

KYIV, 31 OCTOBER 2022: THE MORNING THE TAPS RAN DRY

Between 7 and 9 a.m. on 31 October 2022 Russian bombers launched more than 50 cruise missiles at Ukraine's power system. Most were shot down; the rest hit 18 sites in 10 regions. In Kyiv a damaged power facility outside the city left 80% of consumers without water and 350,000 households without electricity. It was the fourth wave of a campaign that the International Criminal Court later charged as war crimes and as the crime against humanity of inhumane acts — and that has not stopped.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against the Air Force via the Ukrainian World Congress (31 Oct 2022), the Kyiv mayor via AP (31 Oct 2022), the Prime Minister's Telegram post (31 Oct 2022), ICC press releases of 5 Mar 2024 and 24 Jun 2024 (via JusticeInfo, Ukrainska Pravda), UN News on the Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023), the Commission's statement of 21 Sep 2026 and HRMMU (16 Oct 2026). Charges and dates checked against the ICC Ukraine situation page on 24 Oct 2026 (warrants for Shoigu and Gerasimov issued 24 Jun 2024, announced 25 Jun). No openly licensed photo dated 31 Oct 2022 found yet: the photo set shows the 10 Oct 2022 wave and Kyiv's heating-and-power points, captioned with their own dates.

80%

of Kyiv's water consumers cut off after a power facility near the city was hit; 350,000 households without electricity B

Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko, 31 Oct 2022 (via AP)

50+ · 44

cruise missiles (Kh-101/Kh-555) launched from strategic bombers · shot down, 7–9 a.m. B

Air Force of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2022

4

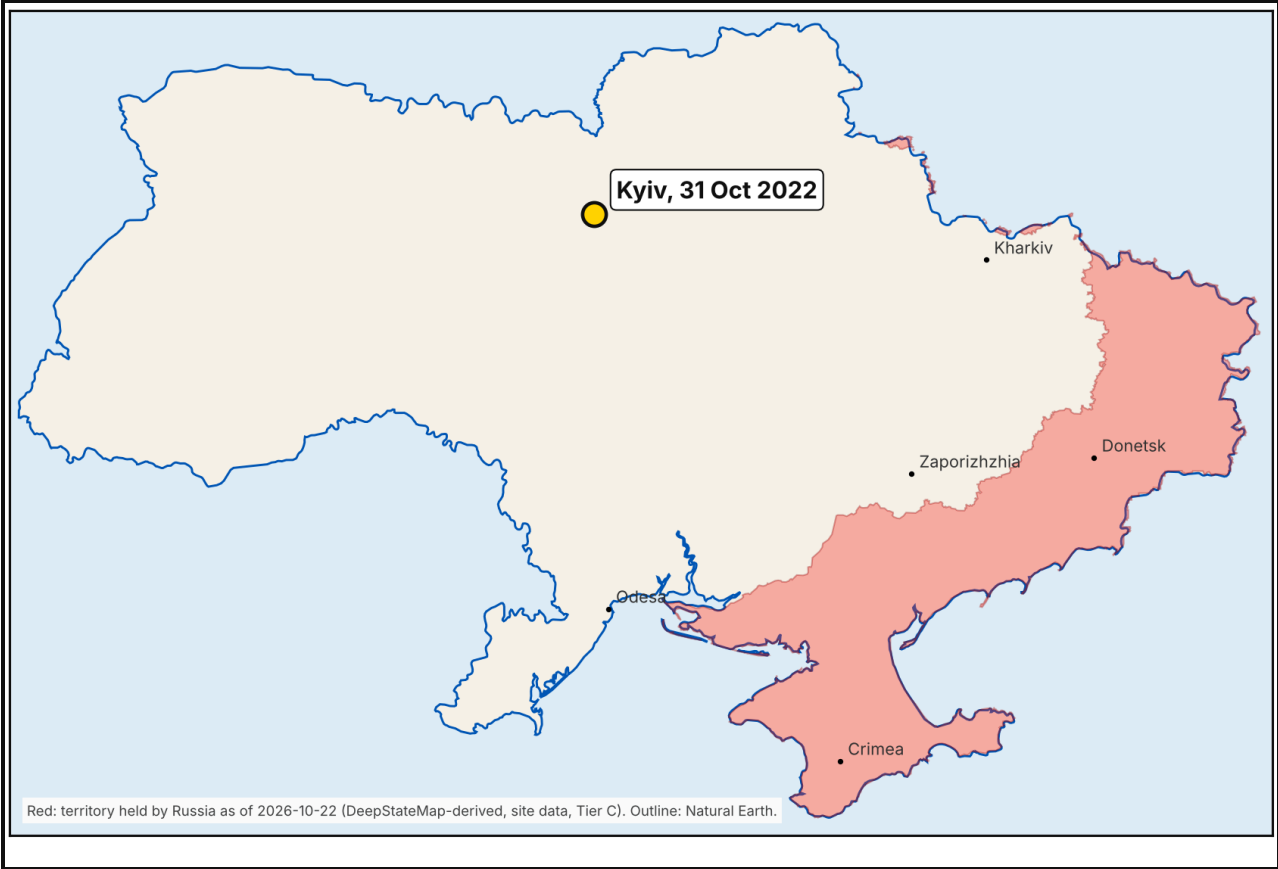
ICC arrest warrants for the 2022–23 strikes on the power system: Kobylash and Sokolov (5 Mar 2024), Shoigu and Gerasimov (24 Jun 2024) A

