

KAKHOVKA: THE DAM THAT BROKE FROM THE INSIDE

At about 02:50 on 6 June 2023 the dam Russia had held for fifteen months gave way. 620 km² flooded, about 100,000 people directly affected, nearly US\$14 billion in damage and loss. The dead on the Ukrainian bank are counted: 34. The dead on the occupied bank are not: OHCHR could identify 15, the occupation said 59, AP found hundreds in Oleshky alone. No international body has attributed the breach; independent analyses point to an explosion inside a structure only Russia controlled.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against OHCHR (4 Oct 2023, paras. 4, 36–39), the Government–UN Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023), the Security Council (6 Jun 2023), the SBU (6 Jun 2024), AP (28 Dec 2023) and KHPG / The Insider on the decree of 30 May 2023. Attribution is kept under 'pattern' and 'position'. Photos: Wikimedia Commons (DSNS, National Police, EU ECHO), licences checked.

15

civilians identified by OHCHR as killed by the flood on the occupied left bank — a floor, not a toll A

OHCHR report, 4 Oct 2023, para. 36

34 · 59 · 'hundreds'

killed — Ukraine's count on its bank; the occupation's count on the other; AP's finding for Oleshky alone B

Ministry of Internal Affairs; Russian-installed authorities; AP, 28 Dec 2023

620 km²

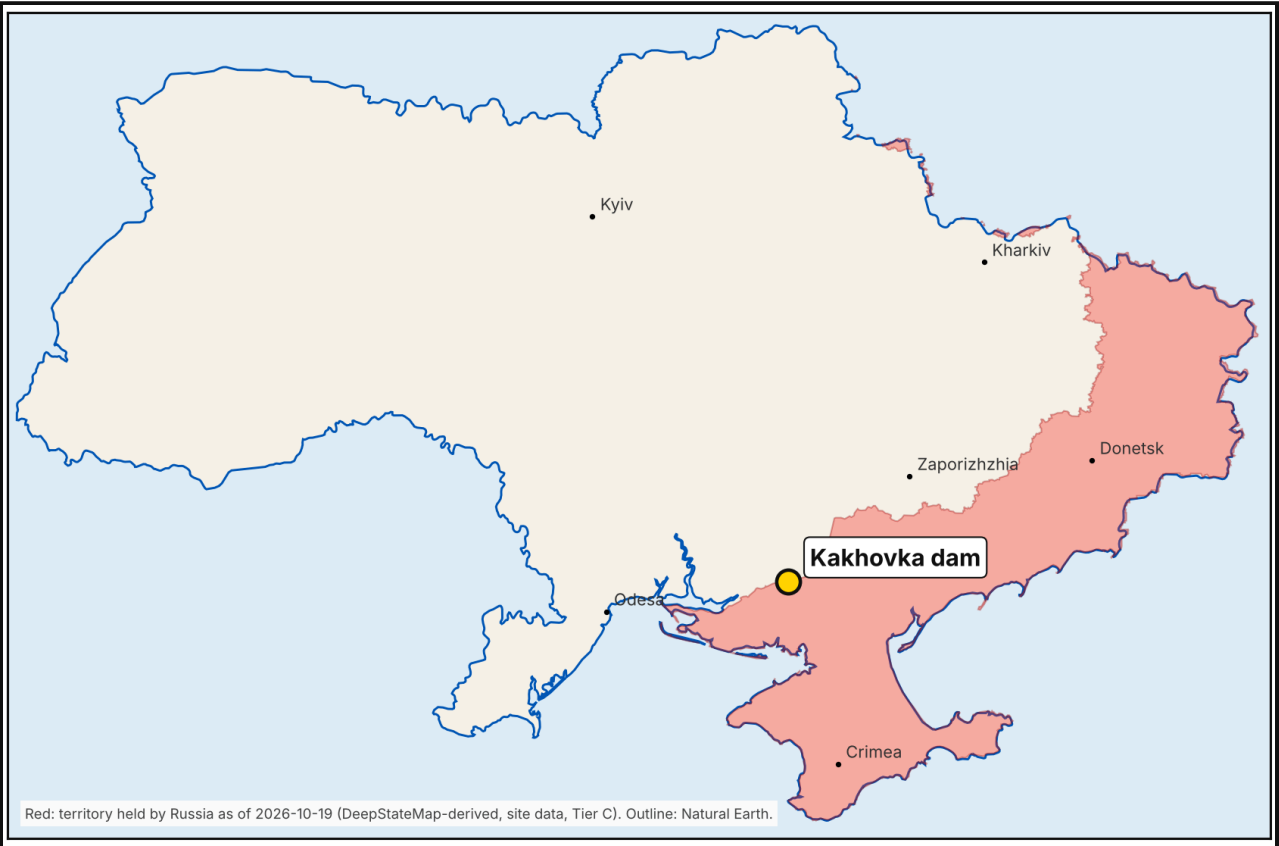
flooded across Kherson, Mykolaiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts; about 100,000 people directly affected A

