FACT-CHECK

VASSILY NEBENZIA · UN SECURITY COUNCIL, 10267TH MEETING · 9 NOV 2026

"ABOUT 37,000 CIVILIAN CASUALTIES"

At the Security Council on 9 November 2026 Russia's Permanent Representative said Ukrainian attacks had caused about 37,000 civilian casualties in "Russian regions" since February 2022. The figure comes from Russia's Foreign Ministry, with no method and no definition of the territory counted, and no UN body has verified it. At the same meeting the UN Secretariat, citing OHCHR, put the verified toll in Ukraine at nearly 18,000 civilians killed and more than 57,000 injured.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
NOV 2026

≈ 37,000

civilian casualties in "Russian regions" since February 2022, 9,200 of them killed — the Russian figure, with no method or territory given RU

V. Nebenzia, 9 Nov 2026 (russiaun.ru); first presented by Russian Foreign Ministry ambassador-at-large R. Miroshnik, 3 Nov 2026

17,968

civilians killed in Ukraine since 24 February 2022 as verified by UN monitors, 874 of them children; at least 57,713 injured A

UN Secretariat citing OHCHR, Security Council, 9 Nov 2026 (SC/16503; Interfax-Ukraine)

97%

of the civilian casualties UN monitors verified in Ukraine in 2025 occurred in government-controlled territory, caused by attacks of the Russian armed forces A

HRMMU, 12 Jan 2026

53 · 462

killed · injured in the Russian Federation in September 2026, as reported by Russian authorities; HRMMU says it could not verify most of these A

HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026

BOTTOM LINE

An unverifiable number, presented as a record. The 37,000 has no published method and no list of places; HRMMU, which verifies casualties in Ukraine case by case, has no access to Russia and labels Russian figures as reports it cannot verify.

"Russian regions" is not defined. An independent count by Novaya Gazeta Europe found at least 1,406 civilians killed in Russia and occupied Crimea from 2022 to May 2026 — a fraction of the Russian Foreign Ministry's "more than 8,000" at the time; the authors suggest the official figure counts residents of Ukrainian territory Russia occupies.

Fair to say. Ukrainian strikes inside Russia do kill civilians, and the law protecting them is the same. That is why figures from any side need verification — and the verified figure for Ukraine is nearly 18,000 killed.

THE 1 CLAIMS

Vassily Nebenzia · 9 Nov	“Ukrainian attacks caused about 37,000 civilian casualties, including 9,200 people killed and nearly 28,000 injured.”	**Russia manipulates — an unverified figure for an undefined territory**

WHAT WE ASK

Ask the Russian delegation to publish the method and the list of places behind the 37,000 figure · ask Russia to give OHCHR access so that casualties in Russia and in occupied Ukraine can be verified · cite the UN's verified toll in Ukraine — 17,968 civilians killed, 874 of them children (OHCHR, as given to the Council on 9 Nov 2026) — whenever the Russian figure is repeated.

Sources: Russian Mission to the UN, 9 Nov 2026 · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16503 · Interfax-Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 · HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 and 12 Jan 2026 · TASS via Rambler, 3 Nov 2026 · Xinhua via Morung Express · Novaya Gazeta Europe, 13 May 2026 · LB.ua, 9 Nov 2026

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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.

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THE OCCASION AND THE RECORD

Format	Security Council briefing on Ukraine, 10267th meeting (morning), 9 Nov 2026
Record	UN Meetings Coverage SC/16503; the Russian statement as published by the Russian Mission (russiaun.ru, 9 Nov 2026); the verbatim record S/PV.10267 not yet found as of 16 Nov 2026
Context	The figure had been presented six days earlier by R. Miroshnik, ambassador-at-large of Russia's Foreign Ministry (TASS, 3 Nov 2026)

THE SPEAKERS

Vassily Nebenzia	Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN	Gave the 37,000 figure without naming a source
Kayoko Gotoh	UN Secretariat (DPPA-DPO), briefing the Council	Gave OHCHR's verified toll in Ukraine: at least 17,968 civilians killed, 57,713 injured
Andrii Melnyk	Permanent Representative of Ukraine	Asked the UN not to repeat Moscow's unverified figures and not to equate Russia's attacks with Ukraine's strikes on military targets

WHAT OTHERS SAID

Ukraine	Asked the UN not to repeat Moscow's unverified claims about civilian deaths in Russia (A. Melnyk, 9 Nov 2026, via LB.ua).
UN Secretariat	Gave OHCHR's verified toll in Ukraine: nearly 18,000 killed and more than 57,000 injured (SC/16503).

