FACT-CHECK

ZAKHAROVA · PESKOV · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · GERASIMOV · MOSCOW · 13 SEP – 21 OCT 2026

WHAT MOSCOW ITSELF CONCEDES

Russia's own spokespeople, in five weeks, named the targets: a passenger train at the Polish border, a plant in Pryluky, a Kyiv data centre and locomotive depot, and "massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities". Each statement was meant as a defence. Read against the UN record, each one is an admission — of the strike, of the aim-point, or of the motive. Eight statements, what the record shows, and what each concedes.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

328 · 2,105

civilians killed · injured in Ukraine in September 2026 — the highest September toll since February 2022; 53% by missiles and long-range drones A

HRMMU, Protection of Civilians update, 15 Oct 2026

> 100 · ≥ 429

civilians killed · injured in Ukraine in the preceding week (UN briefing of 9 Oct 2026) — the week Zakharova said strikes hit "only" military-industrial objects A

UN Secretariat (OHCHR figures) to the Security Council, 9 Oct 2026, SC/16472

4

Russian commanders under ICC arrest warrants for strikes on Ukraine's electric infrastructure — the campaign the General Staff announced again on 16 Oct 2026 A

ICC, 5 Mar 2024 (Kobylash, Sokolov) and 24 Jun 2024 (Shoigu, Gerasimov)

0

IAEA statements attributing the September–October 2026 drone strikes near the Zaporizhzhia plant to either party A

IAEA statement, 3 Oct 2026 (via Kyiv Independent); IAEA Update 370, 9 Oct 2026

BOTTOM LINE

Russia names its targets, and the names answer the case. "Plastmass-Pryluky" on 7 Oct was a five-storey apartment block with 22 dead. A "railway train of the Armed Forces of Ukraine used to deliver military cargo" on 13 Sep was the Kyiv–Warsaw passenger service. A "data centre", a "locomotive depot" and a polymer plant on 19 Oct are civilian objects unless Russia shows otherwise — and it has shown nothing.

"Only military-industrial objects" is contradicted by the week it describes. The UN told the Security Council that more than 100 civilians were killed and at least 429 injured in the seven days before 9 Oct; HRMMU counted 328 killed in September alone, the highest September toll of the war.

The energy campaign is announced, not denied. The Chief of the General Staff reported "massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities" with a "list of these objects"; the President said Ukraine is "squealing about energy". The ICC charged this exact conduct in 2024, naming Gerasimov himself.

"Retaliation" is a confession of motive, not a defence. Zakharova's "painful boomerang" and Peskov's "Ukraine must pay" describe reprisals; Additional Protocol I prohibits reprisals against civilians and civilian objects without exception.

Fair to say. Ukraine does strike refineries, depots and ships; the IAEA has not said who flies the drones at Zaporizhzhia; OHCHR relays, but cannot verify, Russian-reported casualties in Russia. None of this makes a passenger train, an apartment block or a city's heating a military objective.

THE EIGHT CLAIMS

Maria Zakharova, MFA spokesperson · 13 Oct	"Our retaliatory actions — and the strikes were carried out only against objects linked to the military-industrial complex of the Kyiv regime — became a painful boomerang for Kyiv. (translated)"	**Contradicted by monitors — and concedes a reprisal motive**
Maria Zakharova · answer to a media question, mid.ru · 15 Sep	"[Western visitors are] "political tourists"… [whom Kyiv uses as a] "living shield" to provide cover for its military trains… no one can guarantee the safety of their tours… Western politicians and diplomats should soberl…"	**No evidence presented — and the Ministry of Defence concedes the strike**
Maria Zakharova · comment, mid.ru · 5 Oct	"[Ukrainian forces struck] 200 metres from the plant's power units [and] twice shelled the radioactive-waste processing building… Ukraine continues to strike the ZNPP and its related infrastructure… [We] call on the IAEA …"	**Unverified — the IAEA does not attribute**
Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation · 7 Oct	"[A "massive strike" with "high-precision long-range air-, land- and sea-launched weapons and attack drones" on "military-industrial facilities" — enterprises listed: "Smart Ammunition" (Kyiv), "Fanplit" (Kyiv), the Obukh…"	**Contradicted on the ground — concedes the Pryluky aim-point**
Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation · 19 Oct	"As a result of the strike, military-industry enterprises, storage sites for cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, and a data centre in the city of Kyiv and Kyiv region were hit… [named: the "Data Group" data cent…"	**No evidence presented — concedes civilian infrastructure as targets**
Valery Gerasimov, Chief of the General Staff · report to the President · 15–16 Oct	"The Armed Forces of Russia have begun to carry out new massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities… A list of these objects and the necessary allocation of means to strike them has been determined. [Since early Septem…"	**Already adjudicated**
Dmitry Peskov, Kremlin spokesman · briefing · 15 Sep	"We, on the whole, certainly consider this a very good idea, a good initiative… [and the second thing that needs to be done is, of course,] to lift sanctions (against Russia) and these unlawful restrictions on energy supp…"	**Contradicted by Russia's own Ministry of Defence**
Dmitry Peskov · briefings · 12 and 21 Oct	"[Both President Putin and officials at other levels have repeatedly stated that] we do not want a ceasefire. We want long-term peace… [21 Oct, asked whether the position on an energy truce had changed: "Nothing has chang…"	**Fair to say — and the answer to "who blocks the ceasefire"**