Government of Ukraine – UN Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, 17 Oct 2023

US\$14 bn

damage (US\$2.79 bn) and losses (over US\$11 bn); recovery needs US\$5.04 bn A

PDNA, 17 Oct 2023



BOTTOM LINE

A disaster inside an occupation. OHCHR found that Russia denied humanitarian access to the flooded left bank, that occupying authorities 'did not take necessary measures to evacuate people in need', blocked supplies to about 600 people in central Oleshky and arrested volunteers. These findings stand whatever caused the breach.

A breach the engineering points inward. The New York Times, Norwegian seismologists and Global Rights Compliance found the evidence consistent with an explosive charge in the gallery through the dam's concrete base — a structure under Russian control since February 2022. No UN finding on cause has been published.

A toll Russia controlled. On the occupied bank, where 68% of the flooded land lay, occupation authorities took over death certificates and removed unclaimed bodies (AP). The hub shows every figure and treats none as final.

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

DENIAL OF EVACUATION AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS ON THE OCCUPIED BANK — ESTABLISHED (OHCHR, 4 OCT 2023)

EXPLOSION FROM INSIDE A RUSSIAN-HELD DAM — PATTERN (NYT, NORSAR, GRC, ISW); NOT ADJUDICATED

ECOCIDE AND WAR CRIME, ARTS. 441, 438(2) CCU — POSITION (UKRAINE; SBU SUSPICION 6 JUN 2024)

Established. OHCHR (4 Oct 2023, paras. 36–39): the dam was entirely breached; at least 80 communities and over 37,000 homes affected, about a million people without water and sanitation; 15 civilians identified killed on the occupied bank; Russia denied access and did not take necessary measures to evacuate. Commission of Inquiry (Sep 2023): cause under investigation. **Pattern.** Independent analyses converge on an internal explosion in a Russian-controlled structure (NYT, NORSAR, GRC, ISW); a Russian government resolution of 30 May 2023 waived investigations of military-caused accidents at hydraulic structures in occupied territory until 2028. **Position.** Ukraine qualifies the breach as ecocide (Art. 441 CCU) and a war crime (Art. 438(2)) and has charged Col-Gen Oleg Makarevich (6 Jun 2024); Russia says Ukraine sabotaged the dam.

WHAT WE ASK

Say both what is established and what is contested: Russia's denial of evacuation and access is a UN finding; the cause of the breach is not yet. Press the Commission of Inquiry to publish its conclusion on cause and the ICC to report on the file its team visited in June 2023. Demand OHCHR access to count the dead of Oleshky and Hola Prystan. Cite Kakhovka in every text on AP I art. 56.

Sources: A — OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39; Government of Ukraine – UN, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023); UN Security Council, 6 Jun 2023; UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023; Commission of Inquiry, update to HRC 54 (Sep 2023). B — SBU, 6 Jun 2024 (via Euromaidan Press); Kherson regional administration, 6–9 Jun 2023; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Jun 2023; Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026. C — NYT, 17 Jun 2023 (via RFE/RL); Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023 (AFP); NORSAR; ISW; AP, 28 Dec 2023; The Insider and KHPG (decree of 30 May 2023). RU — Peskov, RBC, 6 Jun 2023; Kremlin readout, 7 Jun 2023 (via Meduza); Russian-installed Kherson authorities. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

KAKHOVKA DAM HOW IT HAPPENED

EIGHTEEN CUBIC KILOMETRES IN THREE DAYS

The Kakhovka reservoir was the largest in Ukraine by volume: 2,155 km² of water held back by a 3.2-km earth-and-concrete dam built in 1956. When the central section failed in the small hours of 6 June 2023 the water went downstream through Kherson city and the low left-bank towns of Oleshky and Hola Prystan, and upstream the reservoir emptied in three to four days.

