



6 May 2021

Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine¹

April 2021

From 1 to 30 April 2021, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 17 conflict-related civilian casualties: three killed (one man and two boys) and 14 injured (ten men, two women and two boys), a 70 per cent increase compared with March 2021.

One man was killed and one man was injured by shelling in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and one man was injured by SALW² fire in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region.

Mine-related incidents³ and ERW handling⁴ caused 13 civilian casualties (one killed and 12 injured): one boy and two men were injured in the Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, one man and two women were injured in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and one boy was killed and five men and one boy were injured in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'.

One boy was killed by an unidentified explosive in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

March 2021

From 1 to 31 March 2021, OHCHR recorded ten conflict-related civilian casualties: five killed (all men) and five injured (four men and one woman).

One man was killed by small arms fire in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

Mine-related incidents and ERW caused nine civilian casualties (four killed and five injured) two men were killed, and one man and one woman were injured in mine-related incidents or by ERW handling in the Government-controlled territory; and two men were killed and three were injured as a result of ERW handling in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

February 2021

From 1 to 28 February 2021, OHCHR recorded ten conflict-related civilian casualties: four killed (two men, one boy, and one girl) and six injured (four men and two women).

Shelling and small arms fire caused three civilian casualties (one killed and two injured): one man was killed by small arms fire in an escalation of force incident in the Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and two men were injured (by shelling and by small arms fire) in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

Mine-related incidents and ERW handling resulted in seven civilian casualties (three killed and four injured): one man was killed in a mine-related incident in the Government-controlled part of Luhansk region, and one man was injured in a mine-related incident in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'. Handling of hand grenades killed two children (one girl and one boy), and injured two women in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and injured one man in the Government-controlled part of Donetsk region.

¹ OHCHR documents civilian casualties by consulting a broad range of sources and types of information, which are evaluated for credibility and reliability. This update is based on information that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) collected through interviews with victims and their relatives; witnesses; analysis of corroborating material confidentially shared with HRMMU; official records; open-source documents, photo and video materials; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; public reports of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities and local authorities; and other relevant and credible material. In some instances, corroboration may take weeks or months before conclusions can be drawn. This may mean that conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised as more information becomes available and numbers may change as new information emerges over time.

² Small arms and light weapons.

³ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by mines (antipersonnel or anti-vehicle) or explosive devices triggered in the same way, such as booby traps, or by ERW (explosive remnants of war) that are inadvertently detonated by unsuspecting civilians.

⁴ Victims of ERW handling manipulate with an ERW for a certain period of time and take additional efforts to make it detonate (for instance, by trying to dismantle it), or were near those, who manipulated an ERW.

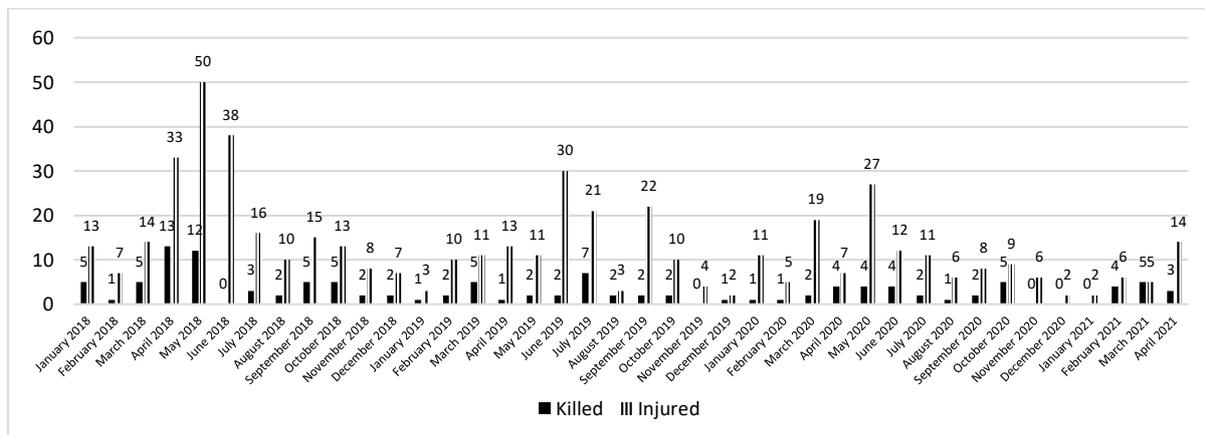
January 2021

From 1 to 31 January 2021, OHCHR recorded two conflict-related civilian casualties: a boy was injured as a result of ERW handling in the Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and a man was injured as a result of small arms fire in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

