

PECHENIHY: TWO MISSILES ON A VILLAGE CROSSROADS AT TWENTY TO NINE

On a Tuesday morning two Russian Banderol cruise missiles hit the busiest crossroads of Pechenihy, a settlement on the Siverskyi Donetsk, about fifty metres apart — one on a café, one on the car park by the bus stop. Ten people died, among them the café’s cashier and the man grilling meat outside; at least eighteen were injured. The community head: no military objects in the impact zone. Russia’s Ministry of Defence has not commented.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

DRAFT — not published. Draft for the editor. Figures checked against the Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov; kharkivoda.gov.ua, 18 Aug 2026), the Pechenihy community head (O. Husarov), the regional emergency medical centre, LIGA and The Insider (18 Aug 2026). No Tier A incident-level record exists yet. Photos: Kharkiv regional administration (CC BY 4.0), blurred until screened.

10

civilians killed at the crossroads — identification by DNA; the toll was given as preliminary B

Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026

17 → 18

injured — 14 hospitalised, most with severe burns and shrapnel wounds B

Syniehubov, 18 Aug 2026; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre (V. Zabashta)

2 × ~50 m

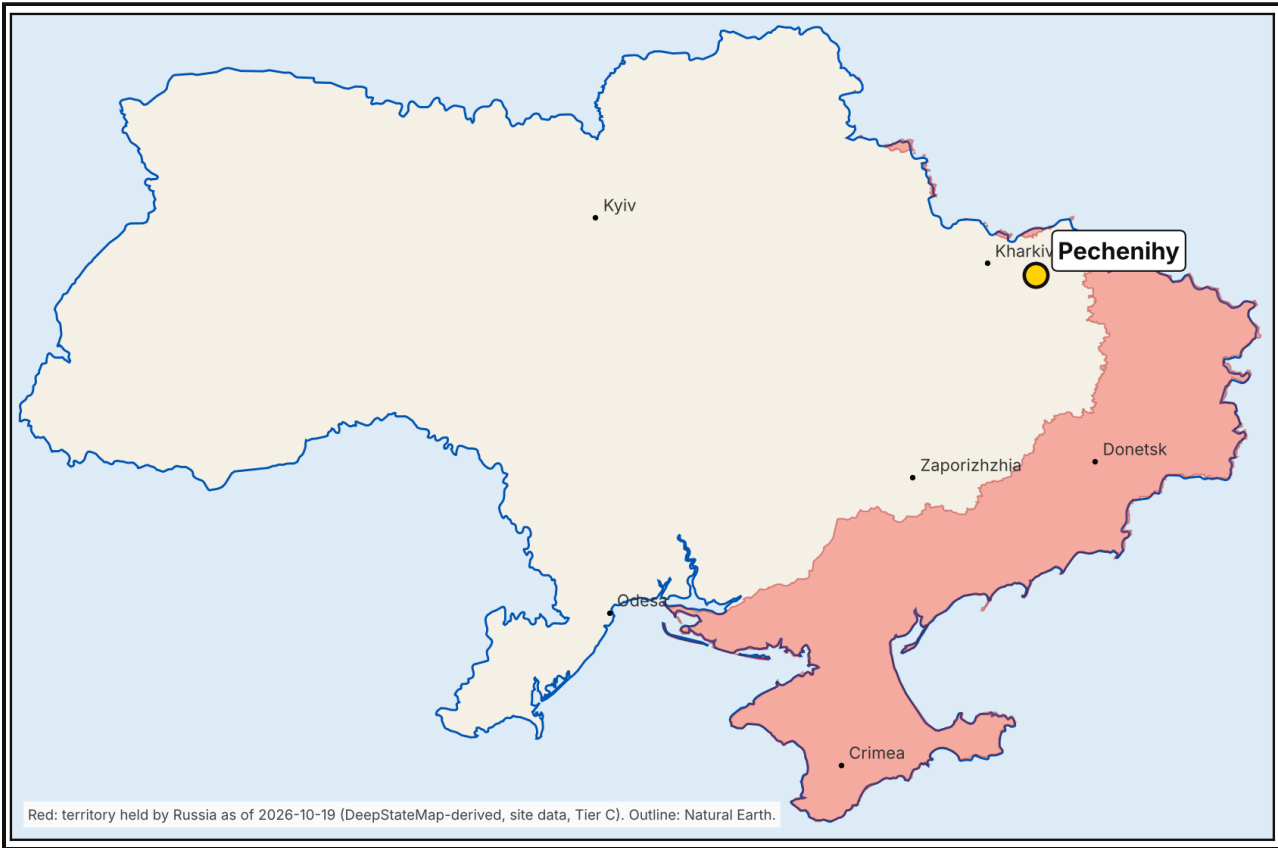
Banderol cruise missiles, impacts about fifty metres apart — a café and a car park by the bus stop B