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20 Oct 2022	President Zelensky warns the European Council that Russian forces have mined the Kakhovka dam. B — Ukrainska Pravda; The Moscow Times, 20 Oct 2022
30 May 2023	Russian government resolution waives investigations of accidents at hydraulic structures in occupied territory caused by military action, sabotage or terrorism, until 1 Jan 2028 — a week before the breach. RUSSIA SAYS — The Insider; KHPG, Jun 2023
6 Jun 2023, 02:18 - 02:54	Explosion sounds reported from 02:18; NORSAR registers a weak signal at 02:35 and a stronger, magnitude 1–2 signal at 02:54 'consistent with an explosion'; video shows the dam already destroyed at 02:46. C — NORSAR; ISW; Conflict Intelligence Team
6 Jun 2023, morning	Peskov: 'a deliberate sabotage by the Ukrainian side' to deprive Crimea of water because Ukraine's offensive is 'faltering'. Kremlin readout to Erdogan (7 Jun): 'barbaric act'. RUSSIA SAYS — RBC via Ukrainska Pravda; Meduza
6 Jun 2023, New York	Security Council: Griffiths — possibly 'the most significant incident of damage to civilian infrastructure' of the war; Nebenzia — 'deliberate sabotage undertaken by Kyiv'. A — UNSC meeting of 6 Jun 2023; Kyiv Post
6–9 Jun 2023	About 600 km ² under water, 68% on the occupied bank (Prokudin). On the Ukrainian bank 16,000–17,000 evacuated by bus and train under shelling. OHCHR: Russian forces arrest volunteers near Oleshky on 6 and 9 June and block supplies to 600 people in the town centre. A — Kherson regional administration; OHCHR para. 38
9 Jun 2023	UN Humanitarian Coordinator: Russia has 'so far declined our request to access the areas under its temporary military control'. A — UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023
4 Oct 2023	OHCHR report: 15 civilians identified killed on the occupied bank (occupation says 55); Mol reports 34 on the Ukrainian bank; access denied; evacuation not organised; investigation required. A — OHCHR, report 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023, paras. 36–39
17 Oct 2023	Government–UN Post-Disaster Needs Assessment: almost US\$14 bn damage and loss; 620 km ² flooded; ~100,000 directly affected; US\$5.04 bn recovery needs. A — PDNA; UN Ukraine
6 Jun 2024	SBU serves notice of suspicion in absentia on Col-Gen Oleg Makarevich, commander of the 'Dnepr' grouping, for ordering the demolition (Arts. 28(2), 438(2) CCU); SBU counts at least 35 dead on Ukrainian-held territory. B — SBU; Euromaidan Press

WHAT THE UN ESTABLISHED

The dam was 'entirely breached' on 6 June 2023; the flood reached at least 80 downstream communities, damaged over 37,000 homes, 37 educational institutions and an estimated 11 health facilities, and disrupted water and sanitation for about one million people (OHCHR, paras. 36–37).

On the occupied left bank OHCHR identified 15 civilians killed; the occupation reported 55. Russia 'denied the international community necessary humanitarian access'; Russian forces blocked supplies to about 600 people in central Oleshky and arrested volunteers (paras. 4, 36, 38).



Settlements on the left bank under water after the dam was destroyed, June 2023. Photo: АрміяInform · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

TWO BANKS, TWO COUNTS

Ukrainian-controlled right bank: 16,000–17,000 people evacuated under shelling; 34 dead by the Ministry of Internal Affairs' count — the figure Ukraine still uses.

Occupied left bank: 68% of the flooded land, including Oleshky and Hola Prystan. The occupation announced 5, then 25, 53 and finally 59 dead. AP's investigation found 'at least hundreds' in Oleshky alone.

ESTABLISHED HARM, CONTESTED CAUSE

On the consequences — the flood, the dead, the denial of access — the UN has findings. On the cause, the UN has an open investigation, and independent analyses point one way. The hub does not let the second borrow the authority of the first.

