

KHARKIV, 30 OCTOBER 2024: A GLIDE BOMB ON A NINE-STOREY BLOCK

At about 22:45 on a Wednesday a Russian half-tonne aerial bomb fitted with a gliding kit hit a nine-storey apartment block in Saltivka, Kharkiv's largest residential district. One stairwell collapsed from the sixth floor to the ground. Two boys, aged 12 and 15, and a young man were killed under the rubble; 36 people were injured, among them an 11-year-old. Rescuers worked for about eighteen hours. Russia did not comment.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against the State Emergency Service (DSNS, 31 Oct 2024), the Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram, 30–31 Oct 2024), the Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office (via Zaxid.net, 31 Oct 2024), the Prosecutor General's Office (via LIGA, 31 Oct 2024), the Ministry of Internal Affairs (via Mind, 31 Oct 2024) and Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024). The first boy's age was first reported as 11 and corrected by the regional governor to 12. Tier A: OHCHR's October 2024 update gives national totals only. Photos: DSNS Kharkiv region (CC BY 4.0), to be selected; no images of the dead.

3

killed — two boys aged 12 and 15, and a man of about 25–30, all recovered from the rubble **B**

DSNS, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024

36

injured, among them an 11-year-old boy; 10 taken to hospital **B**

DSNS and Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Gwara Media, 1 Nov 2024

6 → 1

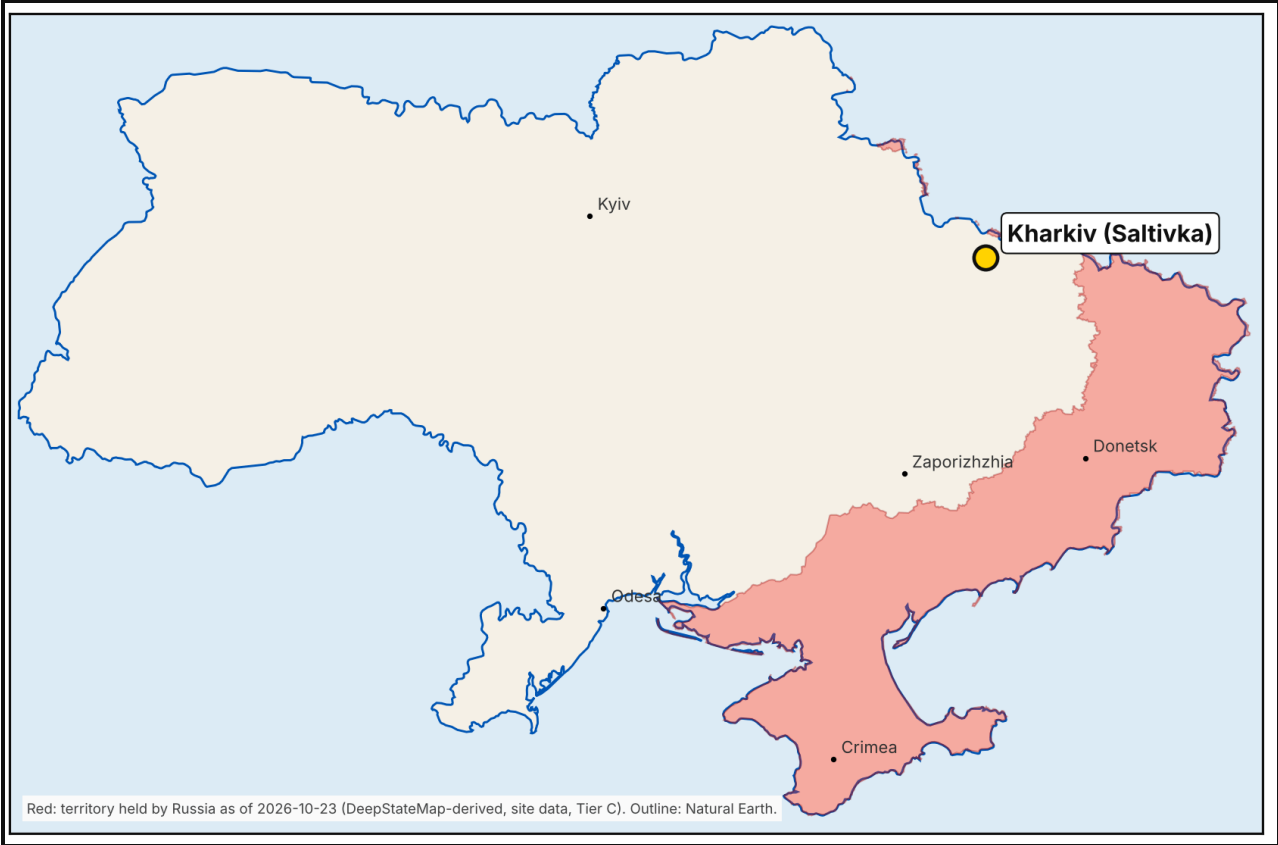
floors of one stairwell collapsed — the bomb struck between the third and fourth floors **B**