Pechenihy community head O. Husarov, 18 Aug 2026

0

military objects in the impact zone, by the community head's account; no Russian statement on the strike B

O. Husarov, 18 Aug 2026; The Insider, 18 Aug 2026



BOTTOM LINE

A village centre at the busiest hour. The missiles arrived at about 08:40, when the café, the post office and the shops at the crossroads were open and the car park by the bus stop was full. Ten private houses, the post office, a shop and at least seven cars were hit along with the café.

A precision weapon, twice, on the same crossroads. The Banderol is a turbojet cruise missile with a range of up to 500 km, launched from drones or helicopters; two of them fifty metres apart is a targeted strike, not a stray.

No target named, no comment made. By the community head's account there were no military objects at the site. Russia's Ministry of Defence, which publishes target lists for Kyiv, said nothing about Pechenihy.

LEGAL QUALIFICATION IN THREE LAYERS

TWO CRUISE MISSILES ON A VILLAGE CAFÉ AND BUS-STOP CAR PARK; 10 KILLED — REPORTED BY UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES; NO TIER A INCIDENT RECORD YET

CAFÉS AND MARKETS IN KHARKIV REGION VILLAGES AS TARGETS — HROZA 2023, PECHENIHY 2026 — PATTERN

WAR CRIME: ATTACK ON CIVILIANS, ART. 438(2) CCU — POSITION (KHARKIV REGIONAL PROSECUTOR, 18 AUG 2026)

Established. Nothing yet at Tier A: OHCHR’s August 2026 update does not single out Pechenihy, though its national totals include the dead. At Tier B the regional administration, the community head, the medical service and the prosecutor give a consistent account — two cruise missiles, about 08:40, the village’s busiest crossroads, 10 killed, no military object. **Pattern.** A precision strike on a café in a Kharkiv-region village: Hroza, 5 Oct 2023 (59 killed) is the UN-documented precedent. **Position.** The Kharkiv regional prosecutor opened proceedings on 18 Aug 2026 under Art. 438(2) CCU; the hub’s inference is an attack directed at civilians (Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i)), pending the investigation.

WHAT WE ASK

Ask HRMMU to verify Pechenihy as a named incident so that the strike enters the UN record as Hroza did. Share the missile-fragment analysis with the Kharkiv regional prosecutor and with the authorities tracing the Banderol's foreign components. Close the sanctions gaps in the Banderol supply chain. Ask Russia in Geneva and New York: what was the target at the Pechenihy crossroads?

FIFTY METRES BETWEEN THE TWO IMPACTS

Pechenihy's centre is a crossroads with a café, the post office, shops and the bus stop — the place where a village of a few thousand does its morning shopping. The first missile hit the café; the second hit the car park beside it. The whole of the damage is within one block.