International Criminal Court, Pre-Trial Chamber II

2,147

Russian attacks on energy infrastructure from 16 Jul to Oct 2026 — the campaign continues B

Prime Minister of Ukraine, Oct 2026 (via BBC / Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026)



BOTTOM LINE

Water, not only light. A missile does not need to hit a pumping station to stop the water: on 31 October 2022 damage to one power facility outside Kyiv left 80% of the city's consumers without water (Klitschko via AP). Hospitals, heating and sewage depend on the same grid.

A campaign with names attached. The ICC found reasonable grounds to believe that the commanders of Russia's long-range aviation and Black Sea Fleet (5 Mar 2024), then Russia's defence minister and chief of the General Staff (24 Jun 2024), bear responsibility for strikes on the Ukrainian power system from 10 Oct 2022 to 9 Mar 2023 — war crimes and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts. The UN Commission of Inquiry had found in March 2023 that the waves of attacks from 10 October 2022 'may amount to crimes against humanity'.

Four years on, the same target. In 2026 the Prime Minister counts 2,147 attacks on energy since 16 July and the President more than 170 since the energy ceasefire announced on 11 October; the Commission of Inquiry calls the attacks 'systematic' (21 Sep 2026).

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

STRIKES ON THE POWER SYSTEM OCT 2022 - MAR 2023: WAR CRIMES AND INHUMANE ACTS — ESTABLISHED TO THE ICC WARRANT STANDARD (4 WARRANTS)

WAVES OF ATTACKS ON ENERGY EACH AUTUMN AND WINTER, 2022-2026 — PATTERN (COI 2023, 2026)

ENERGY TERROR / GENOCIDE FRAMING — POSITION (UKRAINE)

Established. ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II: reasonable grounds to believe that S. Kobylash and V. Sokolov (5 Mar 2024) and S. Shoigu and V. Gerasimov (24 Jun 2024) are responsible for the war crimes of directing attacks at civilian objects and causing excessive incidental harm, and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts, for strikes on the Ukrainian electric infrastructure from at least 10 Oct 2022 to at least 9 Mar 2023. **Pattern.** Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023): the waves of attacks from 10 Oct 2022 may amount to crimes against humanity; (21 Sep 2026): systematic attacks continued through the 2025–26 winter. **Position.** Ukraine calls the campaign energy terror; Russia says it strikes energy linked to the military and that Kyiv can 'end the suffering' by accepting its demands.

WHAT WE ASK

Make protection of energy and water infrastructure an explicit, monitored term of any ceasefire. Cooperate with the ICC on the four outstanding warrants. Fund generation, transformers and backup power for water utilities before each winter.