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office; Mayor I. Terekhov, 31 Oct 2024

FAB-500

half-tonne aerial bomb with a UMPK gliding and guidance kit, launched from the Belgorod region of Russia (preliminary) **B**

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024



BOTTOM LINE

A bedtime strike on a block of flats. The bomb arrived at about 22:45, when families were at home. It hit the middle of the building; the stairwell above and below the impact folded down to the ground floor, trapping residents on the upper floors.

Children among the dead and injured. A 12-year-old boy was pulled out alive with head injuries and died after half an hour of resuscitation; the body of a 15-year-old was recovered the next day, with that of a young man. An 11-year-old was among the 36 injured.

A weapon used against the city every week. Kharkiv's city council counted 25 strikes on the city in October 2024, most of them with glide bombs and most on apartment buildings. Glide bombs are released from aircraft over Russian territory, out of reach of the city's air defence.

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

GLIDE BOMB ON A RESIDENTIAL BLOCK; 3 KILLED, 2 OF THEM CHILDREN; 36 INJURED — REPORTED BY UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES; NO TIER A INCIDENT RECORD LOCATED

GLIDE BOMBS ON KHARKIV APARTMENT BLOCKS LAUNCHED FROM RUSSIAN AIRSPACE — 2024 TO DATE — PATTERN

WAR CRIME: VIOLATION OF THE LAWS AND CUSTOMS OF WAR COMBINED WITH INTENTIONAL KILLING, ART. 438(2) CCU — POSITION (KHARKIV REGIONAL PROSECUTOR, 31 OCT 2024)

Established. Nothing at Tier A for the incident itself: OHCHR's October 2024 update counts 183 civilians killed and 903 injured nationwide, with the highest numbers in Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, but does not name this strike. At Tier B the emergency service, the regional administration, the city and the prosecutor give a consistent account — one guided aerial bomb, about 22:45, a nine-storey residential block, 3 killed including two children, 36 injured. **Pattern.** Glide bombs on Kharkiv apartment blocks: 19 of the 25 strikes on the city in October 2024 used FAB-250 glide bombs and two used FAB-500 (city council). **Position.** The Kharkiv regional prosecutor opened proceedings under Art. 438(2) CCU; the hub's inference is an attack directed at civilians or an indiscriminate attack (Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i); AP I art. 51(4)), pending the investigation.

WHAT WE ASK

In every Security Council statement on Kharkiv, name the weapon: glide bombs released from Russian airspace onto apartment blocks. Ask HRMMU to document the 30 October 2024 strike as a named incident. Support air-defence measures that reach the launch aircraft. Sanction the producers of the UMPK kits and their suppliers.

ONE STAIRWELL, SIX FLOORS DOWN

Saltivka is a district of Soviet-era apartment blocks in north-eastern Kharkiv, closest to the Russian border. The bomb hit the middle of a nine-storey block late in the evening; the stairwell under and above the impact collapsed, and the people above it could not get out.