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5 Oct 2023	Hroza, in the same region: an Iskander-M on a café during a wake kills 59 — the UN's documented precedent for a café strike (hub dossier). A — OHCHR/HRMMU, 31 Oct 2023
2022 - Aug 2026	Fourteen civilians killed in the Pechenihy community before 18 August 2026, by the community head's count. B — O. Husarov, 18 Aug 2026 (Gwara Media)
18 Aug 2026, ~08:40	Two Banderol cruise missiles hit the centre of Pechenihy about 50 m apart: one the café at the busiest crossroads, the other the car park by the bus stop. The community head says they came from the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets. B — O. Husarov; Vikna; The Insider, 18 Aug 2026
18 Aug 2026, ~10:40	Syniehubov: preliminary toll 10 killed, 8 injured; ten houses, a café, the post office, a shop and at least seven cars damaged. B — Kharkiv regional administration (Telegram)
18 Aug 2026, 11:00-12:02	Injured rise to 17, then 18; the regional medical centre: 14 hospitalised, most with severe burns and shrapnel wounds. B — Syniehubov (Telegram, via LIGA); V. Zabashta
18 Aug 2026, morning	President Zelensky: Russia struck a busy intersection lined with a post office, shops and houses; Ukraine 'will definitely respond'; partners asked for more pressure on Russia. B — President of Ukraine; Meduza, 18 Aug 2026
18 Aug 2026	The Insider: as of publication the Russian Ministry of Defence had not commented on the strike. No later comment located. RUSSIA SAYS — The Insider, 18 Aug 2026
18 Aug 2026	Kharkiv regional prosecutor opens a pre-trial investigation under Art. 438(2) CCU; investigators document missile fragments as evidence for international courts. Visual identification impossible for several of the dead; DNA testing ordered. B — Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office; Syniehubov
18-19 Aug 2026	Days of mourning in the Pechenihy community. The community head: 'The dead are ordinary shoppers and sellers'; no military objects in the impact zone. First names: Susanna, the café cashier, and Yevhen, who was grilling meat outside. B — O. Husarov; Gwara Media, 18 Aug 2026
16 Sep 2026	OHCHR/HRMMU August update: 372 civilians killed in Ukraine in August; Pechenihy not listed among the representative incidents. A — OHCHR/HRMMU, Protection of Civilians, August 2026

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

The regional administration gave the time as about 08:40 and the weapon as two cruise missiles. The community head identified them as Banderols, said they exploded about 50 metres apart and that the second struck the parking area at the bus station. The regional prosecutor's investigators recovered fragments the same day.

The Banderol (S8000) is a jet-powered cruise missile with a range of up to 500 km; Ukrainian intelligence found more than 20 foreign-made components in it (LIGA, citing HUR). Two impacts fifty metres apart on the same crossroads is a guided weapon doing what it was told.

PHOTO SLOT · DRAFT

The destroyed café and the burnt cars at the Pechenihy crossroads with police investigators at work, 18 Aug 2026 — National Police of Ukraine / Kharkiv regional administration, CC BY 4.0, with credit and link

Photo slot · official source with licence · no images of the dead

WHO THE DEAD WERE

Ten people, by the regional administration's preliminary count; several could not be identified visually and were sent for DNA testing. The community head: customers, sellers and passers-by. Two café staff were named by the local press — Susanna, the cashier, and Yevhen, grilling meat outside.

At least eighteen injured: fourteen taken to hospital, most with severe burns and shrapnel wounds; the rest treated at the scene.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, August 2026* (16 Sep 2026); OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza* (31 Oct 2023). B — Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026 (kharkivoda.gov.ua; Telegram); Pechenihy community head O. Husarov; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre; Kharkiv regional prosecutor; Ukrainian Air Force, 20 Aug 2026; HUR War&Sanctions portal. C — The Insider, Gwara Media, Vikna, Meduza and LIGA, 18 Aug 2026. RU — none located. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.



ESTABLISHED BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

OHCHR/HRMMU, Protection of Civilians, August 2026 (16 Sep 2026): 372 civilians killed in Ukraine in August; Pechenihy is not among the representative incidents listed. The dead are inside the national total; the incident itself is not yet verified at Tier A. A

OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza* (31 Oct 2023): the precedent in the same region — a precision missile on a village café, no military target, reasonable grounds to attribute the launch to Russia. A

UKRAINIAN INVESTIGATION

Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026: 10 killed, injured rising from 8 to 18; fire over 400 m²; houses, shops, a café and cars damaged; DNA identification. B

Pechenihy community head (O. Husarov), 18 Aug 2026: two Banderols, 50 metres apart, launched from the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets; second impact at the bus-station car park; no military objects in the impact zone; 14 civilians killed in the community since 2022. B

Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre (V. Zabashta), 18 Aug 2026: 14 hospitalised, burns and shrapnel wounds, some serious; three treated on site. B