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ESTABLISHED BY BODIES
WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR, report on Ukraine 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39: dam entirely breached; 80+ communities; 37,000+ homes; ~1 million without water and sanitation; 15 civilians identified killed on the left bank; access denied; evacuation not organised; a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation required. A

Government of Ukraine – UN Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, 17 Oct 2023: US\$2.79 bn direct damage, over US\$11 bn losses, US\$5.04 bn recovery needs; 620 km² flooded in four oblasts; about 100,000 residents directly affected; highest damage in energy and housing. A

Commission of Inquiry, update of 25 Sep 2023: investigating the cause of the breach and its impact; hundreds of dwellings destroyed or uninhabitable. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

Ministry of Internal Affairs: 34 dead (32 Kherson, 2 Mykolaiv) on Ukrainian-held territory (as reported by OHCHR); Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026: 'at least 34', true number unknown. B

SBU, 9 Jun 2023: intercepted call of Russian servicemen discussing the demolition; SBU, 6 Jun 2024: notice of suspicion to Col-Gen Makarevich for ordering the demolition on the night of 5–6 June 2023; 46 settlements flooded in Kherson oblast, 20 partially in Mykolaiv; at least 35 dead. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

NYT, 17 Jun 2023: engineers and explosives specialists — an explosive charge detonated in the passageway through the dam's concrete base; 'crippled by an explosion set off by the side that controls it: Russia'. C

Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023: pre-emplaced explosives at critical points 'highly likely', '80 percent and above'; seismic data, demolition experts, open-source imagery, prior Russian attacks on water infrastructure. ISW: 'the preponderance of available evidence' points to deliberate Russian damage. C

AP, 28 Dec 2023: 'at least hundreds' dead in Oleshky; occupation authorities took over death certificates, removed unclaimed bodies, barred health workers and volunteers from the dead. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED

Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
15 · 55 · 59 · 'hundreds'	dead on the occupied bank — OHCHR identified; occupation (Jul 2023); occupation (final); AP (Oleshky)	OHCHR · RU · RU · AP — A / RU / RU / C
17 · 31 · 34 · 35	dead on the Ukrainian bank — 18 Jun 2023; Mol 2023 (Wikipedia: 29+2); Mol as cited by OHCHR (32+2) and Kuleba 2026; SBU 2024	Mol / OHCHR fn. 10 / SBU — B / A / B
600 km² · 620 km²	flooded — regional administration (6–9 Jun); PDNA (four oblasts)	Kherson administration · B; PDNA · A
37,000+ · 80+ · ~1 m	homes damaged; communities reached; people without water and sanitation	OHCHR, para. 37 — A
US\$1.5 bn → US\$14 bn	damage estimate — Ministry of Environment, 21 Jun 2023; PDNA damage + losses, 17 Oct 2023	B → A



Kherson the day after the dam was destroyed, 7 June 2023. Photo: Дмитро Завтонов / АрміяInform · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

The hub leads with OHCHR's 15 identified dead on the occupied bank as a verified floor (Tier A), Ukraine's 34 as 'according to Ukrainian authorities' (Tier B), the occupation's 59 as what Russia said, and AP's 'hundreds' as independent reporting. No figure is summed across banks.

Sources: A — OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39; Government of Ukraine – UN, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023); UN Security Council, 6 Jun 2023; UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023; Commission of Inquiry, update to HRC 54 (Sep 2023). B — SBU, 6 Jun 2024 (via Euromaidan Press); Kherson regional administration, 6–9 Jun 2023; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Jun 2023; Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026. C — NYT, 17 Jun 2023 (via RFE/RL); Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023 (AFP); NORSAR; ISW; AP, 28 Dec 2023; The Insider and KHPG (decree of 30 May 2023). RU — Peskov, RBC, 6 Jun 2023; Kremlin readout, 7 Jun 2023 (via Meduza); Russian-installed Kherson authorities. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



THE SIDE THAT HELD THE DAM

One fact is not disputed, even by Russia: Russian forces controlled the dam and the gallery through its base from 24 February 2022 until it failed. Ukraine has named the commanding general; no international body has yet named anyone.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Col-Gen Oleg Makarevich commander, 'Dnestr' grouping of forces (Kherson sector), 2023; replaced by Col-Gen Teplinsky, Oct 2023	Ordered the demolition on the night of 5–6 June 2023, by the SBU's account	Notice of suspicion in absentia, 6 Jun 2024 — Arts. 28(2), 438(2) CCU; wanted	—
Vladimir Saldo Russian-installed 'governor' of Kherson region	Announced the occupation's casualty figures (25 → 53 → 59); his administration controlled death certificates and burials (AP) and, by OHCHR, took no necessary measures to evacuate	—	EU, US, UK, Canada — listed since 2022 for the occupation administration
Government of the Russian Federation	Resolution of 30 May 2023 waiving investigations of military-caused accidents at hydraulic structures in occupied territory until 2028	—	—

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The physical case: NYT's experts place a charge in the inspection gallery through the dam's concrete base — reachable only from inside a structure Russian forces garrisoned; seismic stations hundreds of kilometres away registered two man-made events in the twenty minutes before the collapse was filmed.

