FACT-CHECK · HISTORICAL

RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, ON THE NIGHT STRIKES OF 13–14 NOVEMBER 2025 · 14 NOV 2025

'THE ENERGY FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT THEIR WORK'

On 14 November 2025 Russia's Ministry of Defence said that, 'in response to Kyiv's terrorist attacks', it had struck Ukraine's defence-industry facilities and 'the energy facilities that support their work'. That night drones and missiles hit 27 residential buildings in Kyiv, as well as a hospital, a school and heating mains. Seven people were killed and at least 36 injured. Two claims, the record, and what they concede.

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7

killed in Kyiv B

Kyiv City Military Administration (T. Tkachenko), 15 Nov 2025 (via Ukrinform)

36

injured at least, among them two children aged 7 and 10 B

Mayor V. Klitschko, 14 Nov 2025 (via Ukrinform); KCMA, 14–15 Nov 2025 (via Ukrainska Pravda)

27

residential buildings damaged in six districts of Kyiv B

Kyiv City Military Administration, 14 Nov 2025 (via Ukrainska Pravda)

430 · 19

drones · missiles launched at Ukraine that night; 405 drones and 14 missiles shot down or jammed B

Air Force of Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 (via Interfax-Ukraine)

BOTTOM LINE

Russia did not name Kyiv's homes. The ministry listed defence-industry facilities and the energy facilities that support them. None has been named in or beside the 27 residential buildings, the hospital or the school that were damaged.

It named energy as a target. In October 2026 the UN Commission of Inquiry found that Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure are the war crime of directing attacks against civilian objects and the crime against humanity of other inhumane acts (A/81/440).

'In response' is a reprisal, not a reason. The ministry presented the strike as retaliation. Reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited (AP I art. 51(6), 52(1)).

THE 2 CLAIMS

Russian Ministry of Defence · 14 Nov 2025	“[Strikes] at facilities of the military-industrial complex and the energy facilities that support their work.”	**Self-incriminating: energy named as a target; no military object named in the homes hit**
Russian Ministry of Defence · 14 Nov 2025	“In response to Kyiv's terrorist attacks on civilian objects on Russian territory.”	**Self-incriminating: a reprisal is not a lawful ground for attack**

WHAT WE ASK

Security Council and General Assembly members: cite the Commission of Inquiry's finding (A/81/440) whenever Russia calls energy strikes legitimate · states: fund winter repairs to heat and power networks, supply ballistic-missile interceptors, and sanction the producers and suppliers of Shahed-type drones and Iskander and Kinzhal missiles · support the investigation of the strike on Kyiv of 14 November 2025.

Sources: Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 · Air Force of Ukraine via Interfax-Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 · Kyiv City Military Administration via Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrinform, 14–15 Nov 2025 · UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025 · UN Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026

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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

Occasion	A night-long attack on Ukraine, 13–14 Nov 2025, with Kyiv as the main target: 430 drones and 19 missiles by the Air Force's count
Where the claim was made	Russian Ministry of Defence, Telegram, 14 Nov 2025, as published by VZGLYAD and quoted by Censor.NET

THE SPEAKERS

Russian Ministry of Defence	Statement, 14 Nov 2025	Said it had carried out a massive strike with 'high-precision long-range air-, ground- and sea-based weapons', including Kinzhal missiles, and strike drones 'at facilities of the military-industrial complex and the energy facilities that support their work', 'in response to Kyiv's terrorist attacks on civilian objects on Russian territory'

WHAT OTHERS SAID

UN Secretary-General	Through his Spokesperson, condemned the strikes and said attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law (14 Nov 2025).
UN Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine	Condemned 'the ongoing pattern of massive civilian harm caused by these strikes' (14 Nov 2025).
UN Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine	Found Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure to be a war crime and a crime against humanity of other inhumane acts (A/81/440, Oct 2026).

WHAT THE STATEMENTS LEFT OUT

- That 27 residential buildings in six districts of Kyiv were damaged, along with a hospital and a school, and that seven people died.
- That heating mains were damaged and part of Desnianskyi district was left without heat as winter began; the UN Spokesperson said parts of Kyiv were left without heating.

HOW IT TRAVELS

The statement was carried by Russian media on 14 November 2025, among them VZGLYAD and RuNews24, under headlines about a 'retaliation strike', and quoted in Ukrainian coverage the same day. It did not mention Kyiv or the residential buildings hit.

Sources: Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 · Air Force of Ukraine via Interfax-Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 · Kyiv City Military Administration via Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrinform, 14–15 Nov 2025 · UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025 · UN Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026

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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.

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CLAIM 1 · RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · 14 NOV 2025

"[Strikes] at facilities of the military-industrial complex and the energy facilities that support their work."