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Oct 2024	Kharkiv city council counts 25 strikes on the city in the month: 9 killed, including 2 children; 130 injured, including 5 children; 19 FAB-250 glide bombs, 2 FAB-500, 2 Kh-59 and 2 Grom-E1 missiles. B — Mayor I. Terekhov (Telegram), via Gwara Media, 1 Nov 2024
30 Oct 2024, ~22:45	A guided aerial bomb hits a nine-storey apartment block in Saltivskiyi district between the third and fourth floors; one stairwell collapses from the sixth floor to the first; fire; residents trapped on upper floors. B — Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov); Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office; Zaxid.net, 31 Oct 2024
30 Oct 2024, ~23:50	Rescuers pull a boy from the rubble with severe head injuries and fractures; doctors try to resuscitate him for more than half an hour. He dies; he was 12. B — Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office; O. Syniehubov (Telegram), via Euronews and Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2024
31 Oct 2024, 00:17-06:40	Injured counted at 24, then 29, then 34; a second body recovered. B — Mayor I. Terekhov; O. Syniehubov (Telegram), via Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2024
31 Oct 2024, 14:25	Toll rises to three: rescuers recover the bodies of a 15-year-old boy and a man. B — Prosecutor General's Office, via LIGA, 31 Oct 2024
31 Oct 2024	Rescue and search operation completed after about eighteen hours. DSNS: 3 killed, 2 of them children; 36 injured. The regional prosecutor opens a pre-trial investigation under Art. 438(2) CCU and gives the weapon as an FAB-500 with a UMPK kit launched from the Belgorod region. B — DSNS, 31 Oct 2024 (via Mind); Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office (via Zaxid.net); Gwara Media, 1 Nov 2024
31 Oct 2024	President Zelensky: 'Sadly, there are victims, including children'; he again asks partners for permission to strike the airfields from which the bombers fly. B — President of Ukraine (Telegram, X), via Ukrainska Pravda and Euronews, 31 Oct 2024
Nov 2024	OHCHR/HRMMU October update: at least 183 civilians killed and 903 injured in Ukraine in October, 9 children killed and 49 injured; the highest numbers in Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. The Saltivka strike is not named. A — OHCHR/HRMMU, Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

The regional administration gave the time as late evening on 30 October and the place as Saltivskiyi district; the regional prosecutor gave about 22:45 and said the bomb struck between the third and fourth floors. The mayor and the prosecutor described the stairwell collapsing from the sixth floor to the first.

The prosecutor's preliminary identification is a FAB-500 — a Soviet-design 500-kilogram free-fall bomb — fitted with a UMPK kit of wings and satellite guidance that lets it glide tens of kilometres, launched from the Belgorod region of Russia. Released from Russian airspace, such bombs reach Kharkiv in minutes.

The collapsed stairwell of the nine-storey block in Saltivskiyi district, Kharkiv, during the night rescue, 31 October 2024. Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Kharkiv region · CC BY 4.0 · via official site

WHO THE DEAD WERE

A 12-year-old boy, pulled from the rubble alive and lost after resuscitation; his age was first given as 11 and corrected by the regional governor. A 15-year-old boy and a man of about 25 to 30, whose bodies were recovered the next day. Their names have not been published by the authorities.

36 injured by the emergency service's final count, among them an 11-year-old boy; ten were taken to hospital, two in serious condition at the first count.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update*. B — State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram), 30–31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024; Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024; Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2024; President of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024. C — Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024), Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Mind and Euronews (31 Oct 2024). RU — none located. All accessed 25 Oct 2026.



A CONSISTENT TIER B RECORD INSIDE A UN NATIONAL TOTAL

The Ukrainian account is consistent across the emergency service, the regional and city administrations and the prosecutors; it was reported in real time by the independent press. The UN counts the dead in its national total for October 2024 without naming the strike.