WHAT WE ASK

Put the Russian MoD's own target lists (7 and 19 Oct) and Gerasimov's 16 Oct report on the Security Council record next to the ICC warrants of 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · ask Russia to substantiate the military use of each named civilian object — the Pryluky plant, the Kyiv data centre, the locomotive depot, the Kyiv–Warsaw train — or withdraw the claim · support HRMMU's October casualty update and the Commission of Inquiry's work on the autumn energy campaign · ask the IAEA Director General to brief on the September–October incidents at Zaporizhzhia and on the eighth local ceasefire · restate the ceasefire Ukraine accepted on 11 Mar 2025 and ask Moscow, which says it does not want one, to say so to the Council.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK
V1 · 21 OCT 2026

live page · corrections log

FACT-CHECK THE VENUE AND THE SPEAKERS

WHO SAID IT, WHERE, AND TO WHOM

Where each claim was made, who made it, how the others in the room answered, and what the statements left out.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

THE OCCASION AND THE RECORD

Occasion	A sequence of official Russian statements, 13 Sep – 21 Oct 2026, by the MFA spokesperson (Zakharova), the Kremlin spokesman (Peskov), the Ministry of Defence (daily and special strike reports) and the Chief of the General Staff (Gerasimov) reporting to the President
Where the claims were made	mid.ru "answers to media questions" and comments (15 Sep, 5 Oct, 13 Oct) · Kremlin daily briefings (15 Sep, 12 Oct, 21 Oct) · MoD channels on Telegram/MAX and TASS (7 Oct, 19 Oct) · Gerasimov's report at an auxiliary command post of the Joint Group of Forces, broadcast by state television (15–16 Oct)
Record against which they are checked	UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472 (9 Oct) · HRMMU September update (15 Oct) · Commission of Inquiry statement of 21 Sep · ICC warrants of 2024 · IAEA statements · EU statement at OSCE PC 1580 (8 Oct)
What happened next	Russian strikes on energy infrastructure intensified from 15 Oct; HRMMU (16 Oct) called the first two weeks of October "among the deadliest for civilians in recent years"; the Kremlin rejected a 60-day ceasefire (12 Oct) and has not confirmed the energy truce the US announced on 14 Sep

THE SPEAKERS

Maria Zakharova	Director of the Information and Press Department, Russian MFA · under EU sanctions since 23 Feb 2022 (also UK, Canada, Australia, Ukraine)	Yahodyn train comment (15 Sep); ZNPP comment (5 Oct); "painful boomerang" (13 Oct)
Dmitry Peskov	Press Secretary of the President of Russia · under EU sanctions since 28 Feb 2022 (also US, UK)	Energy truce "a very good idea" (15 Sep); "we do not want a ceasefire… we want long-term peace" (12 Oct); "Nothing has changed. We need peace, not a truce" (21 Oct, St Petersburg briefing)
Valery Gerasimov	Chief of the General Staff, First Deputy Minister of Defence · ICC arrest warrant of 24 Jun 2024 for the 2022–23 energy campaign · EU, US, UK sanctions	Reported to Putin that Russian forces "have begun new massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities" (15–16 Oct)
Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation	Official strike reports (Telegram, MAX, TASS)	Named "Plastmass-Pryluky" among the 7 Oct targets; named a Kyiv data centre, locomotive depot and polymer plant on 19 Oct; said on 15 Sep a crew "hit a railway train of the AFU used to deliver military cargo"