Total civilian casualties in 2021

From 1 January to 30 April 2021, OHCHR recorded 39 civilian casualties in total (12 killed and 27 injured), a 22 per cent increase compared with preceding four months, from September to December 2020, when 32 civilian casualties (seven killed and 25 injured) were recorded, and a 22 per cent decrease compared with the same period of 2020, from January to April, when 50 civilian casualties (eight killed and 42 injured) were recorded. Average monthly civilian casualties from 1 January to 30 April 2021 have been among the lowest for the entire conflict period.

Total civilian casualties from 1 January 2018 to 30 April 2021, per month

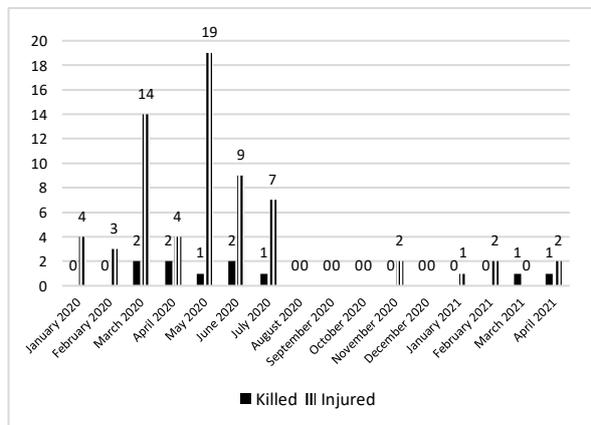


Civilian casualties resulting from active hostilities in 2021

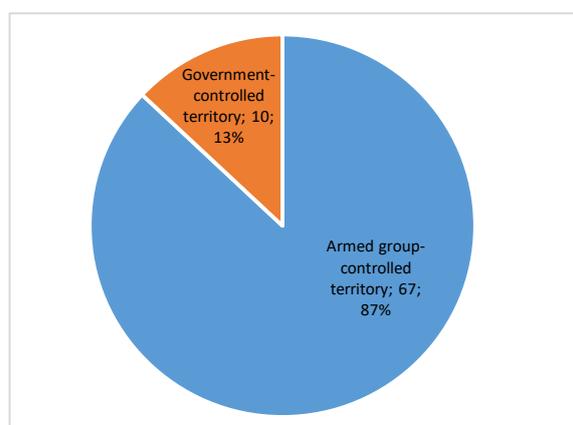
From 1 January to 30 April 2021, civilian casualties that resulted from active hostilities, i.e. from shelling and SALW fire, comprised two killed and five injured (18 per cent of the total during that period). Two civilians were killed and four were injured in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and one civilian was injured in the Government-controlled part of Donetsk region.

This is a considerable increase compared with the period from 27 July to 31 December 2020⁵, during which three civilian casualties (all injured) were caused by active hostilities, but considerably lower compared with the period from 1 January to 30 April 2020 during which 29 civilian casualties (four killed and 25 injured) were recorded.

Civilian casualties caused by active hostilities, from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, per month



Civilian casualties caused by active hostilities, from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, per territory of control

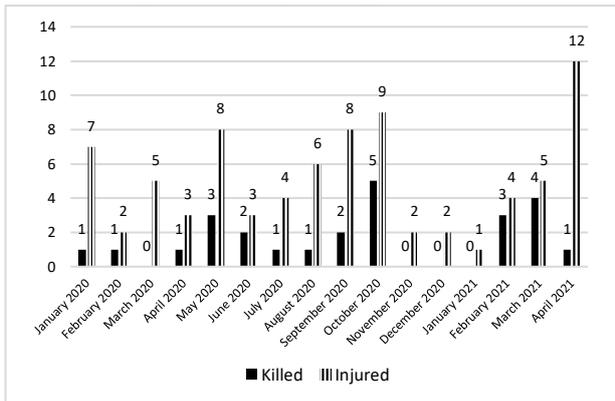


Civilian casualties resulting from mine-related incidents and ERW handling in 2021

