

'USED ONLY BY THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES'

Hours after a Tochka-U with a cluster warhead burst over thousands of people waiting to evacuate from Kramatorsk station, Russia's Ministry of Defence said such missiles were 'used only by the Ukrainian armed forces' and are not in Russian service. The UN Commission of Inquiry, Human Rights Watch and open-source investigators found the opposite: Russian units fielded the Tochka-U in 2022, and the launch area was Russian-controlled.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
VERIFIED RECORD
APR 2022

59 · 92

killed · injured — the UN Commission of Inquiry's figures; Ukrainian authorities count 61–63 dead, HRW at least 58 [A](#)

Commission of Inquiry, A/HRC/52/62, paras. 31–32 (15 Mar 2023)

50

submunitions in the 9N123K cluster warhead; 32 impact sites documented on the station forecourt [C](#)

Human Rights Watch / SITU Research, 21 Feb 2023

1

Tochka-U documented in Russian use weeks earlier — remains at the hospital in Vuhledar, 24 Feb 2022 [C](#)

Amnesty International (via Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022)

0

Russian officers publicly charged as of Oct 2026 [B](#)

Hub review of PGO and ICC public records, 21 Oct 2026

BOTTOM LINE

The claim was false when it was made. Amnesty International documented a Russian Tochka-U strike on the hospital in Vuhledar on 24 Feb 2022; the Conflict Intelligence Team filmed Tochka-U launchers with Russian 'V' markings moving from Belarus toward Belgorod in late March 2022 (Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · Tier C).

The UN places the attack with Russia. The Commission of Inquiry lists it among attacks 'launched or likely launched by Russian armed forces' that were indiscriminate; hundreds of civilians had gathered and feasible precautions were not taken (A/HRC/52/62, paras. 31–32 · Tier A). HRW: 'All evidence points to Russian forces having fired' the missile, most likely from near Kunie, then Russian-held (21 Feb 2023).

Moscow's timeline undoes the denial. That morning the Ministry announced strikes on stations in Donetsk region; after the casualties became known it denied this one and blamed a Ukrainian brigade at Dobropillia — a launch area no footage or reconstruction supports.

Fair to say. Ukraine also held Tochka-U missiles in 2022, so the type alone does not attribute a strike. Attribution rests on the launch area, the trajectory and Russia's own announcements — and those point one way.

THE 3 CLAIMS

Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation · 8 Apr 2022	"These missiles are used only by the Ukrainian armed forces."	False
Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation · 8 Apr 2022	"[Tochka-U are] outdated weapons not in service with the Russian army."	False
Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation · 8 Apr 2022	"[The strike was launched by Ukrainian forces from the Dobropillia area.]"	Not supported

WHAT WE ASK

Cite A/HRC/52/62 paras. 31–32 whenever the 'Ukrainian Tochka-U' story returns · support the Ukrainian investigation with satellite and signals data to name the unit · keep cluster munitions on evacuation routes on the Security Council's protection-of-civilians agenda

Sources: Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (15 Mar 2023) · HRW / SITU, 21 Feb 2023 · Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · EUvsDisinfo · EADaily (RU MoD), 8 Apr 2022 · Ukraine Evidence Hub, Kramatorsk station dossier · full list on page 6



WHO SAID IT, WHERE, AND TO WHOM

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

THE OCCASION AND THE RECORD

Occasion	Missile strike on Kramatorsk railway station during the evacuation of Donetsk region, 8 Apr 2022, ~10:30
Where the claim was made	Russian Ministry of Defence statement, 8 Apr 2022 (as carried by EADaily and TASS)
Context	Ukrainian authorities had urged civilians to leave Donetsk region; more than 110,000 people had left through the station since 26 Feb 2022 (Donetsk regional administration).

THE SPEAKERS

Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation	Statement, 8 Apr 2022	Tochka-U 'outdated weapons not in service with the Russian army... used only by the Ukrainian armed forces'; blamed a launch from Dobropillia
UN Commission of Inquiry	A/HRC/52/62, 15 Mar 2023	Attack launched or likely launched by Russian armed forces; indiscriminate
Human Rights Watch / SITU Research	Death at the Station, 21 Feb 2023	Apparent war crime; launch most likely near Kunie, Russian-controlled

WHAT OTHERS SAID

United Nations	Crisis Coordinator and Spokesperson condemned the attack on 8 Apr 2022; High Commissioner Bachelet cited it on 22 Apr 2022.
European Union	Condemned 'brutal, indiscriminate bombing of innocent civilians' (via EUvsDisinfo).

WHAT THE STATEMENTS LEFT OUT

- Russia's own use of the Tochka-U in February–March 2022.
- The Ministry's morning announcement of strikes on stations.
- Where the crowd came from: a published evacuation route.

HOW IT TRAVELS

Russian state media repeated the 'Ukrainian Tochka-U' line and the Dobropillia launch point; EUvsDisinfo catalogued the claim as a pro-Kremlin disinformation case.

Sources: Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (15 Mar 2023) · HRW / SITU, 21 Feb 2023 · Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · EUvsDisinfo · EADaily (RU MoD), 8 Apr 2022 · Ukraine Evidence Hub, Kramatorsk station dossier · full list on page 6

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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
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CLAIM 1 · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · 8 APR 2022

"These missiles are used only by the Ukrainian armed forces."

EADaily, 8 Apr 2022 (RU: «Эти ракеты применяются только украинскими Вооруженными силами»)

[eanews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska](https://easnews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska)

FALSE

Evidence A C

Amnesty International documented a Russian Tochka-U at the Vuhledar hospital on 24 Feb 2022; the Conflict Intelligence Team recorded Tochka-U launchers with Russian 'V' markings moving toward Belgorod in March 2022; satellite imagery near Korenovsk showed vehicles consistent with Tochka-U launchers (Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · Tier C). The Commission of Inquiry found the Kramatorsk attack among those launched or likely launched by Russian armed forces (A/HRC/52/62, paras. 31–32 · Tier A).