WHAT THE STATEMENTS LEFT OUT

- Where the 37,000 were counted: the statement names no regions beyond "more than 40", and does not say whether occupied Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions or Crimea are included.
- How the figure was compiled, and by whom; no source is cited.
- That the UN cannot verify it: HRMMU reports Russian authorities' figures only with a note that they are unverified.
- The UN's verified toll in Ukraine, given at the same meeting: nearly 18,000 civilians killed and more than 57,000 injured.

HOW IT TRAVELS

The Russian Mission published the English and Russian texts the same day; the figure had first been carried by TASS from a Foreign Ministry briefing on 3 November.

Sources: Russian Mission to the UN, 9 Nov 2026 · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16503 · Interfax-Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 · HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 and 12 Jan 2026 · TASS via Rambler, 3 Nov 2026 · Xinhua via Morung Express · Novaya Gazeta Europe, 13 May 2026 · LB.ua, 9 Nov 2026

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FACT-CHECK THE CLAIMS, ONE BY ONE

CLAIM, RECORD, CONCESSION

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
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CLAIM 1 · VASSILY NEBENZIA · 9 NOV

“Ukrainian attacks caused about 37,000 civilian casualties, including 9,200 people killed and nearly 28,000 injured.”

Statement at the 10267th meeting, russiaun.ru/en/news/09112026
russiaun.ru/en/news/09112026

RUSSIA MANIPULATES — AN UNVERIFIED FIGURE FOR AN UNDEFINED TERRITORY

Evidence A C

No UN body has verified the figure; HRMMU reports Russian authorities' figures as unverified (for September 2026: 53 killed and 462 injured in the Russian Federation, as reported). The Foreign Ministry's own series does not add up: 30,913 casualties and about 8,434 killed by 30 June 2026 plus 4,990 and 631 in July–September give 35,903 and 9,065, not "almost 37,000" and 9,213 (Hub arithmetic from Russian figures carried by TASS and Xinhua). An independent count found at least 1,406 civilians killed in Russia and occupied Crimea by May 2026 (Novaya Gazeta Europe).

What the claim concedes: That civilian casualties must be counted and put before the Council — the standard by which the UN has verified nearly 18,000 civilians killed in Ukraine.

Sources: Russian Mission to the UN, 9 Nov 2026 · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16503 · Interfax-Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 · HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 and 12 Jan 2026 · TASS via Rambler, 3 Nov 2026 · Xinhua via Morung Express · Novaya Gazeta Europe, 13 May 2026 · LB.ua, 9 Nov 2026

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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.

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THE RECORD

QUESTION	WHAT RUSSIA SAYS	WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS	SOURCE
Civilian casualties, Feb 2022 – Sep 2026	≈ 37,000 in "Russian regions", 9,200 killed	Not verified by any UN body; territory not defined	Russian Mission, 9 Nov 2026 (RU); HRMMU (A)
Civilians killed in Ukraine since 24 Feb 2022	Not mentioned	At least 17,968 killed, 874 of them children; 57,713 injured	UN Secretariat citing OHCHR, 9 Nov 2026 (A)
Russian Federation, September 2026	Not given separately	53 killed, 462 injured, as reported by Russian authorities; mostly unverifiable	HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 (A)

FAIR TO SAY

Ukrainian long-range strikes have hit targets inside Russia, and civilians there have been killed and injured; HRMMU records the reports and the rule protecting them is the same.

The Novaya Gazeta Europe count relies on public reports by Russian regional authorities and may be incomplete; its explanation of the gap is the authors' inference, not a finding.