Kharkiv regional prosecutor's office, 18 Aug 2026: pre-trial investigation under Art. 438(2) CCU; fragments documented for international courts. B

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS

The Insider, 18 Aug 2026: the weapon identification with HUR's technical profile of the S8000 Banderol; the Russian MoD had not commented. C

Gwara Media (Kharkiv), 18 Aug 2026: on-site report; the two café workers named; the launch direction; DSNS completion time; the days of mourning. C

LIGA, 18 Aug 2026: 10 killed and 18 injured; National Police and DSNS photographs; HUR's component findings. Meduza, 18 Aug 2026: no Russian comment. C

THE NUMBERS — EVERY SOURCE, AS PUBLISHED

Figure	What it counts	Source · date · tier
10	killed — preliminary, DNA identification pending; no later revision located	Syniehubov, 18 Aug 2026 · B
8 · 17 · 18	injured — first report; 11:00; 12:02 on 18 Aug	Syniehubov (via LIGA) · B
14 + 3	hospitalised + treated on site	V. Zabashta · B
2 · ~50 m	missiles · distance between impacts	Husarov · B
10 · 5 · 1 · 15	houses · shops · café · cars damaged; fire over 400 m²	Kharkiv regional administration, 18 Aug 2026 · B
14	civilians killed in the Pechenihy community from 2022 to 17 Aug 2026	Husarov · B

PHOTO SLOT · DRAFT

Missile fragments documented by the Kharkiv regional prosecutor or the National Police — official source, CC BY 4.0

Photo slot · official source with licence

All incident figures are Tier B. The injured are given by hour; the weapon identification (Banderol) is the community head's and the Prosecutor General's preliminary finding.

A NEW MISSILE WITH A TRACEABLE SUPPLY CHAIN

The Banderol is a recent weapon whose maker, launch platforms and foreign components Ukrainian intelligence has documented. The launch unit for 18 August has not been named.

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Who	Role in the case	Proceedings	Sanctions · courts
Kronstadt JSC St Petersburg/Dubna; maker of the S8000 Banderol and the Orion drone that carries it	Producer of the weapon used (community head's identification; HUR technical profile)	No charge; a corporate supplier	Australia (25 Feb 2022), US and UK (24 Mar 2022), Japan, Canada, EU (13 Mar 2023), Switzerland — per HUR War&Sanctions
Foreign component suppliers Chinese turbojet engine and foreign electronics documented by HUR (May 2025)	Enable the weapon; identified from recovered fragments	n/a	To be established from the prosecutor's examinations
Launch unit Russian unit operating the Banderol's carrier (Orion drone or helicopter)	Launched the two missiles 'from the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets' (Husarov)	Not identified	—
Gen. Valery Gerasimov Chief of the General Staff	Command responsibility for the strike campaign (position)	ICC arrest warrant, 24 Jun 2024 (energy campaign 2022–23); no charge for 2026	EU, US, UK, Canada (2022)

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

The weapon identifies the platform: the Banderol is launched from Kronstadt's Orion drone or from attack helicopters, which places the launch with Russian aviation units operating over Belgorod region or occupied Kharkiv-region territory, consistent with the community head's 'opposite bank'.

Two guided missiles on one crossroads within fifty metres is a tasking, not a malfunction: someone selected the coordinates of the café. The Kharkiv regional prosecutor's fragment analysis should fix the launch time, heading and platform.

The hub's Hroza dossier shows how such a chain was reconstructed in a Kharkiv-region café strike — from spotters to a colonel-general — over three years. Pechenihy is at day one of that process.

THE RUSSIAN STATE'S OWN ACTS

No Russian Ministry of Defence or Kremlin statement on Pechenihy has been located; The Insider recorded the MoD's silence on the day.

The contrast with Russia's practice: for Kyiv on 20 Aug 2026 the MoD named six targets within hours. For a village café it offered nothing.