Russian MoD statement, 14 Nov 2025, via VZGLYAD (Hub translation)
vz.ru/news/2025/11/14/1373777.html

SELF-INCRIMINATING: ENERGY NAMED AS A TARGET; NO MILITARY OBJECT NAMED IN THE HOMES HIT

Evidence A B

In Kyiv 27 residential buildings were damaged in six districts (KCMA, 14 Nov 2025); a hospital, a school and heating mains were damaged and part of Desnianskyi lost heat (State Emergency Service; KCMA). 7 killed, at least 36 injured including two children (KCMA, 15 Nov 2025). The UN Commission of Inquiry found the energy-infrastructure attacks to be a war crime and a crime against humanity (A/81/440, Oct 2026).

What the claim concedes: That the energy system was a deliberate target — the conduct a UN-mandated commission has found to be a crime against humanity.

CLAIM 2 · RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · 14 NOV 2025

"In response to Kyiv's terrorist attacks on civilian objects on Russian territory."

Russian MoD statement, 14 Nov 2025, via VZGLYAD (Hub translation); Censor.NET
vz.ru/news/2025/11/14/1373777.html

SELF-INCRIMINATING: A REPRISAL IS NOT A LAWFUL GROUND FOR ATTACK

Evidence A

Reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited (Additional Protocol I, arts. 51(6), 52(1)). The ministry named no military advantage that any target in Kyiv offered. The Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General: 'Attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law' (14 Nov 2025).

What the claim concedes: That the strike was chosen as retaliation, not for the military advantage of a specific target.

Sources: Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 · Air Force of Ukraine via Interfax-Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 · Kyiv City Military Administration via Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrinform, 14–15 Nov 2025 · UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025 · UN Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026

FACT-CHECK · HISTORICAL 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
Targets	'Facilities of the military-industrial complex and the energy facilities that support their work'	27 residential buildings in six districts; a hospital, a school, heating mains	Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 (RU); KCMA, 14 Nov 2025; State Emergency Service (B)
Reason	'In response to Kyiv's terrorist attacks on civilian objects on Russian territory'	Reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited	Russian MoD via VZGLYAD (RU); AP I arts. 51(6), 52(1)
Casualties	Not mentioned	7 killed; at least 36 injured, two of them children aged 7 and 10	Kyiv City Military Administration, 14–15 Nov 2025 (B)
Weapons	'High-precision long-range' weapons, Kinzhal missiles, strike drones	430 drones and 19 missiles: Kinzhal, Zircon, Iskander-K/Kalibr, Iskander-M/KN-23	Air Force of Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 (B)
UN view	—	Attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure violate international humanitarian law; energy attacks a crime against humanity	UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025; Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026 (A)

FAIR TO SAY

The ministry's statement covered the whole night's strikes on Ukraine; the Hub does not assess other sites it may have meant. The verdicts concern Kyiv.

By the Air Force's account most damage came from the debris of downed drones and missiles, with direct hits as well; the debris fell because the weapons were launched. Injured figures rose from 24 (early 14 Nov) to 36 (15 Nov). There is no UN-verified casualty count for this strike.

The Russian statement is quoted in the Hub's English translation of the ministry's Telegram text as published by VZGLYAD; words in square brackets are the Hub's.

Sources: Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 · Air Force of Ukraine via Interfax-Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 · Kyiv City Military Administration via Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrinform, 14–15 Nov 2025 · UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025 · UN Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026

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FACT-CHECK · HISTORICAL 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

Established (treaty text): attacks must be limited to military objectives (Additional Protocol I, art. 52(2)); civilians and civilian objects must not be attacked (arts. 51(2), 52(1)); reprisals against them are prohibited (arts. 51(6), 52(1)).

Established (treaty text): indiscriminate attacks are prohibited (AP I, art. 51(4)); in case of doubt a house or other dwelling is presumed civilian (art. 52(3)); all feasible precautions must be taken (art. 57).

Established (finding of a UN-mandated body): Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure are the war crime of intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects and the crime against humanity of other inhumane acts, carried out under a state policy (Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026) — a finding on the campaign, not on this strike.

Pattern: OHCHR recorded five large-scale combined attacks on energy facilities in November 2025 (12 Dec 2025); the UN Spokesperson spoke of 'the ongoing pattern of massive civilian harm caused by such strikes during the cold winter months' (14 Nov 2025).

Position: the Prosecutor General's Office investigates the strike as a war crime (Art. 438 CCU). The Hub's inference: at least an indiscriminate attack on residential districts — pending an investigation.

LINES TO TAKE

1. "Moscow said it struck energy facilities. In Kyiv, the heat went off and seven people died."
2. "27 residential buildings hit. Russia named no target in any of them."
3. "The UN Commission of Inquiry calls these energy attacks a crime against humanity. Russia announced one."

Q&A

"Energy facilities that support defence industry are legitimate targets."	The UN Commission of Inquiry found that Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure are a war crime and a crime against humanity, carried out under a state policy (A/81/440). In Kyiv the record shows residential buildings and heating mains hit.
"The damage was caused by Ukrainian air defence."	The Air Force says most damage came from the debris of downed Russian drones and missiles, with direct hits as well. The weapons were Russian, and Russia's own ministry claimed the strike.
"It was a response to Ukrainian attacks on Russia."	Reprisals against civilians and civilian objects are prohibited (AP I, arts. 51(6), 52(1)). Whatever the motive, distinction and precautions apply to every strike.

