

5

civilians killed at the Kyiv TV tower on 1 Mar 2022, all of them passers-by; 5 injured in the first count, 6 in the later charge sheet B

State Emergency Service, 1 Mar 2022, 18:00 (via LB.ua); Office of the Prosecutor General and SSU, Aug 2025

40

broadcasting stations in Ukraine affected by the war A

ITU, activities under Council Resolution 1408 (accessed 29 Oct 2026)

US\$2.48 bn

direct damage to Ukraine's telecom, digital and media sector; US\$2.69 bn in losses A

Fifth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (World Bank, UN, European Commission, Government of Ukraine), Feb 2026, via ITU

2

Russian commanders charged in absentia with ordering the strike: the commander of long-range aviation and the commander of the 121st Heavy Bomber Aviation Regiment B

Office of the Prosecutor General and SSU, Aug 2025

L'ESSENTIEL

Russia named the target itself. The stated aim was to stop 'information attacks' — broadcasting and communications — not to gain a military advantage on the battlefield.

The warning did not protect the people killed. A general call on a city of millions to leave homes near 'retransmitting hubs' was followed the same day by a strike that killed five passers-by beside a Holocaust memorial site.

Une partie d'une tendance. ITU counts 40 broadcasting stations affected by the war; the Kharkiv TV tower was brought down by a missile on 22 Apr 2024 (Al Jazeera, 22 Apr 2024).

THE 2 CLAIMS

Russian Ministry of Defence · 1 Mar 2022	“For the purpose of foiling information attacks against Russia, strikes with high-precision weapons will be carried out against the Security Service of Ukraine's technological facilities and the 72nd main center of psycho...”	Self-incriminating: the stated aim is not a lawful ground for attack
Russian Ministry of Defence · 1 Mar 2022	“We urge Ukrainian citizens who are enlisted by Ukrainian nationalists to stage provocations against Russia, as well as Kyiv residents who live near the retransmitting hubs, to leave their homes.”	Contredit par les faits

CE QUE NOUS DEMANDONS

ITU members: weigh the record of attacks on Ukraine's broadcasting and telecommunications in the Council elections at PP-26 (Doha, Nov 2026) · ITU: keep the damage assessment of Ukraine's broadcasting network current under Resolution 1408 · states: support the prosecution of those who ordered the strike on the Kyiv TV tower.

QUI L'A DIT, OÙ ET À QUI

Où chaque affirmation a été formulée, par qui, comment les autres participants ont répondu et ce que les déclarations ont passé sous silence.

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LE CONTEXTE ET LE DOSSIER

Contexte	Sixth day of the full-scale invasion; Russian forces advancing on Kyiv from the north and north-west
Où l'affirmation a été faite	Statement of the Russian Ministry of Defence, 1 Mar 2022, carried by TASS and Interfax

LES INTERVENANTS

Ministère russe de la Défense	Statement of 1 Mar 2022 (reported by TASS and Interfax)	Announced 'high-precision' strikes on 'technological facilities' of the Security Service of Ukraine and the 72nd main centre of psychological and information operations in Kyiv 'for the purpose of foiling information attacks against Russia'
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CE QU'ONT DIT LES AUTRES

ITU Council	Resolution 1408: assistance to Ukraine for rebuilding 'its damaged and destroyed telecommunications and television infrastructure'.
UNESCO	Condemned the attack that affected the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial in Kyiv (March 2022).
Ukraine	Notices of suspicion in absentia to two Russian commanders for ordering the strike (Aug 2025).

CE QUE LES DÉCLARATIONS ONT PASSÉ SOUS SILENCE

- That the Kyiv TV tower stands next to the Babyn Yar memorial site, where Nazi forces murdered nearly 34,000 Jews in September 1941.
- That disrupting broadcasting or 'propaganda' does not by itself offer the 'definite military advantage' that makes an object a lawful target.

COMMENT LE RÉCIT CIRCULE

The statement was carried by Russian state news agencies TASS and Interfax on the afternoon of 1 March 2022 and relayed worldwide as a warning to Kyiv residents. It named no specific site; the TV tower was hit the same day.