A POWER FACILITY OUTSIDE THE CITY, A CITY WITHOUT WATER

The strike came on a Monday morning rush hour. By 9 a.m. most of Kyiv's taps were dry: the water utility's pumps had lost power. People queued at pump rooms and filled bottles from street taps; the city brought in water trucks.

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10 Oct 2022	First mass missile strike on Ukraine's power system after the Crimea bridge blast; the period covered by the ICC warrants begins. A — ICC, 5 Mar 2024
29 Oct 2022	Drone attack on the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol Bay; Russia blames Ukraine. C — Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022
31 Oct 2022, 7-9 a.m.	More than 50 Kh-101/Kh-555 cruise missiles launched from Tu-95/Tu-160 bombers; 44 shot down (Air Force). 18 sites hit in 10 regions, mostly energy (Prime Minister). B — Air Force of Ukraine; Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022
31 Oct 2022, morning	Kyiv: 80% of consumers without water, 350,000 households without power after a facility outside the city is hit; Kharkiv metro and electric transport stop; outages in Zaporizhzhia, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad and Lviv regions. B — Kyiv mayor via AP; Kharkiv mayor, 31 Oct 2022
31 Oct 2022	Asked whether the strikes were a response to Sevastopol, Putin: 'This is true to an extent. But we can do more.' RUSSIA SAYS — Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022
24 Nov 2022	Kremlin: no strikes on 'social' targets; Ukraine's leadership can 'end the suffering' by meeting Russia's demands. RUSSIA SAYS — Reuters via Cyprus Mail, 24 Nov 2022
Mar 2023	Commission of Inquiry: the waves of attacks on energy infrastructure from 10 Oct 2022 may amount to crimes against humanity. A — UN News; A/HRC/52/62
5 Mar 2024	ICC arrest warrants: Lt-Gen S. Kobylash (long-range aviation) and Adm. V. Sokolov (Black Sea Fleet). A — ICC, via JusticeInfo
24 Jun 2024	ICC arrest warrants: S. Shoigu and V. Gerasimov for the same campaign. A — ICC, via Ukrainska Pravda
Jul - Oct 2026	2,147 attacks on energy since 16 Jul (Prime Minister); 170+ since the 11 Oct energy ceasefire (President); Commission of Inquiry: 'systematic' (21 Sep). B — PM and President of Ukraine via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026; UN Ukraine, 21 Sep 2026

WHAT THE RECORD ESTABLISHES

Air Force: between 7 and 9 a.m. more than 50 Kh-101 and Kh-555 cruise missiles were launched from Tu-95 and Tu-160 bombers over the Caspian and Volgodonsk areas; 44 were shot down. The Prime Minister reported 18 objects hit in 10 regions, most of them energy.

Kyiv mayor: 80% of consumers were left without water 'due to the damage to a power facility near' the city; a damaged facility supplied 350,000 households (AP). Kharkiv's metro and electric transport stopped (Kharkiv mayor).

A combined heat and power plant in Kyiv on fire after Russian missile strikes, 10 Oct 2022 — three weeks before the strike that cut water. Photo: Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv · CC BY 4.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

WHO WAS HIT

Civilians across the city: households, hospitals on backup generators, schools and the water and sewage system itself. Water supply was restored over the following day; the power deficit led to rolling blackouts for the rest of the winter.

The campaign's toll is counted by HRMMU in civilian deaths and injuries from strikes and in cold-related harm the Commission of Inquiry documented in 2025–26.

Sources: A — ICC press releases, 5 Mar 2024 (Kobylash, Sokolov) and 24 Jun 2024 (Shoigu, Gerasimov); UN News on the Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023, A/HRC/52/62); UN Ukraine, Commission of Inquiry statement, 21 Sep 2026; HRMMU September 2026 update (16 Oct 2026). B — Air Force of Ukraine and Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022 (via Ukrainian World Congress); Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko (via AP, 31 Oct 2022); Prime Minister and President of Ukraine, Oct 2026 (via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026). C — AP, 31 Oct 2022; JusticeInfo, 5 Mar 2024; Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022 and 24 Jun 2024. RU — Putin, 31 Oct 2022 (Ukrainska Pravda); Peskov, 24 Nov 2022 (Reuters via Cyprus Mail); Peskov, 21 Oct 2026 (Anadolu). All accessed 24 Oct 2026.

