

Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict

October 2024 update



A residential area in Kharkiv city impacted by an attack on 2 October 2024.

15 November 2024



Summary

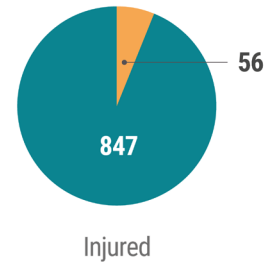
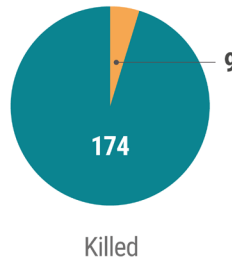
- **At least 183 civilians were killed and 903 injured in Ukraine in October.** Forty-five per cent of those killed were older than 60 years. Among the casualties, nine children were killed and 49 injured.
- **Russian armed forces intensified their long-range drone** (loitering munitions) attacks across the country, with over 1900 strikes reported throughout the month. The strikes or falling debris from the munitions' interception killed 6 civilians and injured 21, and damaged civilian property and infrastructure. Beyond the loss of life and injuries, the near-daily frequency of these attacks, paired with constant air raid sirens, significantly disrupted civilian life.
- **80 per cent of casualties in October occurred near the frontline**, particularly from aerial bombardments, artillery shelling, MLRS strikes and short-range drone attacks, with the highest numbers in Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions.
- The vast majority of civilian casualties (**94 per cent**)¹ and damage to educational and health facilities (**96 per cent**)² in October occurred in territory controlled by Ukraine.
- At least six attacks struck **vessels and seaport** infrastructure in territory controlled by Ukraine (Odesa region) in October. One attack struck a port in territory occupied by the Russian Federation (Zaporizhzhia region).

Civilian casualties October 2024³

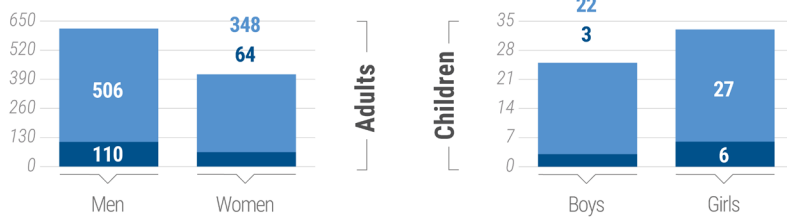
Total civilian casualties **1,086** [**183** Killed **903** Injured]

1. By territory where they occurred

 controlled by the Government
 occupied by the Russian Federation



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Attacks damaging educational and health facilities October 2024



Drone attack in Kyiv on 25 October 2024.

Representative incidents

- In October, short-range drone attacks killed 17 civilians (12 men and 5 women), and injured 127 (84 men, 41 women, and 2 boys) in areas of Kherson region controlled by Ukraine.
- Almost daily aerial bombardments of Kharkiv City killed at least 8 civilians (3 men, 3 women and 2 boys) and injured 88 (45 men, 39 women, 3 boys and 1 girl).
- Multiple aerial bombardments and a missile attack in Zaporizhzhia City killed at least three men and a woman, and injured 77 civilians (38 men, 31 women, and 8 girls).
- Six attacks on several vessels and port infrastructure in Odesa region killed at least 15 civilians (12 men, 2 women and a girl) and injured 37 (27 men and 10 women), including port workers and members of ship crews.



"We live in danger 24 hours per day 7 days a week".