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ESTABLISHED BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR/HRMMU, Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update: at least 183 civilians killed and 903 injured in October, including 9 children killed and 49 injured; the highest casualty numbers in Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. The incident is not named. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

State Emergency Service (DSNS), 31 Oct 2024: 3 killed, 2 of them children; 36 injured; the rescue operation completed. B

Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 30–31 Oct 2024: a guided aerial bomb on a nine-storey block in Saltivskyi district; the boy's death after resuscitation; injured rising to 34; age corrected from 11 to 12. B

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024: about 22:45; impact between the third and fourth floors; FAB-500 with UMPK launched from the Belgorod region (preliminary); pre-trial investigation under Art. 438(2) CCU; an 11-year-old among the injured. B

Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024: bodies of a 15-year-old and a man recovered; 35 injured at 14:25. B

Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 1 Nov 2024: 25 strikes on the city in October 2024, most on residential buildings. B

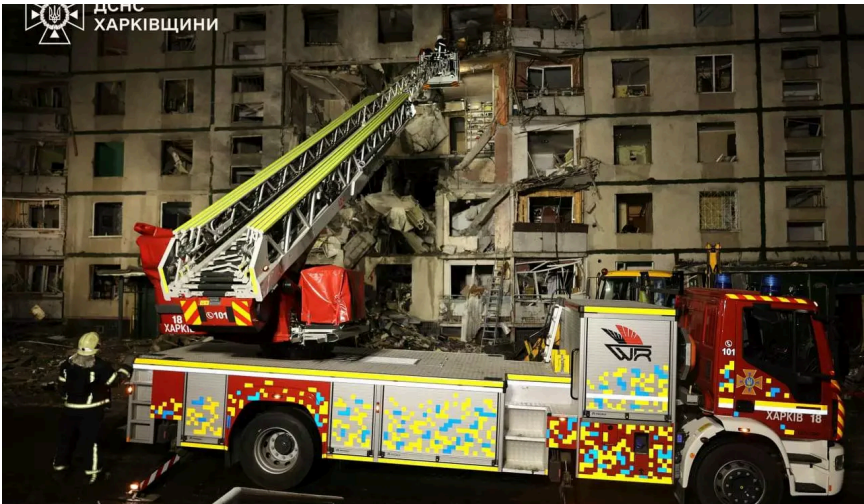
INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Gwara Media (Kharkiv), 1 Nov 2024: 36 injured, 10 hospitalised; two children and one adult dead; search and rescue lasting 18 hours; the prosecutor's investigation. C

Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Euronews, 31 Oct 2024: the hour-by-hour figures, the correction of the boy's age, and the President's statement. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED

Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
3	killed — boys of 12 and 15 and a man of about 25–30	DSNS; Kharkiv regional prosecutor · B
36 · 10	injured · hospitalised	DSNS, 31 Oct 2024 · B; Gwara Media, 1 Nov 2024 · C
~18 h	search and rescue operation	Gwara Media, 1 Nov 2024 · C
25 · 19	strikes on Kharkiv in October 2024 · of them with FAB-250 glide bombs	Kharkiv city council, via Gwara Media · B



A State Emergency Service ladder truck at the damaged block, night of 30–31 October 2024. Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Kharkiv region · CC BY 4.0 · via official site

All incident figures are Tier B. Injured are given by hour (24, 29, 34, 35, 36); the hub uses the emergency service's final figure. The weapon identification is the prosecutor's preliminary finding.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update*. B — State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram), 30–31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024; Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024; Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2024; President of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024. C — Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024), Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Mind and Euronews (31 Oct 2024). RU — none located. All accessed 25 Oct 2026.

KHARKIV

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A BOMB DROPPED FROM RUSSIAN AIRSPACE

Glide bombs are delivered by Russian Aerospace Forces aircraft, typically Su-34 bombers, released over Russian or occupied territory. The aircraft and crew for 30 October 2024 have not been named.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Launch aircraft and crew Russian Aerospace Forces, operating from or over the Belgorod region	Released the bomb (prosecutor's preliminary finding: launched from the Belgorod region)	Not identified	—
UMPK kit producers Russian manufacturers of the gliding and guidance modules fitted to FAB bombs	Enable unpowered bombs to be released beyond the reach of the city's air defence	n/a	To be established; the hub tracks listings in Sanctions
Gen. Valery Gerasimov Chief of the General Staff	Command responsibility for the strike campaign against cities (position)	ICC arrest warrant, 24 Jun 2024 (energy campaign 2022–23); no charge for this strike	EU, US, UK, Canada (2022)

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The weapon identifies the platform: a FAB-500 with a UMPK kit is released from a combat aircraft, which places the launch with Russian Aerospace Forces units flying over the Belgorod region, as the prosecutor's preliminary finding states.