ESTABLISHED BY BODIES
WITH A MANDATE

ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II, 5 Mar 2024: warrants for S. Kobylash and V. Sokolov — war crimes of directing attacks at civilian objects and causing excessive incidental harm, and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts, strikes from at least 10 Oct 2022 to at least 9 Mar 2023. A

ICC, 24 Jun 2024: warrants for S. Shoigu and V. Gerasimov for the same conduct. A

Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023, A/HRC/52/62): the waves of attacks from 10 Oct 2022 'may amount to crimes against humanity'; (21 Sep 2026) systematic attacks continued through the 2025–26 winter. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

Air Force of Ukraine, 31 Oct 2022: 50+ cruise missiles, 44 shot down. B

Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022: 18 objects in 10 regions, mostly energy. B

Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko, 31 Oct 2022: 80% without water; 350,000 households without power. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

AP, 31 Oct 2022: the Kyiv figures and the list of affected cities. C

Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022: Putin's 'true to an extent' remark. C

Reuters, 24 Nov 2022: the Kremlin's 'end the suffering' line. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED

Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
50+ · 44	missiles launched · shot down, 31 Oct 2022	Air Force · B
18 · 10	objects hit · regions	Prime Minister · B
80% · 350,000	Kyiv water consumers cut off · households without power	Kyiv mayor via AP · B/C
4	ICC arrest warrants for the 2022–23 energy campaign	ICC · A
2,147	attacks on energy since 16 Jul 2026	Prime Minister · B
328 · 2,105	civilians killed · injured in Ukraine, Sep 2026	HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 · A



Kyiv in a city-wide blackout after Russian strikes on the grid, 8 Nov 2022. Photo: Estemelmo Nólemë · CC BY 2.0 · via Wikimedia Commons

First-day figures are preliminary: the AP figure for Kyiv is 'households' (not apartments); some reports give 'about 50' or 'more than 50' missiles. The hub shows the Air Force's count and the mayor's figures with their dates.

FOUR NAMES, FOUR WARRANTS

Unlike most strikes in this archive, the energy campaign of 2022–23 has named suspects. The ICC chose the chain from the units that fired the missiles to the top of the Russian military command.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Sergei Kobylash Lt-Gen, commander of Long-Range Aviation (2022–23)	Bombers that launched Kh-101/Kh-555 cruise missiles, incl. on 31 Oct 2022	ICC arrest warrant, 5 Mar 2024	—
Viktor Sokolov Admiral, commander of the Black Sea Fleet (2022–23)	Kalibr launches from the Black Sea in the same waves	ICC arrest warrant, 5 Mar 2024	—
Sergei Shoigu Minister of Defence (2022–24)	Overall direction of the strike campaign	ICC arrest warrant, 24 Jun 2024	—
Valery Gerasimov Chief of the General Staff	Planning and command of the strike campaign	ICC arrest warrant, 24 Jun 2024	—

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

Launch units (long-range aviation, Black Sea Fleet) → their commanders (Kobylash, Sokolov) → the General Staff and Defence Ministry (Gerasimov, Shoigu): the ICC has covered each link for the period 10 Oct 2022 – 9 Mar 2023.

Putin's own statements of 10 and 31 Oct 2022 presented the strikes as decisions of the state and as reprisals; the warrants do not name him for this conduct.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

Putin, 31 Oct 2022, on whether the strikes answered Sevastopol: 'This is true to an extent. But we can do more.'

Kremlin spokesman, 24 Nov 2022: no strikes on 'social' targets; Ukraine's leadership can 'end the suffering' by meeting Russia's demands — the civilian harm presented as leverage.

Russia does not recognise the ICC; all four suspects remain at large.