Sources : Interfax and TASS, 1 Mar 2022 · LB.ua (State Emergency Service), 1 Mar 2022 · NPR, 1 Mar 2022 · CPJ, 2 Mar 2022 · Office of the Prosecutor General and SSU, Aug 2025 · ITU, Council Resolution 1408 activities · RDNA5, Feb 2026 · ICTY, Final Report to the Prosecutor on the NATO bombing campaign, 2000 · The Art Newspaper (UNESCO), 4 Mar 2022 · Al Jazeera, 22 Apr 2024

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AFFIRMATION, DOSSIER, CONCESSION

Chaque affirmation telle que formulée, avec la date, le lieu et un lien ; le dossier auquel elle se heurte, avec le niveau des éléments de preuve ; et ce qu'elle concède. Les mots entre crochets sont ceux du Hub.

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CLAIM 1 · RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · 1 MAR 2022

“For the purpose of foiling information attacks against Russia, strikes with high-precision weapons will be carried out against the Security Service of Ukraine's technological facilities and the 72nd main center of psychological and information operations in Kyiv.”

Interfax, 1 Mar 2022; TASS, 1 Mar 2022
interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/74903

CLAIM 2 · RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · 1 MAR 2022

“We urge Ukrainian citizens who are enlisted by Ukrainian nationalists to stage provocations against Russia, as well as Kyiv residents who live near the retransmitting hubs, to leave their homes.”

Interfax, 1 Mar 2022; TASS, 1 Mar 2022
tass.com/defense/1414199

SELF-INCRIMINATING: THE STATED AIM IS NOT A LAWFUL GROUND FOR ATTACK

Preuves

The aim Russia gave is to stop information, not to gain a military advantage. The ICTY committee that reviewed NATO's 1999 strike on Serbian state television concluded that disrupting government propaganda is unlikely to offer the 'concrete and direct' military advantage required, and that a strike justified by its propaganda purpose alone 'might well be questioned' (Final Report to the Prosecutor, 2000, para. 76). Additional Protocol I limits attacks to objects whose destruction offers 'a definite military advantage' (art. 52(2)).

Ce que l'affirmation concède : That broadcasting and communications in Kyiv were chosen as targets because of what they transmitted.

CONTREDIT PAR LES FAITS

Preuves

B

At about 17:10 the same day missiles struck the Kyiv TV tower in Shevchenkivskyi district. The State Emergency Service counted 5 killed and 5 injured as of 18:00, all passers-by (LB.ua, 1 Mar 2022); the charge sheet of August 2025 gives 5 killed and 6 injured, all civilians, and damage to the tower's equipment, vehicles and a sports complex (Office of the Prosecutor General). Among the dead was Yevhenii Sakun, a camera operator for the LIVE channel (CPJ, 2 Mar 2022). Television channels went off air for a time (Ministry of Internal Affairs, via NPR).

Ce que l'affirmation concède : That Russia expected people near the target and struck anyway; a general warning does not lift the duty to spare civilians (Additional Protocol I, art. 51(8)).

Sources : Interfax and TASS, 1 Mar 2022 · LB.ua (State Emergency Service), 1 Mar 2022 · NPR, 1 Mar 2022 · CPJ, 2 Mar 2022 · Office of the Prosecutor General and SSU, Aug 2025 · ITU, Council Resolution 1408 activities · RDNA5, Feb 2026 · ICTY, Final Report to the Prosecutor on the NATO bombing campaign, 2000 · The Art Newspaper (UNESCO), 4 Mar 2022 · Al Jazeera, 22 Apr 2024

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CE QUE DIT LA RUSSIE, CE QUE MONTRENT LES FAITS

Chaque ligne confronte une déclaration russe à la constatation d'un organe mandaté ou, à défaut, d'une enquête indépendante. Le niveau de chaque source est indiqué.

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LE CONSTAT			
QUESTION	CE QUE DIT LA RUSSIE	CE QUE MONTRENT LES FAITS	SOURCE
Purpose of the strike	'Foiling information attacks against Russia'	Broadcasting and communications infrastructure in Kyiv; the TV tower was hit the same day	Russian MoD via Interfax and TASS, 1 Mar 2022 (RU); LB.ua, 1 Mar 2022 (C)
Precision	'High-precision weapons'	5 passers-by killed and 5–6 injured beside the tower and the Babyn Yar memorial site	State Emergency Service, 1 Mar 2022 (B); Office of the Prosecutor General, Aug 2025 (B)
Who was killed	Non mentionné	Five civilians, among them LIVE channel camera operator Yevhenii Sakun	CPJ, 2 Mar 2022 (C); National Union of Journalists of Ukraine via CPJ
Damage to broadcasting nationwide	Non mentionné	40 broadcasting stations affected by the war; US\$2.48 bn direct damage to the telecom, digital and media sector	ITU; RDNA5, Feb 2026 (A)
Memorial site	Non mentionné	UNESCO condemned the attack that affected the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial	UNESCO via The Art Newspaper, 4 Mar 2022 (A via C)

POUR ÊTRE JUSTE

The Russian statement also named facilities of the Security Service of Ukraine and a military information-operations centre; the Hub does not assess whether any such facility was at the TV tower. The verdict concerns the aim Russia stated and the civilians killed.