WHAT OTHERS SAID

UN Secretariat (ASG Khiari) · Security Council, 9 Oct	Russian attacks reached "a new horrifying level"; "All attacks targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, wherever they occur, are a violation of international humanitarian law and must end immediately"; urged a "full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire" (SC/16472).
European Union (+12 aligned States) · OSCE PC 1580, 8 Oct	~70 missiles and drones on 7 Oct, at least 22 killed including 5 children; demanded Russia "immediately and unconditionally cease its aggression".
United Kingdom · Security Council, 9 Oct	Quoted a Russian MoD post that Ukrainians would "freeze" and the Kremlin's "Achilles heel" line; "directly targeting civilian infrastructure may constitute a war crime"; 38 new designations.
France · Security Council, 9 Oct	Moscow targets "the very conditions of the Ukrainian people's existence"; supports a moratorium on energy and Black Sea attacks.
United States · Security Council, 9 Oct	"The killing must stop"; the war will end "only through negotiations"; continued trilateral mediation.
Nordic States · Security Council, 9 Oct	Harshest winter yet; safe humanitarian access; immediate, unconditional ceasefire.
Germany, Poland · Security Council, 9 Oct	"Reckless and deliberate disregard for international humanitarian law"; "Russia cannot bomb its way to a legitimate peace".
Commission of Inquiry · statement, 21 Sep	Continued Russian attacks on energy infrastructure are "increasing civilians' vulnerability" before winter; noted reports of casualties from Ukrainian attacks in Russia and occupied areas that lack of access prevents it from investigating.

WHAT THE STATEMENTS LEFT OUT

- The UN's casualty record for the same weeks: 328 civilians killed and 2,105 injured in September 2026, +85% on September 2025; 2,570 killed and 15,211 injured in January–September; civilian casualties recorded in Kyiv on 22 of 30 days (HRMMU, 15 Oct 2026).
- The ICC warrants of 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 for strikes on Ukraine's electric infrastructure — "directed against civilian objects" — naming Gerasimov, who announced the new energy campaign on 16 Oct.
- That reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited (AP I arts. 51(6), 52(1)); "retaliation" and "boomerang" describe a prohibited motive.
- That the IAEA has attributed none of the September–October drone strikes around the Zaporizhzhia plant to either side, and is negotiating an eighth local ceasefire to repair the Zaporizhzhia TPP transformers (IAEA, 3 Oct 2026).
- That the US-announced energy truce (14 Sep) was never confirmed by Moscow; the Kremlin's answer on 12 Oct was "contacts are continuing", while the General Staff reported "massive strikes on energy facilities" four days later.

HOW IT TRAVELS

Each line ran through TASS and RIA Novosti within the hour and was reprinted by Vedomosti, Izvestia, Gazeta.ru, 360.ru and regional outlets; the MoD's target lists were turned into graphics by Rossiyskaya Gazeta ("Otvet Tsirkona i Iskandera", 7 Oct) and Profile (19 Oct). Zakharova's Yahodyn comment travelled in English via The Moscow Times and Odessa Journal; the "boomerang" line via TASS English. The ZNPP comment reached the IAEA debate through RT's claim of an IAEA inspection. Abroad, the "only military targets" formula was repeated by Russia's UN mission on 9 Oct and its OSCE mission on 8 and 10 Oct.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK THE CLAIMS, ONE BY ONE

CLAIM, RECORD, CONCESSION (1–4)

Each claim as made, with the date, the venue and a link; the record it runs into, with the tier of the evidence; and what it concedes. Words in square brackets are the Hub's.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

CLAIM 1 · MARIA ZAKHAROVA, MFA SPOKESPERSON · 13 OCT

"Our retaliatory actions — and the strikes were carried out only against objects linked to the military-industrial complex of the Kyiv regime — became a painful boomerang for Kyiv. (translated)"

TASS, 13 Oct 2026, as carried by Vedomosti
www.vedomosti.ru/politics/news/2026/10/13/1236758-boleznennim-bumerangom

CONTRADICTED BY MONITORS — AND CONCEDES A REPRISAL MOTIVE

Evidence A C

The UN Secretariat told the Security Council on 9 Oct, with OHCHR figures, that "over 100 civilians" were killed and "at least 429 injured" in that week alone; a missile "destroyed a residential building" in Pryluky (7 Oct, reportedly 19 killed including five children) and a glide bomb hit two passenger buses in Kramatorsk (8 Oct, at least 33 killed) (SC/16472). HRMMU: 328 civilians killed and 2,105 injured in September, the highest September toll since February 2022, 53% by missiles and long-range drones (15 Oct). The Ministry of Defence's own 4 Oct statement, cited in the same Vedomosti report, says strikes are "precisely in response to the actions of the Kyiv regime". AP I art. 51(6): "Attacks against the civilian population or civilians by way of reprisals are prohibited"; art. 52(1): civilian objects "shall not be the object of attack or of reprisals".

What the claim concedes: That the strikes are retaliation — a motive IHL prohibits — and that Russia decides what counts as "linked to the military-industrial complex" after the fact.