Sources: A — ICC press releases, 5 Mar 2024 (Kobylash, Sokolov) and 24 Jun 2024 (Shoigu, Gerasimov); UN News on the Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023, A/HRC/52/62); UN Ukraine, Commission of Inquiry statement, 21 Sep 2026; HRMMU September 2026 update (16 Oct 2026). B — Air Force of Ukraine and Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022 (via Ukrainian World Congress); Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko (via AP, 31 Oct 2022); Prime Minister and President of Ukraine, Oct 2026 (via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026). C — AP, 31 Oct 2022; JusticeInfo, 5 Mar 2024; Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022 and 24 Jun 2024. RU — Putin, 31 Oct 2022 (Ukrainska Pravda); Peskov, 24 Nov 2022 (Reuters via Cyprus Mail); Peskov, 21 Oct 2026 (Anadolu). All accessed 24 Oct 2026.



'NO STRIKES ON SOCIAL TARGETS' — WHILE THE TAPS RAN DRY

Russia's line has two parts: the targets are military-linked energy, and the suffering ends when Kyiv accepts Moscow's terms. The first is contradicted by what the strikes cut off — water, heat and hospitals' power; the second concedes that civilian harm is the point.

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KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV · PRESS CALL · MOSCOW, 24 NOV 2022

“There have been no strikes on 'social' targets and there are none – special attention is paid to this.”

Reuters via Cyprus Mail, 24 Nov 2022

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV · SAME PRESS CALL · 24 NOV 2022

“[Ukraine's leadership can] 'end suffering' by meeting Russian demands.”

Reuters headline and report of Peskov's press call, via Cyprus Mail and TBS News, 24 Nov 2022 (paraphrase; exact Russian wording to be checked)

VLADIMIR PUTIN · PRESS EVENT, SOCHI · 31 OCT 2022

“This is true to an extent. But we can do more.”

Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022

KREMLIN SPOKESMAN DMITRY PESKOV · ST PETERSBURG · 21 OCT 2026

“Nothing has changed. We need peace, not a truce.”

Anadolu, 21 Oct 2026

CONTRADICTED BY THE RECORD

On 31 Oct 2022 damage to one power facility left 80% of Kyiv's water consumers without water (Kyiv mayor via AP). The ICC charged the campaign as attacks on civilian objects and inhumane acts (5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024).

What the claim concedes: That the strikes were planned centrally, with 'special attention' to the choice of target.

AN ADMISSION OF PURPOSE

Coercing a population through deprivation is what the crime against humanity of inhumane acts in the ICC warrants describes; the Commission of Inquiry reached the same possibility in March 2023.

What the claim concedes: That civilian suffering from the energy strikes is used as leverage.

REPRISAL, IN HIS OWN WORDS

Asked whether the strikes that morning answered the Sevastopol drone attack of 29 Oct, Putin agreed 'to an extent'. Reprisals against civilian objects are prohibited (AP I art. 52(1)).

What the claim concedes: That the strike on the power system was a reprisal decision, not a response to a specific military threat from those sites.

SAME LINE, FOUR YEARS LATER

Since 16 Jul 2026 the Prime Minister counts 2,147 attacks on energy; more than 170 since the 11 Oct 2026 energy ceasefire (President, via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026).

What the claim concedes: That Russia declines even a limited halt to strikes on energy.

FAIR TO SAY

Energy facilities can feed military users, and IHL does not make every power plant immune. The question the ICC and the Commission answer is proportionality and the cumulative effect on civilians — and they found reasonable grounds and possible crimes against humanity on that basis.

Ukraine's air defence shot down most missiles on 31 Oct 2022; the hub does not attribute any individual civilian death on that day without an official source.

Sources: A — ICC press releases, 5 Mar 2024 (Kobylash, Sokolov) and 24 Jun 2024 (Shoigu, Gerasimov); UN News on the Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023, A/HRC/52/62); UN Ukraine, Commission of Inquiry statement, 21 Sep 2026; HRMMU September 2026 update (16 Oct 2026). B — Air Force of Ukraine and Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022 (via Ukrainian World Congress); Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko (via AP, 31 Oct 2022); Prime Minister and President of Ukraine, Oct 2026 (via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026). C — AP, 31 Oct 2022; JusticeInfo, 5 Mar 2024; Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022 and 24 Jun 2024. RU — Putin, 31 Oct 2022 (Ukrainska Pravda); Peskov, 24 Nov 2022 (Reuters via Cyprus Mail); Peskov, 21 Oct 2026 (Anadolu). All accessed 24 Oct 2026.