Casualty figures differ by source and date: 5 injured in the State Emergency Service count on the evening of 1 Mar 2022, 6 injured in the prosecutors' notice of August 2025. The charges are allegations; no court has ruled.

The ICTY committee report is an expert review of a different case (NATO, 1999), not a judgment; the Hub cites it for the legal test, not as a finding on Kyiv.

Sources : Interfax and TASS, 1 Mar 2022 · LB.ua (State Emergency Service), 1 Mar 2022 · NPR, 1 Mar 2022 · CPJ, 2 Mar 2022 · Office of the Prosecutor General and SSU, Aug 2025 · ITU, Council Resolution 1408 activities · RDNA5, Feb 2026 · ICTY, Final Report to the Prosecutor on the NATO bombing campaign, 2000 · The Art Newspaper (UNESCO), 4 Mar 2022 · Al Jazeera, 22 Apr 2024



ÉTABLI, TENDANCE, POSITION

Ce que les organes mandatés ont établi, ce que les faits révèlent comme tendance et ce qui relève d'une position — en les maintenant distincts. Viennent ensuite les éléments de langage et les questions à prévoir.

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LE DROIT

Établi (texte conventionnel) : attacks must be limited to military objectives — objects that make 'an effective contribution to military action' and whose destruction offers 'a definite military advantage' (Additional Protocol I, art. 52(2)); civilian objects must not be attacked (art. 52(1)).

Établi (texte conventionnel) : an attacker must take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian deaths (AP I, art. 57); a violation of these rules does not release a party from its obligations towards civilians, including under precautions (art. 51(8)). Journalists are civilians and are protected as such (art. 79).

Expert finding (another case): the committee established by the ICTY Prosecutor to review NATO's 1999 campaign found that disrupting propaganda is unlikely to offer the 'concrete and direct' military advantage required, and that an attack on a broadcaster justified by its propaganda purpose alone 'might well be questioned' (Final Report, 2000, para. 76).

Charges (allegation, not a judgment): Ukraine's Prosecutor General and SSU served notices of suspicion in absentia on the commander of Russia's long-range aviation and the commander of the 121st Heavy Bomber Aviation Regiment for ordering the strike — violation of the laws and customs of war combined with premeditated murder (Criminal Code of Ukraine, art. 438(2), art. 28(2); Aug 2025).

Position of the UN system: ITU Council Resolution 1408 directs ITU to help Ukraine rebuild 'its damaged and destroyed telecommunications and television infrastructure'.

LINES TO TAKE

- "Russia said why it struck: 'to thwart information attacks'. That is a reason to silence a city, not a military objective."
- "A warning to a city of millions to leave homes near transmitters is not a precaution. Five passers-by died the same day."
- "Forty broadcasting stations affected — the Kyiv TV tower was the first, not the last."
- "Members of the ITU are electing its Council: the record of strikes on Ukraine's broadcasting is part of the file."

QUESTIONS-RÉPONSES

"The tower was used for military communications."

Russia's own statement gave a different reason: 'information attacks'. A dual-use object can be a target only if its destruction offers a definite military advantage and the expected civilian harm is not excessive (AP I, arts. 52(2), 51(5)(b)); five passers-by were killed.

"Residents were warned."

The warning named no site and asked people across Kyiv to leave homes near 'retransmitting hubs' on the day of the strike. A warning does not lift the duty to take precautions and spare civilians (AP I, arts. 51(8), 57).

"Ukraine used television for propaganda."

Broadcasting that supports a war effort is not in itself a lawful ground for attack; the ICTY review found that disrupting propaganda is unlikely to offer the required military advantage (Final Report, 2000, para. 76).

CE QUE NOUS DEMANDONS

ITU members: weigh the record of attacks on Ukraine's broadcasting and telecommunications in the Council elections at PP-26 (Doha, Nov 2026) · ITU: keep the damage assessment of Ukraine's broadcasting network current under Resolution 1408 · states: support the prosecution of those who ordered the strike on the Kyiv TV tower.