A glide bomb is aimed at coordinates. A nine-storey apartment block in a residential district at night is the place it reached; the prosecutor's investigation should establish the aim point and the unit.

The same weapon was used against Kharkiv apartment blocks throughout 2024; the city council's monthly count makes this a pattern, not an isolated incident.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

No Russian Ministry of Defence statement on the 30 October 2024 strike on Saltivka has been located.

Russian officials routinely describe strikes on Kharkiv as hitting military targets; none was named for this block.

The ICC warrant is cited for the chain of command, not for this strike. Unit identification requires the prosecutor's findings.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update*. B — State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram), 30–31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024; Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024; Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2024; President of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024. C — Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024), Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Mind and Euronews (31 Oct 2024). RU — none located. All accessed 25 Oct 2026.



NO TARGET NAMED FOR A BLOCK OF FLATS

Russia has not commented on this strike. The hub records the silence and answers in advance the explanation Russia gives for strikes on Kharkiv: that only military targets are hit.

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RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · NO STATEMENT · 30-31 OCT 2024

“(No Russian statement on the strike on the Saltivka apartment block has been located.)”

Hub search to 25 Oct 2026

A STRIKE RUSSIA DOES NOT CLAIM IS STILL A STRIKE RUSSIA MADE

A Russian aerial bomb with a UMPK kit, launched from the Belgorod region, on a nine-storey residential block at 22:45; 3 killed, 2 of them children; 36 injured; a war-crimes investigation opened the next day.

What the claim concedes: Nothing — and explains nothing.

STANDARD LINE · 'ONLY MILITARY TARGETS' · RUSSIAN OFFICIALS ON STRIKES ON UKRAINIAN CITIES

“(Not stated for this strike. Russia's general claim is that it strikes only military targets.)”

Hub note; see the hub fact-check on 'only military targets'

THE DEAD WERE TWO SCHOOLBOYS AND A YOUNG MAN AT HOME

The bomb hit a residential stairwell at night; the dead were found under the rubble of their own building. Apartment buildings are presumed civilian (AP I art. 52(3)); no military object at the block has been alleged by anyone.

What the claim concedes: If used, it would concede that the block was the intended target.

FAIR TO SAY

No Russian statement exists to test; the hub does not invent one. The Ukrainian account is consistent but has not been verified incident by incident by HRMMU — which is the first ask.

The injured count changed through the night (24 to 36); the first boy's age was given as 11 before correction to 12; the weapon identification is preliminary.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update*. B — State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram), 30–31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024; Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024; Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2024; President of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024. C — Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024), Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Mind and Euronews (31 Oct 2024). RU — none located. All accessed 25 Oct 2026.

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A WEAPON THAT CANNOT MISS A CITY

A glide bomb released at a residential district is either aimed at civilians or launched without the precautions the law requires — a violation in either case. What Saltivka lacks is an independent incident-level record.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

Nothing at Tier A for the incident; the dead and injured are within OHCHR's national October 2024 totals.

At Tier B, consistently: one guided aerial bomb at about 22:45 on a nine-storey residential block in Saltivskiyi district; 3 killed including boys of 12 and 15; 36 injured; criminal proceedings under Art. 438(2) CCU (Kharkiv regional prosecutor, 31 Oct 2024).

PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Glide bombs on Kharkiv apartment blocks: 19 FAB-250 and 2 FAB-500 strikes on the city in October 2024 alone, most on residential buildings (city council).

Night strikes on homes, with children among the dead — the same month OHCHR recorded 9 children killed nationwide.

POSITION — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Ukraine qualifies the strike as a violation of the laws and customs of war combined with intentional killing (Art. 438(2) CCU); the Kharkiv regional prosecutor leads.