The command case (Ukrainian): Makarevich, as commander of the Dnestr grouping, ordered the demolition as Ukraine's counteroffensive began; the SBU's intercept of 9 June records servicemen saying the operation 'didn't go as planned'. This is a charge, not a finding.

Whoever caused the breach, OHCHR found that the occupying authorities did not evacuate, blocked relief and denied the UN access — conduct that engages Russia's obligations as occupying power regardless of cause.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

6 Jun 2023: Peskov (RBC) — 'unequivocally' a 'deliberate sabotage by the Ukrainian side'; Nebenzia (Security Council) — 'deliberate sabotage undertaken by Kyiv'. 7 Jun: Kremlin readout to Erdogan — 'barbaric act of destroying the Kakhovka HPP'.

Occupation authorities raised the count from 5 to 59 while death certificates and burials were under their control (AP); UN access refused (9 Jun 2023). No Russian investigation of the breach has been published.

Sanctions column: only designations recorded in the designating authorities' own lists. A dash means none was identified for this case.

Sources: A — OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39; Government of Ukraine – UN, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023); UN Security Council, 6 Jun 2023; UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023; Commission of Inquiry, update to HRC 54 (Sep 2023). B — SBU, 6 Jun 2024 (via Euromaidan Press); Kherson regional administration, 6–9 Jun 2023; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Jun 2023; Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026. C — NYT, 17 Jun 2023 (via RFE/RL); Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023 (AFP); NORSAR; ISW; AP, 28 Dec 2023; The Insider and KHPG (decree of 30 May 2023). RU — Peskov, RBC, 6 Jun 2023; Kremlin readout, 7 Jun 2023 (via Meduza); Russian-installed Kherson authorities. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



'SABOTAGE BY KYIV' FROM THE SIDE THAT HELD THE DAM

Russia's account was fixed within hours: Ukraine blew up the dam to cover a faltering offensive and to deprive Crimea of water. The account has never been accompanied by evidence, by an investigation, or by access for anyone who might conduct one.

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DMITRY PESKOV · KREMLIN SPOKESMAN · RBC, 6 JUN 2023

“We can unequivocally state that this is a deliberate sabotage by the Ukrainian side... pursuing the goal of depriving Crimea of water.”

RBC interview; Ukrainska Pravda, 6 Jun 2023 (translated)

UNSUPPORTED; THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE POINTS INSIDE

The dam and its gallery were under Russian control; the NYT's engineers place the charge in the passageway through the base; NORSAR registered man-made seismic events at 02:35 and 02:54. Russia has produced no evidence and no investigation.

What the claim concedes: That the breach was deliberate — a demolition, not an accident.

VASSILY NEBENZIA · PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE · SECURITY COUNCIL, 6 JUN 2023

“The deliberate sabotage undertaken by Kyiv against a critical infrastructure facility is extremely dangerous.”

UNSC meeting of 6 Jun 2023; Kyiv Post

THE FACILITY WAS IN RUSSIAN HANDS

Russia then refused the UN's request for access to the flooded bank it controlled — the step a state confident of its account would have taken.

What the claim concedes: That the dam was critical civilian infrastructure whose destruction endangered civilians — the premise of AP I art. 56.

KREMLIN READOUT OF THE PUTIN-ERDOGAN CALL · 7 JUN 2023

“The barbaric act of destroying the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant... led to a large-scale ecological and humanitarian catastrophe.”

Kremlin press service; Meduza, 7 Jun 2023

AGREED ON THE CATASTROPHE; SILENT ON THE HANDS

The PDNA put damage and loss at nearly US\$14 billion. On the bank Russia occupied, OHCHR found no organised evacuation, blocked relief and arrested volunteers. The catastrophe Russia describes unfolded mostly on territory it administered.

What the claim concedes: The scale of the harm — relevant to the proportionality and 'severe damage' thresholds of the law of armed conflict.

RUSSIAN-INSTALLED AUTHORITIES OF KHERSON REGION · JUNE-JULY 2023

“59 dead in the territory under our control.”