CLAIM 2 · MARIA ZAKHAROVA · ANSWER TO A MEDIA QUESTION, MID.RU · 15 SEP

"[Western visitors are] "political tourists"… [whom Kyiv uses as a] "living shield" to provide cover for its military trains… no one can guarantee the safety of their tours… Western politicians and diplomats should soberly assess the existing risks. (translated; English phrases as rendered by The Moscow Times)"

Russian MFA, 15 Sep 2026, via Gordon (16 Sep) and Odessa Journal/The Moscow Times (15 Sep)
gordonua.com/section-worldnews/news-zakharova-yzdevatelsky-prokommentyrovala-ataku

NO EVIDENCE PRESENTED — AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE CONCEDES THE STRIKE

Evidence A B C

On 13 Sep a drone struck the locomotive of the Kyiv–Warsaw passenger train at Yahodyn, Volyn region, about 5 km from the Polish border, while a separate train carrying Boris Johnson, David Petraeus, a German chancellery adviser and other Western officials was halted on the same line under a drone alert (Ukrzaliznytsia; Der Spiegel eyewitnesses; AP). The Russian MoD said the crew "hit a railway train of the Armed Forces of Ukraine used to deliver military cargo" (15 Sep, via iStories). No evidence of military cargo, military trains or any military use of the Kyiv–Warsaw service was produced. The Secretariat's rule applies to trains as to buses: attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure "wherever they occur" violate IHL (SC/16472). Security Council Report records that the 13 Sep strikes "temporarily disrupted operations at the Yahodyn–Dorohusk border crossing".

What the claim concedes: The strike on the passenger train — and a standing threat to foreign officials travelling in Ukraine ("no one can guarantee").

CLAIM 3 · MARIA ZAKHAROVA · COMMENT, MID.RU · 5 OCT

"[Ukrainian forces struck] 200 metres from the plant's power units [and] twice shelled the radioactive-waste processing building… Ukraine continues to strike the ZNPP and its related infrastructure… [We] call on the IAEA leadership to resolutely condemn the criminal actions of Kyiv and its sponsors. (translated)"

Russian MFA comment, 5 Oct 2026, as carried by 360.ru
360.ru/news/ukrainian-crisis/mid-rossii-prizval-rukovodstvo-magate-osudit-prestupn

UNVERIFIED — THE IAEA DOES NOT ATTRIBUTE

Evidence A C

The IAEA's statement of 3 Oct 2026 recorded drone strikes on 19, 20 and 27 Sep that damaged transformers at the Zaporizhzhia Thermal Power Plant switchyard "vital for maintaining the ZNPP's off-site power supply", and a 22 Sep strike that "reportedly disabled an off-site radiation monitoring station"; it "did not specify who carried out the attacks" and said Director General Grossi was negotiating an eighth local ceasefire for repairs (Kyiv Independent, 3 Oct). For the 4–5 Oct incident, Rosatom reported roof damage to a laboratory building and the radioactive-waste processing building with no casualties (5 Oct); the IAEA's Update 370 (9 Oct 2026) records the incident as "a reported drone attack" without attribution: its team "requested access… and were granted limited access more than 48 hours after the reported attack", found broken windows that "had already been covered" and "various UAV components and debris… placed on display at the site", and called for "prompt, unfettered access to the sites of reported attacks". That is not the independent inspection RT described. In every previous ZNPP incident the IAEA has recorded damage and declined to attribute (e.g. 31 May 2026 turbine-hall strike: "the IAEA does not say which side is responsible"). The plant's status is adjudicated: IAEA Board and General Conference resolutions (Sept 2022, Mar 2024, Sept 2024) call for Russia to withdraw its personnel and return the plant to Ukrainian control.

What the claim concedes: That the IAEA is the authority — which has repeatedly called for Russia's withdrawal from the plant it demands the IAEA defend.

CLAIM 4 · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · 7 OCT

"[A "massive strike" with "high-precision long-range air-, land- and sea-launched weapons and attack drones" on "military-industrial facilities" — enterprises listed: "Smart Ammunition" (Kyiv), "Fanplit" (Kyiv), the Obukhiv cardboard-and-paper mill, "Plastmass-Pryluky" (Pryluky, Chernihiv region), the "Oleksandriia" industrial group, Pivdenmash (Dnipro), AvtoKrAZ and the JTI tobacco factory (Kremenchuk), a mechanical plant in Lozova, "Dunai Sudoremont" (Izmail).] (translated; list as published by Rossiyskaya Gazeta from the MoD report)"

Russian MoD, 7 Oct 2026, via Rossiyskaya Gazeta
rg.ru/2026/10/07/otvet-cirkona-i-iskandera.html

CONTRADICTED ON THE GROUND — CONCEDES THE PRYLUKY AIM-POINT

Evidence A B C

On the morning of 7 Oct a cruise missile hit a five-storey apartment building in Pryluky, Chernihiv region: 22 killed including five children, 54 injured including seven children (State Emergency Service, 8 Oct · Tier B, operational; Meduza). The UN told the Security Council the missile "destroyed a residential building", reportedly killing 19 including five children (SC/16472, 9 Oct). The EU counted "around 70 missiles — many of them ballistic — and drones, killing at least 22 people, including 5 children" (OSCE PC 1580, 8 Oct). Nothing in the MoD list — a cardboard mill, a tobacco factory, a plastics plant — is shown to be a military objective; AP I art. 52(3) presumes an object normally dedicated to civilian purposes is not used for military action "in case of doubt". Russia's UN representative two days later: strikes hit "military-industrial facilities, including energy infrastructure supporting military production and logistics" (SC/16472).