Kronstadt's listings from the HUR War&Sanctions portal (Tier B). The ICC warrant is cited for the chain of command, not for this strike.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, August 2026* (16 Sep 2026); OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza* (31 Oct 2023). B — Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026 (kharkivoda.gov.ua; Telegram); Pechenihy community head O. Husarov; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre; Kharkiv regional prosecutor; Ukrainian Air Force, 20 Aug 2026; HUR War&Sanctions portal. C — The Insider, Gwara Media, Vikna, Meduza and LIGA, 18 Aug 2026. RU — none located. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

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SILENCE, AND THE TWO LINES IT WOULD USE

Russia has said nothing about Pechenihiy. The hub records the silence and answers in advance the two explanations Russia gives when a village centre is hit: that the dead were soldiers, and that the damage was Ukraine's own doing.

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RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · NO STATEMENT · 18 AUG 2026

“(The Ministry of Defence did not comment on the strike — The Insider, 18 Aug 2026. No later statement located.)”

The Insider, 18 Aug 2026; hub search to 21 Oct 2026

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

Two guided cruise missiles of a Russian type on a crossroads with no military object; 10 killed, 18 injured; a war-crimes investigation opened the same day. Russia publishes a target list when it claims a target; here it published none.

What the claim concedes: Nothing — and explains nothing.

ANTICIPATED LINE · 'THE CAFÉ WAS USED BY THE MILITARY' · AS USED FOR HROZA (NEBENZIA, SECURITY COUNCIL, 9 OCT 2023)

“(For Hroza, Russia's representative told the Council the wake was a gathering of 'Nazi collaborators' and a legitimate target. No such claim has been made for Pechenihiy.)”

S/PV.9431, 9 Oct 2023; hub note

THE DEAD WERE A CASHIER, A COOK, SHOPPERS AND PASSERS-BY

The community head, who knew the victims, says there were no military objects in the impact zone and the dead were ordinary shoppers and sellers; the strike came at 08:40 on a weekday at the village's bus stop and post office. Civilians do not lose protection by buying bread. OHCHR's Hroza finding — no military target at a café — is the standard the hub applies.

What the claim concedes: Nothing stated; if used, it would concede that the café was the intended target.

ANTICIPATED LINE · 'UKRAINIAN AIR DEFENCE' · STANDARD RUSSIAN EXPLANATION

“(Not used for Pechenihiy. Russia's usual claim is that damage is caused by Ukrainian interceptors.)”

Hub note

TWO IMPACTS FIFTY METRES APART ARE NOT INTERCEPTOR DEBRIS

Fragments of the missiles were recovered by the regional prosecutor on the day; the pattern — a café and the adjacent car park, both hit — is that of two guided weapons reaching their aim point. No interception was reported over Pechenihiy.

What the claim concedes: Nothing — answered in advance.

FAIR TO SAY

No Russian statement exists to test; the hub does not invent one. The Ukrainian account is consistent but is a single-party account until HRMMU or another independent body verifies it — which is the first ask.

The injured count varies by hour (8, 17, 18); the dead were given as preliminary pending DNA identification. The launch direction is the community head's statement; the Banderol's range means it could have been launched much further away.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, August 2026* (16 Sep 2026); OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza* (31 Oct 2023). B — Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026 (kharkivoda.gov.ua; Telegram); Pechenihiy community head O. Husarov; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre; Kharkiv regional prosecutor; Ukrainian Air Force, 20 Aug 2026; HUR War&Sanctions portal. C — The Insider, Gwara Media, Vikna, Meduza and LIGA, 18 Aug 2026. RU — none located. All accessed 21 Oct 2026.

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A CAFÉ AGAIN, THREE YEARS AFTER HROZA

The facts are simple and the legal question is the one OHCHR answered for Hroza: either the target was not verified, or civilians were targeted deliberately — a violation of international humanitarian law in either case. What Pechenihy lacks is the independent record that Hroza received within a month.

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ESTABLISHED — BY BODIES WITH A MANDATE

Nothing yet at Tier A for the incident itself; the dead of Pechenihy are within OHCHR's national August 2026 total.

At Tier B, consistently: two cruise missiles at about 08:40 on the village centre; 10 killed, 18 injured; a café, the post office, a shop, ten houses and seven cars; no military object (community head); criminal proceedings under Art. 438(2) CCU (Kharkiv regional prosecutor, 18 Aug 2026).

PATTERN — WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Precision missiles on cafés in Kharkiv-region settlements: Hroza (5 Oct 2023, 59 killed, Iskander-M — OHCHR); Pechenihy (18 Aug 2026, 10 killed, two Banderols).