What the claim concedes: That the weapon at the station was a Tochka-U — so its range fixes the launch area to within about 120 km.

CLAIM 2 · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · 8 APR 2022

"[Tochka-U are] outdated weapons not in service with the Russian army."

EADaily, 8 Apr 2022 (RU: «устаревшим оружием, которого нет на вооружении армии РФ»)

[eanews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska](https://easnews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska)

FALSE

Evidence C

Russian units fielded Tochka-U in 2021 exercises and in 2022 (Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · Tier C); HRW and SITU found Tochka transport containers and fragments near Kunie, a Russian-held area at the time (21 Feb 2023 · Tier C).

What the claim concedes: Nothing beyond the weapon type — but the denial itself was disproved within days.

CLAIM 3 · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION · 8 APR 2022

"[The strike was launched by Ukrainian forces from the Dobropillia area.]"

EADaily, 8 Apr 2022 (paraphrase of the Ministry's statement)

[eanews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska](https://easnews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrela-kramatorska)

NOT SUPPORTED

Evidence A C

No footage or reconstruction shows a launch southwest of Kramatorsk; launches that day were filmed from Russian-controlled areas south of Khartsyzk, Zuhres, Shakhtarsk and Torez (Bellingcat · Tier C); HRW's reconstruction points to Kunie (Tier C); the Commission of Inquiry attributes the attack to Russian armed forces, launched or likely launched (Tier A).

What the claim concedes: That the strike came from a fixed launch point that can be checked — and the checks point to Russian-held ground.



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

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THE RECORD

QUESTION	WHAT RUSSIA SAYS	WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS	SOURCE
Who uses Tochka-U	'Only the Ukrainian armed forces'	Russian use documented Feb–Mar 2022	Russian MoD (RU); Amnesty, CIT via Bellingcat (C)
Launch area	Dobropillia, Ukrainian-held	Russian-controlled territory, most likely near Kunie	HRW / SITU (C); Commission of Inquiry (A)
Casualties	Not stated	59 killed, 92 injured (UN); 61–63 dead (Ukraine)	A/HRC/52/62 (A); Donetsk regional administration (B)

FAIR TO SAY

Ukraine also had Tochka-U missiles in 2022; the type alone does not prove who fired. The Hub's verdict rests on launch-area evidence and the UN finding, not on the weapon type.

The final death toll differs by source (58–63); the Hub shows the UN figure first.

Sources: Commission of Inquiry A/HRC/52/62 (15 Mar 2023) · HRW / SITU, 21 Feb 2023 · Bellingcat, 14 Apr 2022 · EUvsDisinfo · EADaily (RU MoD), 8 Apr 2022 · Ukraine Evidence Hub, Kramatorsk station dossier · full list on page 6



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(4)–(5): indiscriminate attacks are prohibited; a cluster warhead over a crowded evacuation point is the textbook case.

Established / pattern / position. Established: the indiscriminate attack and its Russian attribution, launched or likely launched (Commission of Inquiry). Pattern: cluster munitions on evacuation points and gatherings. Position: war crime (HRW: apparent war crime; Ukraine: Art. 438 CCU proceedings).

LINES TO TAKE

1. "Moscow said only Ukraine used the Tochka-U. Russia had used one on a hospital six weeks earlier."
2. "The UN Commission of Inquiry places the Kramatorsk strike with Russian forces."
3. "Four years on, no Russian officer has been charged."

Q&A

"Ukraine had Tochka-U too."

Yes — which is why the launch area matters. Every reconstruction places it in Russian-held territory.

"Western investigators are biased."

The Commission of Inquiry is a UN body appointed by the Human Rights Council; its finding is the one to cite.

WHAT WE ASK

Cite A/HRC/52/62 paras. 31–32 whenever the 'Ukrainian Tochka-U' story returns · support the Ukrainian investigation with satellite and signals data to name the unit · keep cluster munitions on evacuation routes on the Security Council's protection-of-civilians agenda

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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

UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine	Report A/HRC/52/62, 15 Mar 2023, paras. 29–34 https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iic/hr-ukraine/reports	A
Human Rights Watch via The Moscow Times	Russian attack on Ukraine station a war crime — HRW, 21 Feb 2023 https://themoscowtimes.com/2023/02/21/russian-attack-on-ukraine-station-a-war-crime-hrw-a80286	C
Bellingcat	Russia's Kramatorsk 'facts' versus the evidence, 14 Apr 2022 https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2022/04/14/russias-kramatorsk-facts-versus-the-evidence	C
EUvsDisinfo	Ukraine is responsible for the Tochka-U missile attack on Kramatorsk railway station (case) https://www.eUvsDisinfo.eu/report/ukraine-is-responsible-for-the-tochka-u-missile-attack-on-kramatorsk-railway-station/	C
EADaily	Минобороны РФ сделало заявление по поводу обстрела Краматорска, 8 Apr 2022 https://eAnews.ru/mir/20220408152112/minoborony-rf-sdelalo-zayavlenie-po-povodu-obstrelya-kramatorska	RU

METHOD

The claims are the Russian Ministry of Defence statement of 8 Apr 2022 as carried by EADaily; English renderings in square brackets are the Hub's.

Each claim is checked against the UN Commission of Inquiry (Tier A), Ukrainian authorities (Tier B) and independent reconstructions (Tier C).

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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