Pravda 9, 11, 21 Oct 2023, 12 Feb 2024; Ukrainska Pravda Life 16 Oct 2023; Ukrinform 5 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2026; Svidomi 5 Oct 2024; LB.ua 25 Oct 2024; KHPG 2 Jul 2025; The Telegraph 2026; OpenSanctions / Lursoft (sanctions status). All accessed 20 Oct 2026.

HROZA

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EVIDENCE HUB



THE ONLY ACCOUNT RUSSIA GAVE WAS A CONFESSION

Russia offered three lines within two weeks: it does not hit civilians; the dead were collaborators at a nationalist's wake and therefore a legitimate target; and the deaths were invented. The second line is the one the UN used to attribute the strike.

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DMITRY PESKOV · KREMLIN SPOKESMAN · 6 OCT 2023

“The Russian military does not strike civilian targets. Strikes are carried out against military infrastructure.”

Press call; The Insider, Meduza (translated)

VASSILY NEBENZIA · PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE · SECURITY COUNCIL, 9 OCT 2023

“The funeral of a high-ranking Ukrainian nationalist was going on. Many Nazi collaborators were there.”

S/PV.9431; Ukrainska Pravda, Meduza

VASSILY NEBENZIA · SAME MEETING

“If the Kiev regime concentrates soldiers in a given place, they become a legitimate target.”

S/PV.9431; AP

RUSSIAN MFA · TO THE CZECH CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES · 17 OCT 2023

“The deaths in Hroza were dreamed up by Ukraine.”

Ukrainska Pravda, 21 Oct 2023 (reporting the MFA démarche)

THE UN FOUND NO MILITARY TARGET

OHCHR visited the site twice and interviewed 35 people: no military personnel or other legitimate military target was present at or near the café; all 59 killed were civilians. Either the target was not verified or civilians were targeted deliberately.

What the claim concedes: That Russia launched the strike — the denial is about the target, not the launch.

A WAKE IS NOT A MILITARY OBJECTIVE

The reburial was of a serviceman killed in 2022; the meal was attended by his family and neighbours — pensioners, medics, farmers, a boy of eight. Civilians do not lose protection for attending a funeral. OHCHR cited this statement as showing the attack struck its intended target.

What the claim concedes: Knowledge of the event and that the gathering was the target.

THERE WERE NO SOLDIERS

OHCHR: no military personnel present. The bodies were 36 women, 22 men and a child; identification was completed by 12 Oct 2023, including 19 by DNA. The statement describes a lawful strike in the abstract and attaches it to a café of civilians.

What the claim concedes: That the strike was deliberate and aimed at the gathering.

CONTRADICTED BY RUSSIA'S OWN REPRESENTATIVE

Eight days earlier Russia's representative had told the Security Council the dead were collaborators at a wake. The UN had by then confirmed 35 names from its own interviews and later all 59. The two Russian lines — the dead were legitimate targets; the dead do not exist — cannot both be true.

What the claim concedes: Nothing; it withdraws the earlier admission without explaining it.

FAIR TO SAY

Russia has not published a target list, an investigation or a casualty count for Hroza; the Ministry of Defence has said nothing. The record on the Russian side consists of Nebenzia's statement of 9 Oct 2023 and the MFA's remark to the Czech chargé.

Ukraine's own first-day figures changed (51, 52, 53, 55, 59) as bodies were identified; the final count of 59 is the UN's as well. One commander's unit is given differently by two Ukrainian agencies; the hub shows both.

No verdict has yet been delivered: the indictment of 5 Oct 2026 is a charge, not a finding. The UN's conclusions on the facts stand independently of the Ukrainian proceedings.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza, 5 October 2023* (31 Oct 2023); OHCHR briefings 6 and 31 Oct 2023; HRMMU monthly update, Oct 2023 (14 Nov 2023); UN Security Council S/PV.9431 (9 Oct 2023); Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/55/66 (18 Mar 2024), para. 27. B — SBU 11 Oct 2023 and 10 Jul 2026; Office of the Prosecutor General 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026; Kharkiv regional prosecutor 11 Oct 2023, 25 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2025; HUR 25 Jul 2024, 8 Feb 2025; Kharkiv regional administration 6 Oct 2023, 5 Oct 2024, 3 Jul 2026. C — AP/PBS 5 Oct 2023; Mediazona 7 Oct 2023; The Insider 6 Oct 2023; Meduza 9 and 12 Oct 2023; Ukrainska Pravda 9, 11, 21 Oct 2023, 12 Feb 2024; Ukrainska Pravda Life 16 Oct 2023; Ukrinform 5 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2026; Svidomi 5 Oct 2024; LB.ua 25 Oct 2024; KHPG 2 Jul 2025; The Telegraph 2026; OpenSanctions / Lursoft (sanctions status). All accessed 20 Oct 2026.