WHEN A CITY'S WATER IS THE TARGET

Water systems and the power that runs them are objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. Even where a power plant serves military users, an attack is unlawful if the expected civilian harm — water, heat, hospitals in winter — is excessive.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

ICC (5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024): reasonable grounds to believe four senior Russian commanders are responsible for the war crimes of directing attacks at civilian objects and causing excessive incidental harm, and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts (10 Oct 2022 – 9 Mar 2023).

Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023): the waves of attacks from 10 Oct 2022 may amount to crimes against humanity.

PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Mass strikes on the power system each autumn and winter: Oct 2022 – Mar 2023, winter 2023–24, 2024–25, 2025–26 and again from Oct 2026 (COI, 21 Sep 2026: 'systematic').

Each wave presented by Russia as military targeting or as reprisal, and the civilian hardship as Kyiv's choice.

POSITION — UKRAINE'S QUALIFICATION

Ukraine qualifies the campaign as energy terror and a violation of the laws and customs of war (Art. 438 CCU).

Russia says it hits energy linked to the military and that the suffering ends on its terms.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I art. 52 (civilian objects), art. 51(5)(b) (proportionality), art. 54(2) (objects indispensable to survival, incl. drinking-water installations), art. 57 (precautions); art. 52(1) bars reprisals against civilian objects.

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(ii) and (iv); art. 7(1)(k) inhumane acts.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

The full civilian toll of the 2022–23 winter, including cold-related deaths.

Whether any of the four suspects will travel to a state that executes the warrants.

The final count of strikes on energy since the 11 Oct 2026 ceasefire announcement.

WHAT WE ASK

- Protect energy in any ceasefire.** Write energy and water infrastructure into any ceasefire or truce as a monitored, verifiable term — not a declaration.
- Cooperate on the warrants.** Execute the ICC warrants for Kobylash, Sokolov, Shoigu and Gerasimov if they enter your territory; support the Court's Ukraine budget.
- Fund the next winter.** Transformers, generation and backup power for water utilities and hospitals before each heating season.
- Quote the Kremlin's own words.** Set 'no strikes on social targets' beside Kyiv's dry taps on 31 Oct 2022 and 'end the suffering' beside the inhumane-acts charge.

Sources: A — ICC press releases, 5 Mar 2024 (Kobylash, Sokolov) and 24 Jun 2024 (Shoigu, Gerasimov); UN News on the Commission of Inquiry (Mar 2023, A/HRC/52/62); UN Ukraine, Commission of Inquiry statement, 21 Sep 2026; HRMMU September 2026 update (16 Oct 2026). B — Air Force of Ukraine and Prime Minister D. Shmyhal, 31 Oct 2022 (via Ukrainian World Congress); Kyiv mayor V. Klitschko (via AP, 31 Oct 2022); Prime Minister and President of Ukraine, Oct 2026 (via Al Jazeera, 23 Oct 2026). C — AP, 31 Oct 2022; JusticeInfo, 5 Mar 2024; Ukrainska Pravda, 31 Oct 2022 and 24 Jun 2024. RU — Putin, 31 Oct 2022 (Ukrainska Pravda); Peskov, 24 Nov 2022 (Reuters via Cyprus Mail); Peskov, 21 Oct 2026 (Anadolu). All accessed 24 Oct 2026.



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2 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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A combined heat and power plant in Kyiv on fire after Russian missile strikes, 10 Oct 2022 — three weeks before the strike that cut water

Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kyiv · 2022-10-10 · CC BY 4.0
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Kyiv in a city-wide blackout after Russian strikes on the grid, 8 Nov 2022

Estemelmo Nólemë · 2022-11-08 · CC BY 2.0
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Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-kyiv-water-2022/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.