WHAT WE ASK

Security Council and General Assembly members: cite the Commission of Inquiry's finding (A/81/440) whenever Russia calls energy strikes legitimate · states: fund winter repairs to heat and power networks, supply ballistic-missile interceptors, and sanction the producers and suppliers of Shahed-type drones and Iskander and Kinzhal missiles · support the investigation of the strike on Kyiv of 14 November 2025.

Sources: Russian MoD via VZGLYAD, 14 Nov 2025 · Air Force of Ukraine via Interfax-Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 · Kyiv City Military Administration via Ukrainska Pravda and Ukrinform, 14–15 Nov 2025 · UN Spokesperson, 14 Nov 2025 · UN Commission of Inquiry, A/81/440, Oct 2026

FACT-CHECK · HISTORICAL 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

VZGLYAD (Russian Ministry of Defence)	Russian Armed Forces carried out a massive retaliation strike on Ukraine's defence-industry facilities (in Russian), 14 Nov 2025 https://vz.ru/news/2025/11/14/1373777.html	RU
Censor.NET (Russian Ministry of Defence)	The Russian Ministry of Defence has invented a reason for a massive strike on Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 https://censor.net/en/news/3585052/the-russian-ministry-of-defence-has-invented-a-reason-for-a-massive-strike-on-ukraine	C
Interfax-Ukraine (Air Force of Ukraine)	419 out of 449 enemy targets shot down/suppressed: missile hits, 23 attack UAVs recorded at 13 locations – Air Force, 14 Nov 2025 https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/1120538-amp.html	B
RBC-Ukraine (Air Force of Ukraine)	Zircons, Kalibrs and Kinzhals: what Russia launched overnight, 14 Nov 2025 https://newsukraine.rbc.ua/news/zircons-kalibrs-and-kinzhals-what-russia-1763110894.html	B
Ukrainska Pravda (Kyiv City Military Administration)	Six people killed and 35 injured in Russian strike on Kyiv – photos, 14 Nov 2025 https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2025/11/14/8007250	B
Ukrainska Pravda (Kyiv City Military Administration)	Death toll after Russia's attack on Kyiv rises: elderly woman dies in hospital, 15 Nov 2025 https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2025/11/15/8007416	B
Ukrinform (Kyiv City Military Administration)	Death toll from Russian attack in Kyiv climbs to seven, 15 Nov 2025 https://www.ukrinform.net/amp/rubric-ato/4059026-death-toll-from-russian-attack-in-kyiv-climbs-to-seven.html	B
Censor.NET (Kyiv City Military Administration, Mayor)	Massive Russian attack on Kyiv on the night of 14 November: casualties and extensive damage, 14 Nov 2025 https://censor.net/en/news/3584994/massive-russian-attack-on-kyiv-on-the-night-of-14-november-casualties-and-extensive-damage	B
Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine	Russia again killed civilians: four dead and dozens injured, 14 Nov 2025 https://en.gp.gov.ua/en/posts/rf-znovu-vbila-mirnix-meskanciv-cetvero-zagiblix-i-desyatki-poranenix	B
UNifeed (Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General)	UN / Ukraine strikes, 14 Nov 2025 https://media.un.org/unifeed/en/asset/d350/d3500720	A
APA (Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General)	Statement by the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General on the strikes on Ukraine, 14 Nov 2025 (descriptive title) https://en.apa.az/foreign-policy/un-secretary-general-condemns-missile-strike-on-azerbaijani-embassy-in-ukraine-483688	A
UN News (UN Humanitarian Coordinator, UNICEF)	Ukraine: UN condemns latest deadly attack targeting civilians in Kyiv, 14 Nov 2025 https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/11/1166367	A
Interfax-Ukraine (UN Commission of Inquiry)	UN Commission of Inquiry: Russian attacks on energy infrastructure are crimes against humanity, 26 Oct 2026 https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/1226289.html	A
UNN (UN Commission of Inquiry)	UN recognized Russia's attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure as war crimes and crimes against humanity, 27 Oct 2026 https://unn.ua/en/news/the-un-recognized-russias-attacks-on-ukraines-energy-infrastructure-as-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity	A
UNN (OHCHR/HRMMU)	226 civilians killed in November — UN, 12 Dec 2025 https://unn.ua/en/news/the-number-of-war-casualties-in-ukraine-increased-by-27percent-this-year-with-226-civilians-killed-in-november-un	A

METHOD

The claims are taken from the Russian Ministry of Defence statement of 14 Nov 2025 as published by VZGLYAD from the ministry's Telegram channel, and quoted by Censor.NET. Translations and words in square brackets are the Hub's.

They are checked against the Air Force of Ukraine, the Kyiv City Military Administration, the State Emergency Service and the Prosecutor General (B), UN statements and the Commission of Inquiry (A), and the treaty texts cited.

No images of the dead are used. Casualty figures are given as reported, with dates; where sources differ, both are shown.

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