A PRECISION WEAPON, A KNOWN GATHERING, NO TARGET

The strike is one of the clearest cases on the record: a single precision missile, a civilian gathering announced in advance, a site 50 km from any fighting, and a Russian statement that the gathering was the target.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR (31 Oct 2023): the 59 dead were civilians not participating in hostilities; no military objective was present; Russia either failed to do everything feasible to verify the target or deliberately targeted civilians — a violation of IHL in either scenario; reasonable grounds to believe the missile was launched by Russian forces.

Commission of Inquiry (A/HRC/55/66, Mar 2024): the attack recorded among explosive-weapon attacks that were indiscriminate or failed to take feasible precautions; certain such attacks amounted to war crimes.

UN Secretariat (9 Oct 2023): a sixth of the village's population killed.

PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Precision ballistic missiles against known civilian gatherings far from the front: Hroza (wake, 59), Kramatorsk station (8 Apr 2022, 60+), the Chernihiv theatre square (19 Aug 2023), the Kyiv children's hospital (8 Jul 2024).

The Russian response follows a fixed sequence: denial of civilian targeting, then an assertion that the victims were combatants or collaborators, then that the event was staged — the Bucha sequence of 2022.

Spotters recruited among collaborators who fled to Russia: a method documented by the SBU in several Kharkiv-region strikes.

POSITION — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Ukraine qualifies the strike as a violation of the laws and customs of war combined with premeditated murder (Art. 438(2) CCU) and treason by the spotters (Art. 111(2)); seven accused indicted in absentia on 5 Oct 2026.

Ukraine holds that the decision at the level of the Joint Grouping's command engages responsibility up the chain (Rome Statute art. 28) — an allegation pending adjudication.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I arts. 48, 51(2) and 57: civilians may not be made the object of attack; feasible precautions and verification are required before every attack.

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i): intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population — a war crime; art. 28: command responsibility.

Hague law and Geneva Convention IV: the protection of civilians does not depend on the political views of the dead.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

Which brigade launched the missile — the 112th (HUR, 2024–25) or the 119th (indictment, 2026).

Whether the ICC has taken any step on Hroza beyond the site visit reported in January 2024.

The court and hearing dates of the in-absentia trial; no verdict as of 20 Oct 2026.

The exact number of injured (4–7 by source) and of orphaned children (6–14 by definition and date).

WHAT WE ASK

- Cite the UN finding.** Use OHCHR's Hroza report of 31 Oct 2023 — civilians, no target, reasonable grounds of Russian launch — in statements on protection of civilians and whenever Russia claims it strikes only military objectives.
- Sanction the chain of command.** Designate Col-Gen Kim, Vice-Adm Pinchuk, Rear-Adm Petrushin, Col Kozlovsky, Col Petrov and the 119th Missile Brigade under national and EU regimes; only Pinchuk is listed, and not for Hroza.
- Support the trial.** Mutual legal assistance and evidence-sharing for the in-absentia proceedings; encourage the ICC to pursue the case it visited in January 2024.
- Keep the record straight.** Russia's two accounts — a legitimate target, and an invented event — should be quoted together whenever Hroza is raised.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza, 5 October 2023* (31 Oct 2023); OHCHR briefings 6 and 31 Oct 2023; HRMMU monthly update, Oct 2023 (14 Nov 2023); UN Security Council S/PV.9431 (9 Oct 2023); Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/55/66 (18 Mar 2024), para. 27. B — SBU 11 Oct 2023 and 10 Jul 2026; Office of the Prosecutor General 10 Jul and 5 Oct 2026; Kharkiv regional prosecutor 11 Oct 2023, 25 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2025; HUR 25 Jul 2024, 8 Feb 2025; Kharkiv regional administration 6 Oct 2023, 5 Oct 2024, 3 Jul 2026. C — AP/PBS 5 Oct 2023; Mediazona 7 Oct 2023; The Insider 6 Oct 2023; Meduza 9 and 12 Oct 2023; Ukrainska Pravda 9, 11, 21 Oct 2023, 12 Feb 2024; Ukrainska Pravda Life 16 Oct 2023; Ukrinform 5 Oct 2024, 5 Oct 2026; Svidomi 5 Oct 2024; LB.ua 25 Oct 2024; KHPG 2 Jul 2025; The Telegraph 2026; OpenSanctions / Lursoft (sanctions status). All accessed 20 Oct 2026.