What the claim concedes: That Pryluky was a chosen aim-point of a planned strike — the fact that converts a "stray" into a targeting decision.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK THE CLAIMS, ONE BY ONE

CLAIM, RECORD, CONCESSION (5–8)

Each claim as made, with the date, the venue and a link; the record it runs into, with the tier of the evidence; and what it concedes. Words in square brackets are the Hub's.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

CLAIM 5 · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · 19 OCT

“As a result of the strike, military-industry enterprises, storage sites for cruise missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles, and a data centre in the city of Kyiv and Kyiv region were hit… [named: the "Data Group" data centre, the "Fire Point" logistics hub, the "Kyiv" locomotive depot, the "Khimvolokno" industrial enterprise (Kyiv), the "Planeta Plastik" plant (Irpin); a cargo ship 130 km south-west of Odesa "carrying military and dual-use cargo"]. (translated)”

Russian MoD on its MAX channel, 19 Oct 2026, via Profile.ru and Expert.ru
profile.ru/?p=1914300

NO EVIDENCE PRESENTED — CONCEDES CIVILIAN INFRASTRUCTURE AS TARGETS

Evidence A C

A data centre, a locomotive depot and a plastics plant are objects "normally dedicated to civilian purposes"; the burden is on the attacker to show effective contribution to military action and a definite military advantage (AP I art. 52(2)–(3)). The MoD offered none. The same day Russia's President had said (15 Oct, Delovaya Rossiya forum): "They took the first step. We began to respond. Now they are already squealing about energy, and about other objects, including data centres" (RIA Novosti) — framing the data centre as retaliation. HRMMU's October figures are pending; its 16 Oct statement called the first two weeks of October "among the deadliest for civilians in recent years", with mass-casualty incidents in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kramatorsk and Kyiv.

What the claim concedes: The target set, in Russia's own words: data, rail and plastics — the civilian economy.

CLAIM 6 · VALERY GERASIMOV, CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF · REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT · 15–16 OCT

“The Armed Forces of Russia have begun to carry out new massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities… A list of these objects and the necessary allocation of means to strike them has been determined. [Since early September, 14 fuel, energy and transport infrastructure facilities have been struck.] (translated)”

Interfax/TASS, 16 Oct 2026, via Gordon and Novaya Gazeta Europe
novayagazeta.eu/articles/2026/10/16/gerasimov-dolozhil-putinu-ob-udarakh-po-energo

ALREADY ADJUDICATED

Evidence A

ICC Pre-Trial Chamber II issued an arrest warrant for Gerasimov himself on 24 Jun 2024 for "missile strikes carried out by the Russian armed forces against the Ukrainian electric infrastructure from at least 10 October 2022 until at least 9 March 2023": the war crimes of directing attacks at civilian objects (art. 8(2)(b)(ii)) and of causing excessive incidental harm (art. 8(2)(b)(iv)), and the crime against humanity of inhumane acts (art. 7(1)(k)); the Chamber found reasonable grounds that "the alleged strikes were directed against civilian objects" and, where an installation might have been a military objective, that the expected civilian harm "would have been clearly excessive to the anticipated military advantage". Warrants of 5 Mar 2024 for Kobylash and Sokolov cover the same campaign. The Commission of Inquiry found the attacks from 10 Oct 2022 may amount to crimes against humanity (A/HRC/55/66) and on 21 Sep 2026 warned that continued energy attacks were "increasing civilians' vulnerability" before winter. The UN Secretariat on 9 Oct: attacks on energy "risk leaving large numbers of civilians without heating, electricity and water" (SC/16472). HRMMU recorded the resumption of "large-scale coordinated attacks on power and heating infrastructure" on 30 Sep (15 Oct update).

What the claim concedes: A planned campaign against the energy system, with a target list, announced by an officer already charged for the previous one — the elements of policy and knowledge.