The Hub's arithmetic uses Russian figures as reported by news agencies; the Foreign Ministry may have revised its series.

Sources: Russian Mission to the UN, 9 Nov 2026 · UN Meetings Coverage SC/16503 · Interfax-Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 · HRMMU, 16 Oct 2026 and 12 Jan 2026 · TASS via Rambler, 3 Nov 2026 · Xinhua via Morung Express · Novaya Gazeta Europe, 13 May 2026 · LB.ua, 9 Nov 2026

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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.

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THE LAW

AP I art. 51: civilians shall not be the object of attack — on either side of a border.

AP I art. 51(8): a violation by one party does not release the other from its obligations towards civilians.

LINES TO TAKE

1. "Russia's 37,000 has no method, no places and no UN check. The UN's verified toll in Ukraine is nearly 18,000 killed."
2. "Ask which 'Russian regions' are counted — and whether they include Ukrainian cities Russia occupies."

Q&A

"The UN ignores Russian victims."	HRMMU reports Russia's figures every month, with the note that it cannot verify them because it has no access. Russia can give the UN access.
"Ukraine also strikes civilians."	Where it does, the same rules apply. That is an argument for verification, not for an unverified number.

WHAT WE ASK

Ask the Russian delegation to publish the method and the list of places behind the 37,000 figure · ask Russia to give OHCHR access so that casualties in Russia and in occupied Ukraine can be verified · cite the UN's verified toll in Ukraine — 17,968 civilians killed, 874 of them children (OHCHR, as given to the Council on 9 Nov 2026) — whenever the Russian figure is repeated.

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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.

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SOURCES

Russian Federation	Statement by V. Nebenzia at the UNSC briefing on Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 https://russiaun.ru/en/news/09112026	RU
UN Meetings Coverage	SC/16503, 10267th meeting, 9 Nov 2026 https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16503.doc.htm	A
Interfax-Ukraine	UN: at least 17,968 civilians killed in Ukraine, 9 Nov 2026 https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/1233692.html	C
HRMMU / OHCHR	Civilian casualties remain at record levels amid intensifying attacks on energy as winter approaches, 16 Oct 2026 https://ukraine.ohchr.org/en/Civilian-casualties-remain-at-record-levels-amid-intensifying-attacks-on-energy-as-winter-approaches	A
HRMMU / UN Ukraine	2025 deadliest year for civilians in Ukraine since 2022, 12 Jan 2026 https://ukraine.un.org/en/308241-2025-deadliest-year-civilians-ukraine-2022-un-human-rights-monitors-find	A
TASS via Rambler	Miroshnik: in Q3 2026 about 5,000 civilians affected by Ukrainian attacks, 3 Nov 2026 https://news.rambler.ru/army/57349311-miroshnik-v-iii-kvartale-2026-goda-ot-atak-vsu-postradali-5-tys-mirnyh-zhiteley/	RU
Xinhua via Morung Express	Nearly 8,500 Russian civilians killed in Ukrainian attacks since February 2022: Moscow https://morungexpress.com/nearly-8500-russian-civilians-killed-in-ukrainian-attacks-since-february-2022-moscow	C
Novaya Gazeta Europe	More than 1,400 civilians killed in Russia during the war, 13 May 2026 https://novayagazeta.eu/articles/2026/05/13/za-vremia-voiny-v-rossii-pogiblo-bolee-1400-mirnykh-zhitelei	C
LB.ua	Melnyk at the Security Council, 9 Nov 2026 https://lb.ua/world/2026/11/09/779802_spryamuyte_gumanitarnu_turbotu.html	C

METHOD

The claim is taken from the English text published by the Russian Mission to the UN on 9 Nov 2026; the quotation is exact. SC/16503 is used for what the Secretariat and other members said; S/PV.10267 had not been found when this file was checked (16 Nov 2026).

UN figures (Tier A) first; Russian government figures are labelled unverified, as OHCHR labels them; the Hub's own arithmetic is marked as such.

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

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