Saldo's administration via Russian state media; Novaya Gazeta Europe, 6 Jul 2023 (53); AP (59)

A COUNT BY THE BODY THAT CONTROLLED THE DEATH CERTIFICATES

AP found that occupation authorities took over death registration, removed unclaimed bodies and barred health workers from the dead. OHCHR could identify 15 dead without access.

What the claim concedes: That people died on the occupied bank in numbers the occupation never allowed anyone to check.

FAIR TO SAY

No international body has attributed the breach; the United States said on 6 June 2023 it was 'not certain' who was to blame. The NYT, NORSAR, GRC and ISW analyses are strong but are not findings of a court or UN body.

Ukraine's figures moved and are not reconciled with the missing; AP's 'hundreds' is a finding from witnesses, not a count of bodies. Structural failure was proposed by some analysts — but failure of a dam held and mismanaged by the occupier is an alternative only to intent.

Sources: A — OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39; Government of Ukraine – UN, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023); UN Security Council, 6 Jun 2023; UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023; Commission of Inquiry, update to HRC 54 (Sep 2023). B — SBU, 6 Jun 2024 (via Euromaidan Press); Kherson regional administration, 6–9 Jun 2023; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Jun 2023; Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026. C — NYT, 17 Jun 2023 (via RFE/RL); Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023 (AFP); NORSAR; ISW; AP, 28 Dec 2023; The Insider and KHPG (decree of 30 May 2023). RU — Peskov, RBC, 6 Jun 2023; Kremlin readout, 7 Jun 2023 (via Meduza); Russian-installed Kherson authorities. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



DANGEROUS FORCES, AND THE DUTY OF THE OCCUPIER

Two legal tracks run through Kakhovka. The first — the breach itself — turns on cause and is still contested. The second — what the occupying power did for the people on its bank afterwards — does not, and the UN has already found against Russia on it.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR (4 Oct 2023): Russia denied humanitarian access to the occupied left bank; occupying authorities did not take necessary measures to evacuate; relief to about 600 people in Oleshky was blocked; volunteers were arrested; 15 civilians identified dead; a prompt, thorough and impartial investigation into the cause is required.

PDNA (17 Oct 2023): 620 km² flooded, ~100,000 directly affected, almost US\$14 bn damage and loss — the measure of 'widespread, long-term and severe' damage to the natural environment.

PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Independent analyses converge on an internal explosion in a structure under Russian control: NYT's engineers (gallery in the base), NORSAR (two man-made seismic events), GRC ('highly likely', with the ICC team present), ISW ('preponderance of evidence'); Ukraine had warned in Oct 2022 that the dam was mined.

Occupation conduct after disasters: denial of access, control of death records, arrest of volunteers — the Mariupol pattern of 2022 repeated on the left bank in 2023.

POSITION — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Ukraine qualifies the breach as ecocide (Art. 441 CCU) and a violation of the laws and customs of war with grave consequences (Art. 438(2)); it has charged Col-Gen Makarevich in absentia (6 Jun 2024) and referred the case to the ICC, whose team visited the region in June 2023.

Ukraine's position, shared by the European Parliament (15 Jun 2023), is that Russian forces deliberately destroyed the dam; the hub records this as a position pending a UN or judicial finding.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I art. 56: dams and dykes 'containing dangerous forces' may not be attacked, even where they are military objectives, if the attack may release the forces and cause severe losses among the civilian population; art. 35(3) and 55: methods causing widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment are prohibited.

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(iv); Geneva Convention IV arts. 55, 56, 59: the occupying power must ensure supplies and public health and agree to relief.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

Who caused the breach, as a matter of formal finding: no UN body or court has attributed it.

The dead on the occupied bank: 15 identified (OHCHR), 59 (occupation), 'hundreds' (AP); no access for OHCHR, no exhumations, no list of names.

The status of the ICC file after the June 2023 visit, and of the Ukrainian case against Makarevich.

WHAT WE ASK

Say what is established. Cite OHCHR's findings of 4 Oct 2023 — access denied, evacuation not organised, relief blocked, volunteers arrested — in every statement on Kakhovka; they stand independently of the cause and are the part Russia cannot contest with 'sabotage'.

Press for a finding on cause. Ask the Commission of Inquiry to publish its conclusion on the breach and the ICC Prosecutor to report on the file his team examined in June 2023; offer seismic, satellite and engineering evidence held by states to both.