CLAIM 7 · DMITRY PESKOV, KREMLIN SPOKESMAN · BRIEFING · 15 SEP

“We, on the whole, certainly consider this a very good idea, a good initiative… [and the second thing that needs to be done is, of course,] to lift sanctions (against Russia) and these unlawful restrictions on energy supplies. (translated; English phrases per Reuters)”

Reuters, 15 Sep 2026 (via Internazionale); Novaya Gazeta Europe, 15 Sep
novayagazeta.eu/articles/2026/09/15/v-kremle-nazvali-ochen-khoroshei-ideei-energet

CONTRADICTED BY RUSSIA'S OWN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Evidence A C

The US President announced on 14 Sep that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to stop energy strikes; the Financial Times reported Moscow had agreed to nothing; Reuters noted that "neither side has confirmed" the claim and that Russia struck petrol stations in Kyiv the same day (15 Sep). Ukraine said it would support a reciprocal halt if Washington secured Russia's commitment (SCR, 23 Sep). Asked again on 12 Oct, the Kremlin said only: "Contacts are continuing" (Astra/Reuters). On 30 Sep HRMMU recorded the resumption of large-scale coordinated attacks on power and heating infrastructure in three regions and Kyiv (15 Oct); on 16 Oct the General Staff reported "massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities" (claim 6). The "very good idea" was conditioned on sanctions relief and was never implemented by the side that praised it.

What the claim concedes: That an energy truce is feasible and desirable — and that Russia attaches a price (sanctions) to not striking civilian energy.

CLAIM 8 · DMITRY PESKOV · BRIEFINGS · 12 AND 21 OCT

“[Both President Putin and officials at other levels have repeatedly stated that] we do not want a ceasefire. We want long-term peace… [21 Oct, asked whether the position on an energy truce had changed: "Nothing has changed. We need peace, not a truce… someone in Kyiv must make a responsible decision." (Anadolu, 21 Oct 2026)] (English per Reuters)”

Reuters, 12 Oct 2026 (via UNITED24 Media), answering Zelensky's proposal of a 60-day ceasefire for elections; Anadolu, 21 Oct 2026
united24media.com/war-in-ukraine/kremlin-rejects-zelenskyys-60-day-ceasefire-propo

FAIR TO SAY — AND THE ANSWER TO "WHO BLOCKS THE CEASEFIRE"

Evidence A C

A self-description, taken at face value: Russia does not want a ceasefire. The Kremlin's one offer: Russia "will be ready to give the order not to strike Ukraine on election day… Specifically on election day" (Peskov, 12 Oct, via Meduza/TASS). Ukraine accepted a full, unconditional 30-day ceasefire on 11 Mar 2025 (Jeddah) and 47 States restated it at the Security Council on 23 Sep 2026; the UN Secretariat asked for a "full, immediate and unconditional ceasefire" on 9 Oct (SC/16472); Russia's OSCE envoy said on 8 Oct that "no one intends to give such a gift to the Kyiv regime". Russia's UN representative said on 9 Oct that Moscow "has never refused" negotiations and that Kyiv "consciously chose to aggravate the situation" (SC/16472). "Peace, not a truce", while the General Staff lists energy targets for the winter, means the strikes continue until Russia's terms are met.

What the claim concedes: That the absence of a ceasefire is Russia's choice, stated — not a Ukrainian or European obstruction.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK THE RECORD SIDE BY SIDE

WHAT RUSSIA SAYS, WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Each line sets a Russian statement against the finding of a mandated body or, where none exists, an independent investigation. Tiers are marked on every source.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

THE RECORD

QUESTION	WHAT RUSSIA SAYS	WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS	SOURCE
What was struck, 7 Oct	"Military-industrial facilities" — list incl. "Plastmass-Pryluky"	Residential building destroyed in Pryluky; ≥19 killed incl. 5 children (UN) · 22 killed, 54 injured (SESU, Tier B); ~70 missiles and drones (EU)	RG 7 Oct · SC/16472 · EU PC 1580 · SESU 8 Oct
Civilian casualties, week to 9 Oct	"Strikes only against objects linked to the military-industrial complex" (13 Oct)	> 100 killed, ≥ 429 injured; 33 killed on two buses in Kramatorsk	SC/16472 (OHCHR)
Civilian casualties, September 2026	Not mentioned	328 killed, 2,105 injured (+85% y/y); 53% by missiles and long-range drones; civilian casualties recorded in Kyiv on 22 of 30 days	HRMMU, 15 Oct 2026
The 13 Sep train	"A railway train of the AFU used to deliver military cargo" (MoD); "cover for military trains" (MFA)	Kyiv–Warsaw passenger service, locomotive hit at Yahodyn; no evidence of military cargo presented; border crossing disrupted	Ukrzaliznytsia (B) · AP · SCR 23 Sep
Energy campaign	"Massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities… a list of these objects" (Gerasimov)	ICC warrants for the 2022–23 campaign (Gerasimov among the four); COI: may amount to crimes against humanity; UN: risk of civilians without heat, water, power	ICC 24 Jun 2024 · A/HRC/55/66 · SC/16472
Energy truce	"A very good idea" (15 Sep) · "Contacts are continuing" (12 Oct)	No Russian confirmation; large-scale attacks on power and heating resumed 30 Sep; campaign announced 16 Oct	Reuters 15 Sep · HRMMU 15 Oct · Interfax 16 Oct
Zaporizhzhia NPP drones, Sep–Oct	"Criminal actions of Kyiv" — IAEA must condemn	IAEA records damage (ZTPP transformers, monitoring station, waste building) and attributes to no party; negotiating 8th local ceasefire	IAEA 3 Oct (via Kyiv Independent); IAEA Update 370, 9 Oct
Civilians in Russia, Jan–Sep 2026	"8,000 affected" (Nebenzia, 9 Oct)	496 killed, 3,394 injured — reported by Russian authorities, unverifiable by OHCHR	SC/16472