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6 photographs from official sources, as shown on the live page. Each image is credited and openly licensed; videos are linked to the official post (scan the code). No image shows the dead; graphic aftermath is blurred in print. The downloadable pack on the live page holds the full-size files and their SHA-256.

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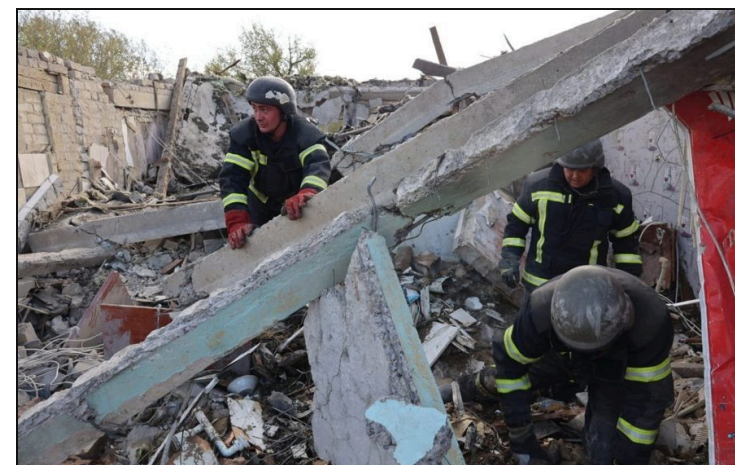
The site of the Suputnyk café in Hroza after the strike, 5 Oct 2023

National Police of Ukraine · 2023-10-05 · CC BY 4.0
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_\(17\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_(17).jpg)



Rescuers search the rubble of the café

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine · 2023-10-05 · CC BY 4.0
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_Mceu-15911234121696527497649.jpg



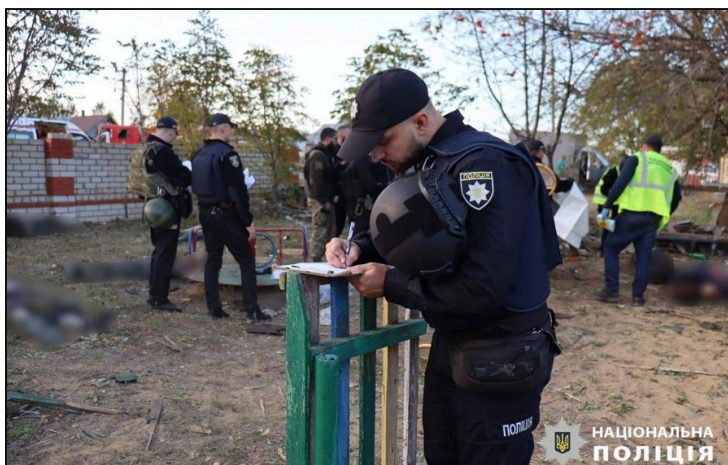
Rescuers work among the collapsed slabs of the building

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine · 2023-10-05 · CC BY 4.0
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_Mceu-89000382711696527415590.jpg



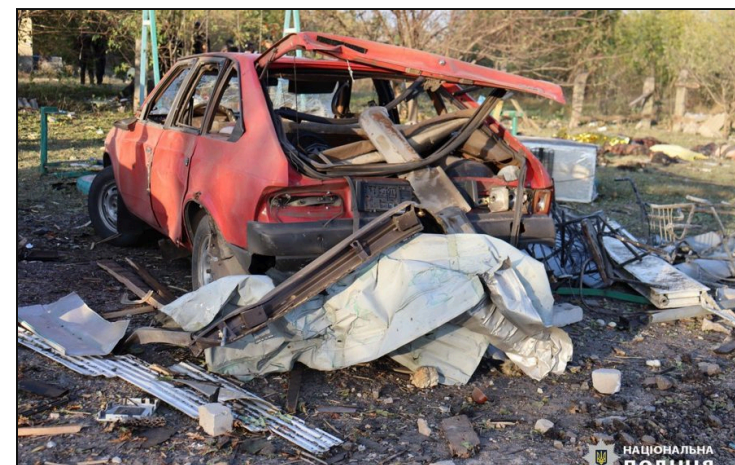
A missile fragment found at the site

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_\(10\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_(10).jpg)



Police investigators at the scene

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_\(6\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_(6).jpg)



A car destroyed by the blast next to the café

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_\(13\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hroza_after_missile_strike,_2023-10-05_(13).jpg)



Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-hroza/media. This appendix is not an evidence repository: original material is held by the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine (warcrimes.gov.ua) and the ICC Office of the Prosecutor.