The hub's inference: a 500-kilogram bomb on an occupied apartment block with no alleged military object is an attack directed at civilians (Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i)) or an indiscriminate attack (AP I art. 51(4)) — pending the investigation.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I arts. 48, 51(2), 51(4), 52(3) and 57: civilians may not be made the object of attack; indiscriminate attacks are prohibited; a dwelling is presumed civilian; precautions are required.

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i) and (iv); art. 28 on command responsibility.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

Whether HRMMU has documented the incident individually.

The names of the three dead, which the authorities have not published.

The aircraft, unit and aim point — from the prosecutor's investigation.

WHAT WE ASK

Name the weapon. In every Security Council statement on Kharkiv, name glide bombs released from Russian airspace onto apartment blocks — and the children they kill.

Get it into the UN record. Ask HRMMU to document the 30 October 2024 Saltivka strike as a named incident so that it can be cited at Tier A.

Reach the launch aircraft. Support air-defence and other measures that reach the aircraft releasing glide bombs, not only the bombs.

Sanction the kits. List the producers of UMPK gliding kits and their component suppliers under every national regime.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Ukraine, October 2024 update*. B — State Emergency Service of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov, Telegram), 30–31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 31 Oct 2024; Prosecutor General's Office, 31 Oct 2024; Ministry of Internal Affairs, 31 Oct 2024; Kharkiv city council (Mayor I. Terekhov), 31 Oct and 1 Nov 2024; President of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2024. C — Gwara Media (1 Nov 2024), Zaxid.net, Ukrainska Pravda, LIGA, Mind and Euronews (31 Oct 2024). RU — none located. All accessed 25 Oct 2026.

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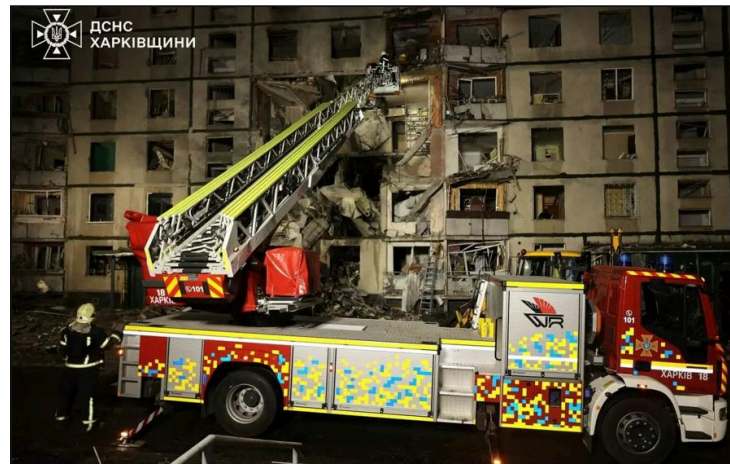
3 photographs from official sources, as shown on the live page. Each image is credited and openly licensed; videos are linked to the official post (scan the code). No image shows the dead; graphic aftermath is blurred in print. The downloadable pack on the live page holds the full-size files and their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

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The collapsed stairwell of the nine-storey block in Saltivskiy district, Kharkiv, during the night rescue, 31 October 2024

State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Kharkiv region · 2024-10-31 · CC BY 4.0
<https://mvs.gov.ua/news/aviaudar-rf-po-xarkovu-odna-ditina-zaginula-35-liudei-postrazdalo-z-nix-takoz-odna-ditina>



A State Emergency Service ladder truck at the damaged block, night of 30–31 October 2024

State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Kharkiv region · 2024-10-31 · CC BY 4.0
<https://mvs.gov.ua/news/aviaudar-rf-po-xarkovu-odna-ditina-zaginula-35-liudei-postrazdalo-z-nix-takoz-odna-ditina>



Rescuers on the aerial ladder at the damaged block, night of 30–31 October 2024

State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Kharkiv region · 2024-10-31 · CC BY 4.0
<https://mvs.gov.ua/news/aviaudar-rf-po-xarkovu-odna-ditina-zaginula-35-liudei-postrazdalo-z-nix-takoz-odna-ditina>



Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-kharkiv-saltivka-2024/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.