FAIR TO SAY

Ukraine strikes refineries, fuel depots, airfields, bridges and ships inside Russia and in occupied territory and says so; OHCHR records reports of 496 civilians killed and 3,394 injured in Russia by Ukrainian attacks in January–September 2026 (figures reported by Russian authorities that OHCHR cannot verify because Russia gives it no access) and 18 killed and 44 injured in occupied Ukraine in September. The same IHL rules apply to those strikes.

The IAEA has not said who flies the drones around the Zaporizhzhia plant; the Hub's verdict on claim 3 is "unverified", not "false". The IAEA's Update 370 confirms damage to buildings but attributes nothing, and records that access came more than 48 hours later, with debris already on display.

Some objects on the MoD lists — a missile-component plant, a drone workshop, a logistics hub for a missile maker — could be military objectives if the claims were substantiated. The point of claims 4 and 5 is that Russia substantiates none of them, that the lists also include a tobacco factory, a cardboard mill, a data centre and a locomotive depot, and that the Pryluky "plant" was an apartment block.

Peskov's 15 Sep words were conditional and hedged; Russia never claimed to have agreed to an energy truce. The contradiction is between praising the idea and launching the campaign, not between a promise and its breach.

The primary pages (mid.ru, mil.ru, kremlin.ru) could not be opened from outside Russia; the Russian wording is taken from TASS, RIA, Vedomosti and Novaya Gazeta Europe, and the official texts govern if they differ.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK
V1 · 21 OCT 2026

live page · corrections log

FACT-CHECK THE LAW, WHAT TO SAY

ESTABLISHED, PATTERN, POSITION

What mandated bodies have established, what the record shows as a pattern, and what is a position — kept apart. Then the lines to take and the questions to expect.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

THE LAW

AP I arts. 51(6) and 52(1): attacks on civilians "by way of reprisals are prohibited"; civilian objects "shall not be the object of attack or of reprisals". "Retaliatory actions", "painful boomerang" and "Ukraine must pay" describe the prohibited motive.

AP I art. 52(2)–(3): only objects whose nature, location, purpose or use makes an effective contribution to military action, and whose destruction offers a definite military advantage, may be attacked; in case of doubt an object normally dedicated to civilian purposes — a train, a data centre, a depot, a plastics plant — is presumed civilian. The burden is on the attacker, and Russia has not discharged it.

AP I arts. 54(2) and 56; Rome Statute arts. 8(2)(b)(ii), 8(2)(b)(iv), 7(1)(k): objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population may not be attacked; the ICC has already charged four commanders, including Gerasimov, with these crimes for the 2022–23 energy campaign.

Three layers. *Established:* ICC warrants (2024); IAEA Board/GC resolutions on the Zaporizhzhia plant. *Pattern:* HRMMU monthly tolls; COI findings on energy attacks. *Position:* "only military-industrial objects", "military trains", "Kyiv's criminal actions" at ZNPP — asserted, unsupported by any mandated body.

LINES TO TAKE

1. "Russia's own Defence Ministry listed Pryluky as a target on 7 October. The target was a five-storey apartment block; 22 people died, five of them children."
2. "'Only military-industrial objects', said the Foreign Ministry on 13 October. The UN counted more than 100 civilians killed in that week alone."
3. "The Chief of the General Staff announced 'massive strikes on Ukraine's energy facilities'. The ICC issued a warrant for him in 2024 for exactly that."
4. "'Retaliation' and 'boomerang' are not a defence under the Geneva Protocols. They are a confession of motive — reprisals against civilians are prohibited."
5. "The Kremlin called an energy truce 'a very good idea' on 15 September. Its General Staff drew up a list of energy targets a month later."
6. "Russia says it does not want a ceasefire. Ukraine accepted one in March 2025. That is the whole answer to 'who blocks peace'."

Q&A

"Russia says it only hits military-industrial targets — can you prove otherwise?"
Russia's own list for 7 October names Pryluky; the UN told the Security Council a missile destroyed a residential building there. The UN's count for that week is more than 100 civilians killed. Either the targeting was wrong or the claim is — the admission of the aim-point settles which.

"The train at Yahodyn was carrying military cargo."
That is the Ministry of Defence's assertion; no evidence was produced. It was the scheduled Kyiv–Warsaw passenger service. The Foreign Ministry's own comment does not deny the strike — it warns foreign officials that 'no one can guarantee' their safety.