Count the dead of Oleshky. Demand OHCHR access to the left bank and a register of the dead and missing of Oleshky and Hola Prystan; support the AP-documented witnesses and health workers as a basis for identification; keep the 15/59/'hundreds' discrepancy on the record until it is closed.

Protect the next dam. Use Kakhovka in every text on AP I art. 56 and on environmental war crimes — the Rome Statute review, the ecocide debate, the Zaporizhzhia NPP resolutions — and name the Dnipro cascade as a protected system.

Sources: A — OHCHR, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, 1 Feb – 31 Jul 2023 (4 Oct 2023), paras. 4, 36–39; Government of Ukraine – UN, Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (17 Oct 2023); UN Security Council, 6 Jun 2023; UNOG briefing, 9 Jun 2023; Commission of Inquiry, update to HRC 54 (Sep 2023). B — SBU, 6 Jun 2024 (via Euromaidan Press); Kherson regional administration, 6–9 Jun 2023; Ministry of Internal Affairs, Jun 2023; Deputy PM Kuleba, 6 Jun 2026. C — NYT, 17 Jun 2023 (via RFE/RL); Global Rights Compliance, 16 Jun 2023 (AFP); NORSAR; ISW; AP, 28 Dec 2023; The Insider and KHPG (decree of 30 May 2023). RU — Peskov, RBC, 6 Jun 2023; Kremlin readout, 7 Jun 2023 (via Meduza); Russian-installed Kherson authorities. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



KAKHOVKA: THE DAM THAT BROKE FROM THE INSIDE

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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Settlements on the left bank under water after the dam was destroyed, June 2023

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooding_in_Kherson_after_the_destruction_of_the_Kakhovka_Dam_2023.jpg



Kherson the day after the dam was destroyed, 7 June 2023

Дмитро Завтонов / АрміяInform · 2023-06-07 · CC BY 4.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooded_Kherson,_2023-06-07_\(01\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooded_Kherson,_2023-06-07_(01).jpg)



Police evacuate residents from a flooded area of Kherson region, 9 June 2023

Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine · 2023-06-09 · CC BY 4.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooded_Kherson_Oblast,_2023-06-09_\(01\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flooded_Kherson_Oblast,_2023-06-09_(01).jpg)



The village of Novohrednieve under water, 10 June 2023

State Emergency Service of Ukraine · 2023-06-10 · CC BY 4.0

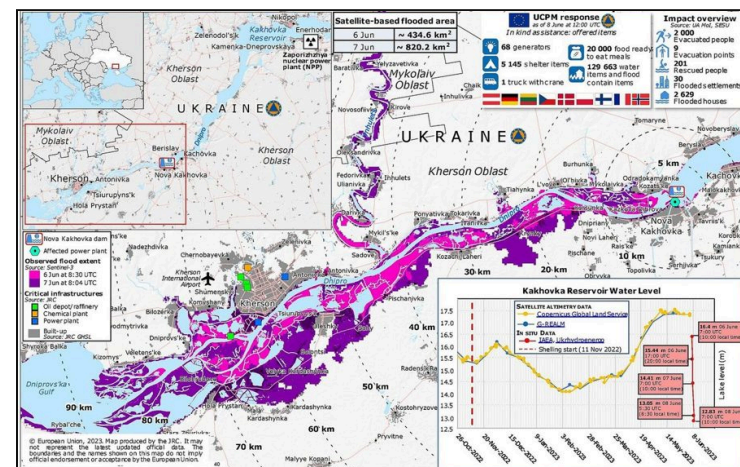
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flood_in_Kherson_Oblast,_2023-06-10.jpg



Kalynivske after the water receded, 14 June 2023

Kherson Regional State Administration · 2023-06-14 · CC BY 4.0

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalynivske_after_the_destruction_of_Kakhovka_Hydroelectric_Power_Plant,_2023-06-14_\(01\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kalynivske_after_the_destruction_of_Kakhovka_Hydroelectric_Power_Plant,_2023-06-14_(01).jpg)



EU ECHO daily map of the flood extent, 8 June 2023

ERCC - Emergency Response Coordination Centre · 2023-06-08 · Public domain

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ECDM_20230608_Ukraine_Dam\(2\)_cropped.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:ECDM_20230608_Ukraine_Dam(2)_cropped.jpg)



Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-kakhovka-dam/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.