



Mass Atrocities during Russian Aggression against Ukraine in 2022: Scale and Peculiarities

Olena Shostko

Ukrainian Center of Legal Studies (Kharkiv, Ukraine)

Fulbright Scholar (2013–2014).



WHY IS RUSSIA INVADING UKRAINE?

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has spared no effort to promote the false historical narrative that Ukrainians and Russians constitute “**one nation**”. Putin fervently wishes to reassemble the countries of the former Soviet Union and reverse what he calls the “**greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century.**” His ultimate goal is to ‘right the wrongs’, as he sees them, of the fall of the USSR in the Cold War, thirty years ago. Apparently, he wishes to change the entire European security architecture which will come at a huge cost to the West. His recent articles and speeches on the subject have reportedly become compulsory reading for the Russian military.
- Source: <https://war.ukraine.ua/why-is-russia-invading-ukraine/>

Mass Atrocity

- *Mass atrocities include the international crimes :*
- *genocide*
- *war crimes*
- *crimes against humanity.*

War crimes' are serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed against a protected person or object (civilians, combatants placed out of combat such as in detention or being wounded, or those who have put down their arms, or civilian and cultural objects), or through the use of unlawful weapons or means of warfare.

Source: <https://euaa.europa.eu/country-guidance-syria/621-crime-against-peace-war-crime-or-crime-against-humanity>

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (art. 8)

- *'war crimes' means:*
 - *a. Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, (namely, any of the following acts against persons or property protected under the provisions of the relevant Geneva Convention)*
 - *b. Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law.*
- *<https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/war-crimes.shtml>*

War crimes

Acts against Persons or Property

- *willful killing;*
- *torture or inhuman treatment;*
- *rape;*
- *willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;*
- *extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;*

Registered Crimes of Aggression and War Crimes in Ukraine

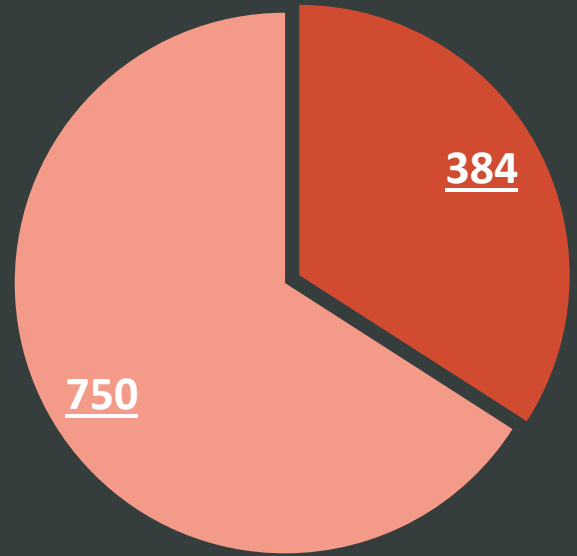
✓ **33 916**

(as of September 16, 2022)

Source: <https://www.gp.gov.ua>

War Crimes against children (as of September 16, 2022)