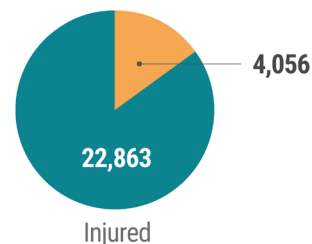
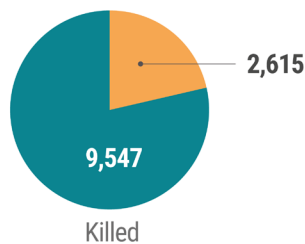
- a woman in Dnipropetrovsk region less than 10 kilometers from the frontline

Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁵

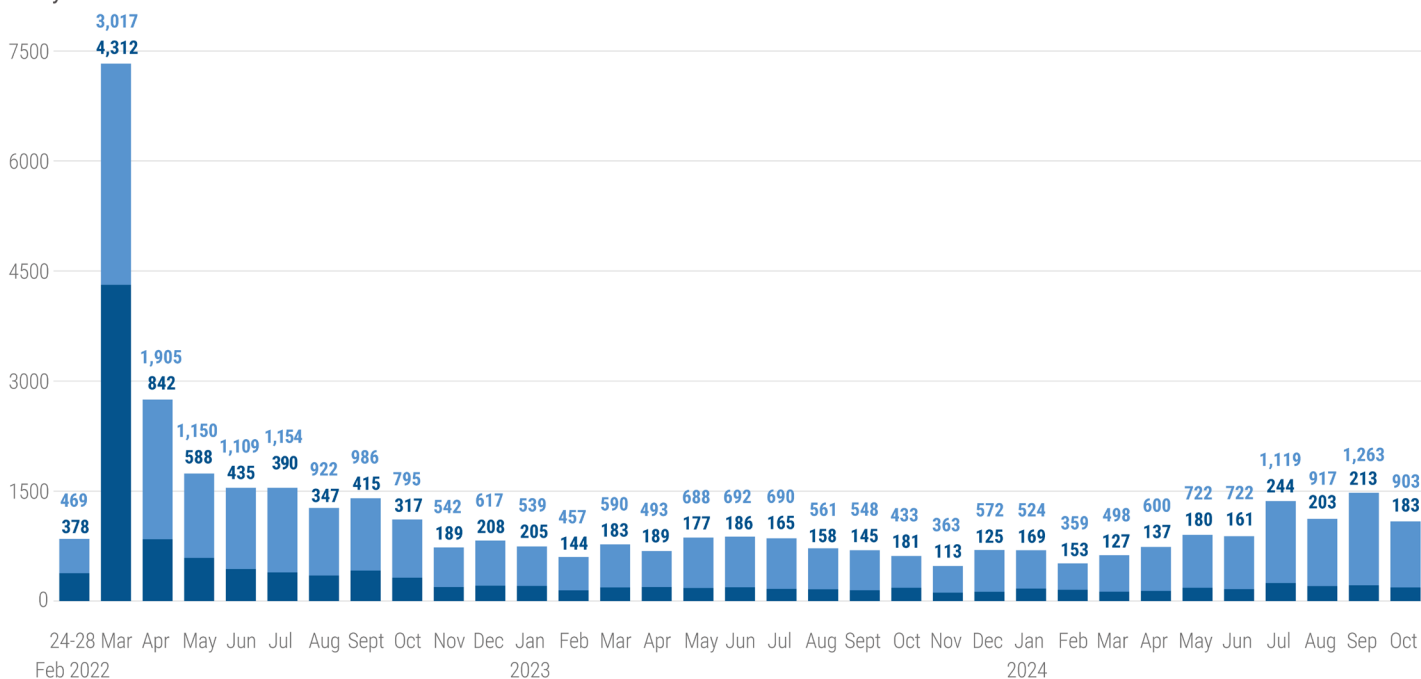
Total civilian casualties **39,081** { **12,162** Killed **26,919** Injured

1. By territory where they occurred

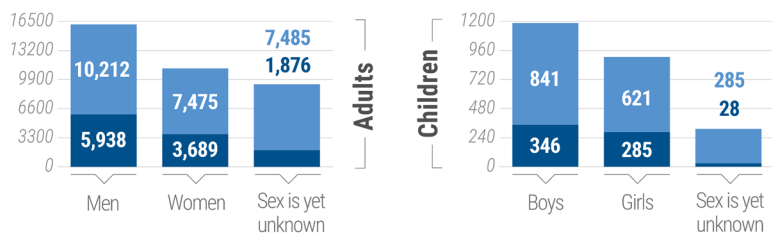
 controlled by the Government
 occupied by the Russian Federation