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SOURCES ET MÉTHODE

D'OÙ VIENT CHAQUE LIGNE

Toutes les sources ont été vérifiées le 21 octobre 2026. Les déclarations russes sont présentées comme la position examinée, et non comme des éléments de preuve.

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SOURCES		
Interfax (Russian Ministry of Defence)	Russian Defense Ministry statement on strikes in Kyiv, 1 Mar 2022 https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/74903/	RU
TASS (Russian Ministry of Defence)	Russian Defense Ministry warns about strikes being prepared on military sites in Kiev, 1 Mar 2022 https://tass.com/defense/1414199	RU
LB.ua (State Emergency Service)	Five killed, five injured in missile strike on Kyiv TV tower, 1 Mar 2022 https://en.lb.ua/news/2022/03/01/9676_five_killed_five_injured_missile.html	B
NPR	Russia bombards a Kyiv TV tower and the Babyn Yar Holocaust memorial site, 1 Mar 2022 https://www.npr.org/2022/03/01/1083733323/russia-bombards-a-kyiv-tv-tower-and-the-babyn-yar-holocaust-memorial-site	C
Committee to Protect Journalists	Ukrainian camera operator Yevhenii Sakun killed in Russian shelling of Kyiv TV tower, 2 Mar 2022 https://cpj.org/2022/03/ukrainian-camera-operator-yevhenii-sakun-killed-in-russian-shelling-of-kyiv-tv-tower/	C
Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine	Notices of suspicion to a Russian general and his subordinate who ordered the missile strike on the Kyiv TV tower in March 2022 https://en.gp.gov.ua/en/posts/prokuratura-ta-sbu-zaocno-povidomili-pro-pidozri-rosiiskomu-generalu-ta-iogo-pidleglomu-yaki-nakazali-zavdati-raketnii-udar-po-kiyivskii-televezi-u-berezni-2022-roku	B
Service de sécurité de l'Ukraine	SSU serves notice of suspicion in absentia to Russian general and colonel who commanded missile strike on Kyiv TV tower, Aug 2025 https://ssu.gov.ua/en/novyny/sbu-zaocno-povidomya-pro-pidozru-heneralu-ta-polkovnyku-armii-rf-yaki-komanduvaly-raketnym-udarom-po-kiyivskii-t-elevezhi	B
International Telecommunication Union	Activities related to ITU Council Resolution 1408 on Ukraine (incl. RDNA5 figures, Feb 2026) https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Projects/2022/Council%20Resolution%20on%20Ukraine%20-%20Coordination%20and%20Implementation/Council-Resolution-on-Ukraine---Coordination-and-Implementation.aspx	A
International Telecommunication Union	Council Resolution 1408 — Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector https://www.itu.int/en/council/Documents/ResDec/Council-RES-1408-e.pdf	A
ICTY, Office of the Prosecutor	Final Report to the Prosecutor by the Committee Established to Review the NATO Bombing Campaign against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, 2000, para. 76 (extract) https://sites.duke.edu/lawfire/files/2023/07/ExtractFinalReportProsecutor.pdf	Expert review; legal test
The Art Newspaper (UNESCO)	Unesco 'gravely concerned' about damage to Ukrainian cultural heritage, 4 Mar 2022 https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/03/04/unesco-gravely-concerned-about-damage-to-ukrainian-cultural-heritage	A
Al Jazeera	Ukraine's Zelenskyy says Russian strike collapsed Kharkiv TV tower, 22 Apr 2024 https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/22/ukraines-zelenskyy-says-russian-strike-collapsed-kharkiv-tv-tower	C

MÉTHODE

The claims are taken from the Russian Ministry of Defence statement of 1 Mar 2022 as carried in English by Interfax and TASS. Words in square brackets are the Hub's.

They are checked against Ukrainian official casualty counts (B), the prosecutors' notice of suspicion (B, an allegation), ITU figures on the telecom and broadcasting sector (A) and the treaty texts cited. The ICTY committee report is cited for the legal test only.

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

Niveaux : **A** — organes mandatés par l'ONU, juridictions et organisations internationales (HCDH/HRMMU, Commission d'enquête, CPI, CEDH, AIEA, OSCE, OIAC, documents du Conseil de sécurité) ; **B** — organes officiels ukrainiens, avec la mention « selon l'Ukraine » ; **C** — enquêteurs et médias indépendants ; **RU** — déclarations officielles russes, la position examinée. Les niveaux ne sont jamais combinés dans un même chiffre.

Sources : voir le tableau ci-dessus

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