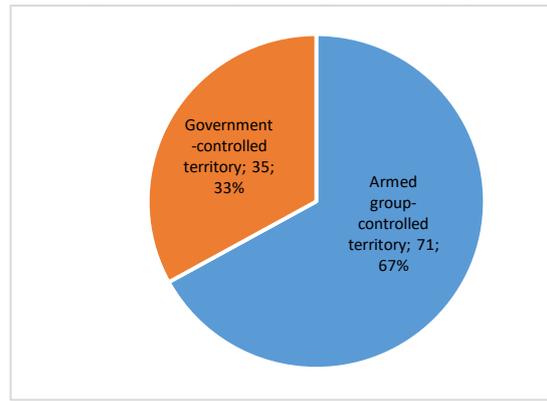
⁵ Following the agreement reached by the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk on 22 July 2020, the Joint Forces Operation of Ukraine and armed groups of self-proclaimed 'republics' issued and enacted orders on measures to strengthen the ceasefire from midnight on 27 July 2020. The package of additional measures aimed to make the ceasefire comprehensive, sustainable and unlimited.

From 1 January to 30 April 2021, civilian casualties resulting from mine-related incidents and ERW handling comprised eight killed and 22 injured, comprising 77 per cent of all civilian casualties recorded during that period⁶. This is a seven per cent increase compared with preceding four months, from September to December 2020, when 28 such casualties were recorded (seven killed and 21 injured), and a 50 per cent increase compared with the same period of 2020, from January to April, during which 20 such casualties were recorded (three killed and 17 injured). Of 106 civilian casualties resulting from mine-related incidents and ERW handling from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, more than a half (56) resulted from ERW handling (mostly handling of hand grenades).

Civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW handling, from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, per month

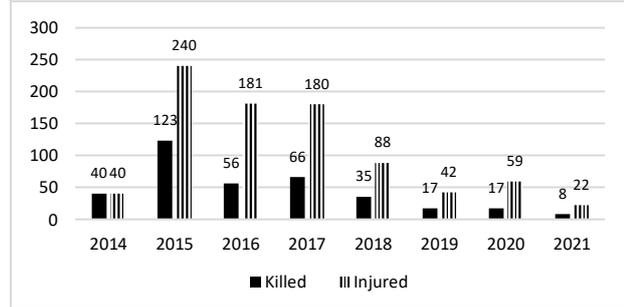


Civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW handling, from 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2021, per territory of control



During the entire conflict period, from 14 April 2014 to 30 April 2021, OHCHR recorded 1,214 civilian casualties caused by mines, ERW and explosions of military depots: 362 killed (249 men, 67 women, two adults whose sex is unknown, 42 boys, and two girls) and 852 injured (479 men, 188 women, 39 adults whose sex is unknown, 120 boys and 26 girls). They comprise approximately ten per cent of total conflict-related civilian casualties.

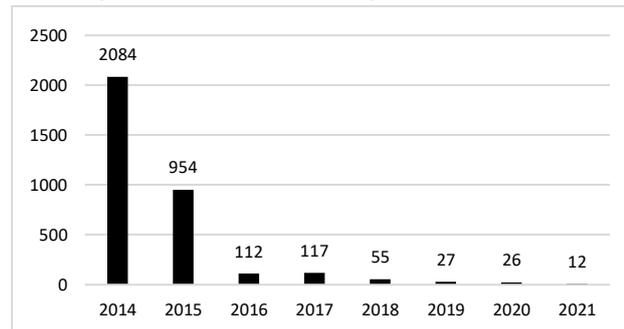
Civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW handling, from 2014 to 2021



Total conflict-related civilian casualties

During the entire conflict period, from 14 April 2014 to 30 April 2021, OHCHR recorded a total of 3,089 conflict-related civilian deaths (1,836 men, 1,064 women, 102 boys, 50 girls, and 37 adults whose sex is unknown). Taking into account the 298 deaths on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014, the total death toll of the conflict on civilians has reached at least 3,387. The number of injured civilians is estimated to exceed 7,000.

Total conflict-related civilian deaths, from 2014 to 2021



⁶ To compare: civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW handling comprised 51 per cent of the total in 2020, 35 in 2019, 43 in 2018, 41 in 2017 and 41 per cent in 2016.