Russian silence on village strikes and detailed target lists for the capital: the same fortnight produced both.

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; fragments are being documented for international courts.

The hub's inference: two guided missiles on a village crossroads with no military object is an attack directed at civilians (Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i)) or, at the least, an attack without the verification AP I art. 57 requires — pending the investigation's findings on the launch and the UN's verification.

THE RULES THAT APPLY

Additional Protocol I arts. 48, 51(2), 52(3) and 57: civilians may not be made the object of attack; in case of doubt a place normally dedicated to civilian purposes — a café, a post office — is presumed civilian; verification and precautions are required.

Rome Statute art. 8(2)(b)(i); art. 28. OHCHR's Hroza standard: where no military objective is present, the attacker either failed to verify or targeted civilians — a violation in either case.

WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW

Whether HRMMU has verified the incident; whether any UN body has visited the site.

The final identified toll after DNA testing; the names and ages of the ten dead.

The launch platform and location of the two Banderols, and the unit — from the prosecutor's fragment analysis.

WHAT WE ASK

Get it into the UN record. Ask HRMMU to verify Pechenihy as a named incident, as it did Hroza, so that the strike exists at Tier A and can be cited in Geneva and New York.

Trace the missile. Share engine, guidance and airframe analysis of the recovered fragments with the Kharkiv regional prosecutor and with export-control authorities tracing the Banderol's Chinese and Western components.

Sanction the maker and the chain. Close the gaps in the Banderol supply chain — component suppliers and the launch unit once named — under every national regime; Kronstadt itself is listed by most.

Ask Russia for its target. In the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, ask what Russia was aiming at on the Pechenihy crossroads — and record that it has given no answer.

Sources: A — OHCHR/HRMMU, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, August 2026* (16 Sep 2026); OHCHR/HRMMU, *Attack on Funeral Reception in Hroza* (31 Oct 2023). B — Kharkiv regional administration (O. Syniehubov), 18 Aug 2026 (kharkivoda.gov.ua; Telegram); Pechenihy community head O. Husarov; Kharkiv regional emergency medical centre; Kharkiv regional prosecutor; Ukrainian Air Force, 20 Aug 2026; HUR War&Sanctions portal. C — The Insider, Gwara Media, Vikna, Meduza and LIGA, 18 Aug 2026. RU — none located. All accessed 21 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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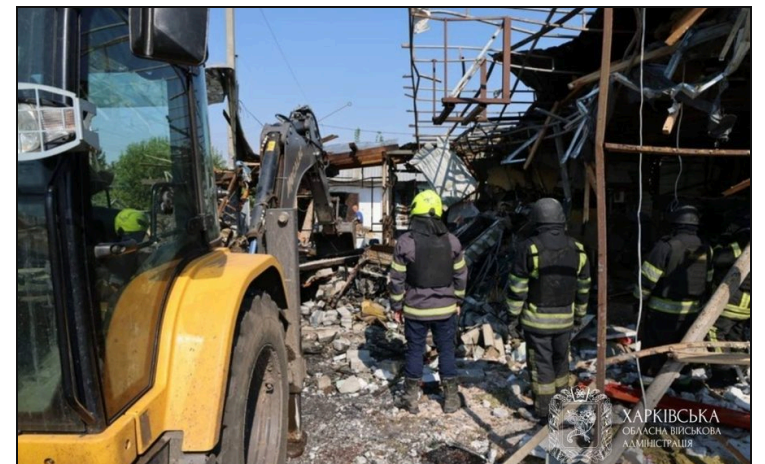
The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 1 of 6

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<https://kharkivoda.gov.ua/news/136860>



The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 2 of 6

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The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 3 of 6

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The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 4 of 6

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The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 5 of 6

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The centre of Pechenihy after the missile strike of 18 August 2026 — regional administration release, frame 6 of 6

Kharkiv Regional State Administration · 2026-08-18 · CC BY 4.0
<https://kharkivoda.gov.ua/news/136860>



Live page and evidence pack (ZIP): ukraine-evidence.org/#cases/hist-pechenihy-2026/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.