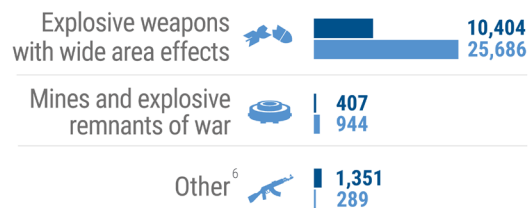
2. By month





3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident

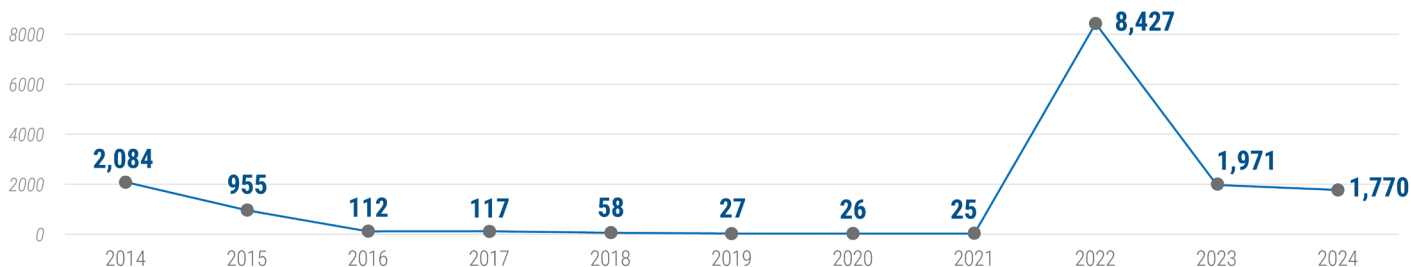


Attacks damaging educational and health facilities since 24 February 2022

 Medical facilities
 Educational facilities

Destruction **75** **324**
 Damage **587** **1,172**

Civilians killed since 2014





The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

HRMMU collects information about civilian harm from conflict-related violence from a wide range of sources, including through interviews with victims, their relatives, and witnesses; open-source information, including photo and video material; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities and local authorities.

All sources and information are assessed for their relevance and credibility and cross-checked against other information. In some instances, corroboration takes time. This means that as more information becomes available, conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised and numbers may change.

Statistics presented in the current update are based on individual records of civilian harm where the “reasonable grounds to believe” standard of proof was met, namely where, based on a body of verified information, an ordinarily prudent observer would have reasonable

grounds to believe that the harm took place as described. HRMMU refers to information that meets this criterion as “verified.” When HRMMU has not yet verified a casualty or reported an individual case of death or injury, it does not necessarily mean that HRMMU has established the individual as an active member of an armed group or as someone who directly participated in hostilities. In many cases, the non-designation of an individual as a civilian reflects a lack of information, rather than a confirmation the individual’s status as a combatant.

The actual extent of civilian harm – both casualties and infrastructure damage – is likely considerably higher as many reports of civilian harm, particularly from the period immediately after the full-scale armed attack of 24 February 2022, have not been possible to verify due to the large number of reports and the lack of access to relevant areas. The number of civilian casualties is likely particularly undercounted in cities such as Mariupol (Donetsk region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there was protracted intensive fighting at the start of the armed attack in 2022.

¹ 1,021 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 65 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² 80 in territory controlled by Ukraine and 4 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

³ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

⁴ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by shelling from artillery, tanks and multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS), by cruise and ballistic missiles (air, sea and land-based), and by air strikes, including loitering munitions and other unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

⁵ An increase in total figures in this update compared with the previous update is not only due to casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure that occurred in the reporting period as OHCHR also continues to corroborate cases that occurred before the reporting period.

⁶ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by fire from small arms and light weapons, including as a result of crossfire, sniper fire, escalation of force incidents (cases in which military opened fire on civilians whom they perceived as a threat), and wilful killings, as well as road accidents involving either military vehicles or civilian vehicles driven by military in the area of hostilities.