"Ukraine is attacking the Zaporizhzhia plant and the IAEA stays silent."
The IAEA records every incident and attributes none to either side; it says the same whichever side complains. Its Board and General Conference have asked Russia to withdraw from the plant. Russia demands the IAEA condemn Kyiv while ignoring the IAEA's resolutions addressed to Russia.

"Russia's strikes are a response to Ukrainian strikes on Russian refineries."
That is what Russia says — 'retaliatory', 'boomerang', 'Ukraine must pay'. Under Additional Protocol I reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited without exception. Ukraine's strikes are also subject to IHL; a refinery feeding an army is a military objective, a city's heating is not.

"The Kremlin accepted the energy truce."
It called the idea 'very good' and demanded sanctions relief; it never confirmed an agreement, said 'contacts are continuing' on 12 October, and announced massive strikes on energy on 16 October.

"Why doesn't the Hub use Ukrainian casualty figures?"
Because a fact-check of Russian claims should rest on bodies Russia cannot call partisan. The one Ukrainian figure here — 22 dead in Pryluky from the State Emergency Service — is an operational toll, marked as such, next to the UN's own 'at least 19'.

WHAT WE ASK

Put the Russian MoD's own target lists (7 and 19 Oct) and Gerasimov's 16 Oct report on the Security Council record next to the ICC warrants of 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · ask Russia to substantiate the military use of each named civilian object — the Pryluky plant, the Kyiv data centre, the locomotive depot, the Kyiv–Warsaw train — or withdraw the claim · support HRMMU's October casualty update and the Commission of Inquiry's work on the autumn energy campaign · ask the IAEA Director General to brief on the September–October incidents at Zaporizhzhia and on the eighth local ceasefire · restate the ceasefire Ukraine accepted on 11 Mar 2025 and ask Moscow, which says it does not want one, to say so to the Council.

Sources: Vedomosti/TASS, 13 Oct 2026 · Gordon and Odessa Journal/Moscow Times on the MFA comment of 15 Sep · iStories on the MoD, 15 Sep · 360.ru on the MFA comment of 5 Oct · Rossiyskaya Gazeta, 7 Oct · Profile.ru, 19 Oct · Novaya Gazeta Europe and Gordon on Gerasimov, 16 Oct · Reuters/Internazionale and Novaya Gazeta Europe on Peskov, 15 Sep · UNITED24 Media/Reuters on Peskov, 12 Oct · kurs.com.ua/RIA on Putin, 15 Oct · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16472, 9 Oct 2026 · HRMMU, Sept 2026 update (15 Oct) · ICC, 5 Mar and 24 Jun 2024 · UN News on A/HRC/55/66 · Security Council Report, 23 Sep and 13 Oct 2026 · EU statement, OSCE PC 1580 · Kyiv Independent on the IAEA, 3 Oct · Meduza, 8 Oct · full list on page 6

FACT-CHECK SOURCES AND METHOD

WHERE EVERY LINE COMES FROM

All sources were checked on 21 October 2026. Russian statements are listed as the position under review, not as evidence.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
OCT 2026

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METHOD

Russian statements are quoted from the texts as carried by TASS, RIA Novosti, Vedomosti, Rossiyskaya Gazeta, Profile and Novaya Gazeta Europe, and translated by the Hub; the English phrases for the 15 Sep and 12 Oct items follow The Moscow Times and Reuters. The primary pages on mid.ru, mil.ru and kremlin.ru could not be opened from outside Russia; each quotation was checked against at least one Russian state or independent outlet carrying the text, and wording may differ slightly from the official translation. Words in square brackets are the Hub's.

Each claim is checked against documents of mandated bodies (Tier A: UN Meetings Coverage, HRMMU/OHCHR, Commission of Inquiry, ICC, IAEA, EU statement at the OSCE) first; independent sources (Tier C) only where no Tier A exists. Ukrainian official data (Tier B) are not used to rebut Russian claims; the two Tier B items — the State Emergency Service toll for Pryluky and Ukrzaliznytsia's description of the Yahodyn train — are operational facts and are marked.

The compare table sets what Russia says it struck against what OHCHR/HRMMU recorded in the same period (September update of 15 Oct; figures given to the Security Council on 9 Oct). Where the record is silent — the IAEA on attribution at Zaporizhzhia, HRMMU on October — the verdict is "unverified", not "false".

Tiers: **A** — UN-mandated bodies, international courts and organisations (OHCHR/HRMMU, Commission of Inquiry, ICC, ECtHR, IAEA, OSCE, OPCW, Security Council record); **B** — Ukrainian official bodies, marked "according to Ukraine"; **C** — independent investigators and media; **RU** — Russian official statements, the position under review. Tiers are never combined in one figure.

Sources: see table above