CHILDREN



■ killed ■ injured

Source:
<https://www.gp.gov.ua/>

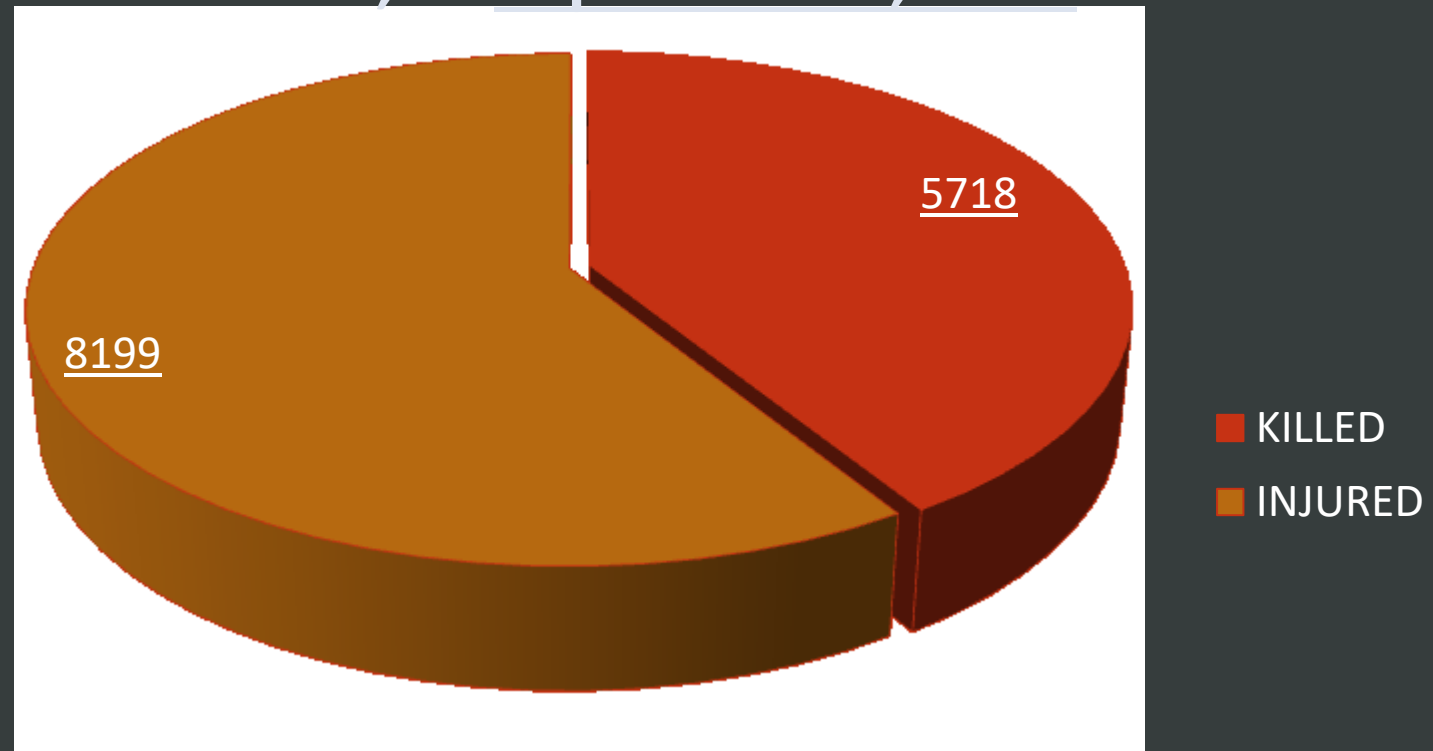
Missing children

- According to the data of the National police of Ukraine, as of September 6, 2022, 236 children are missing.

These figures are not final, as work is underway to establish victims in places of active hostilities, in temporarily captured and liberated territories.

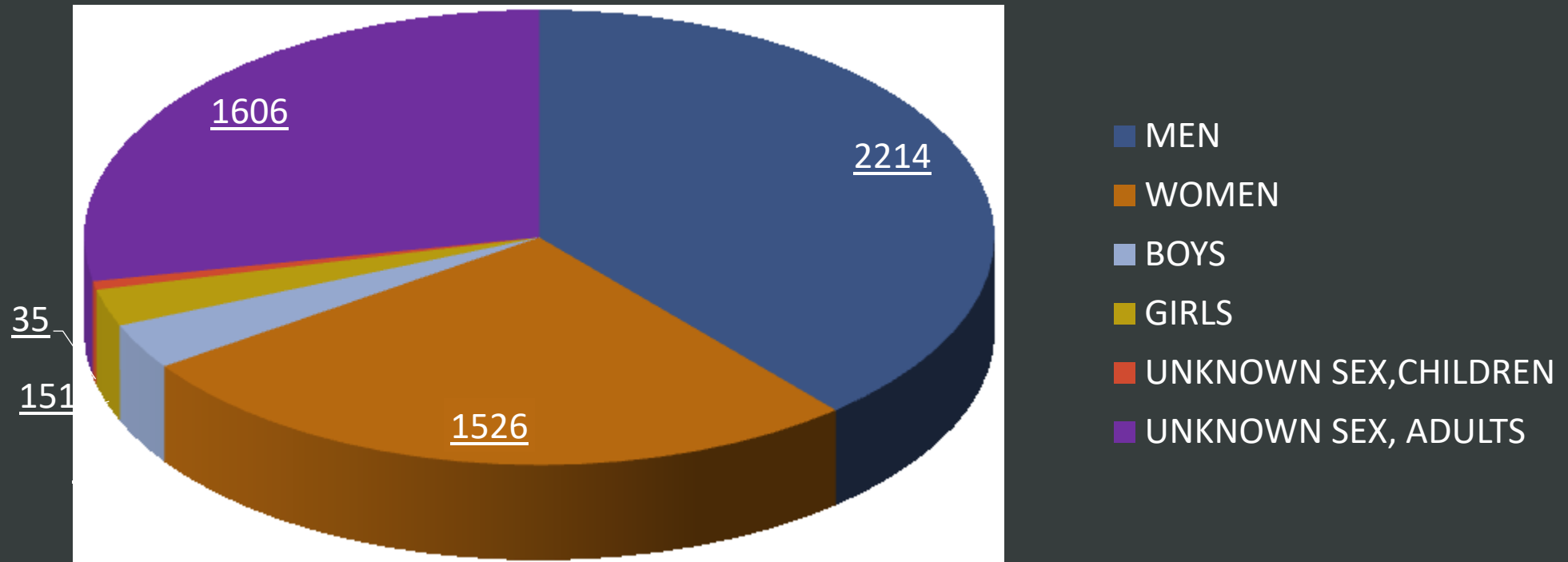
- *Source: <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/>*

Civilian Casualties in Ukraine, OHCHR data, to September 4, 2022

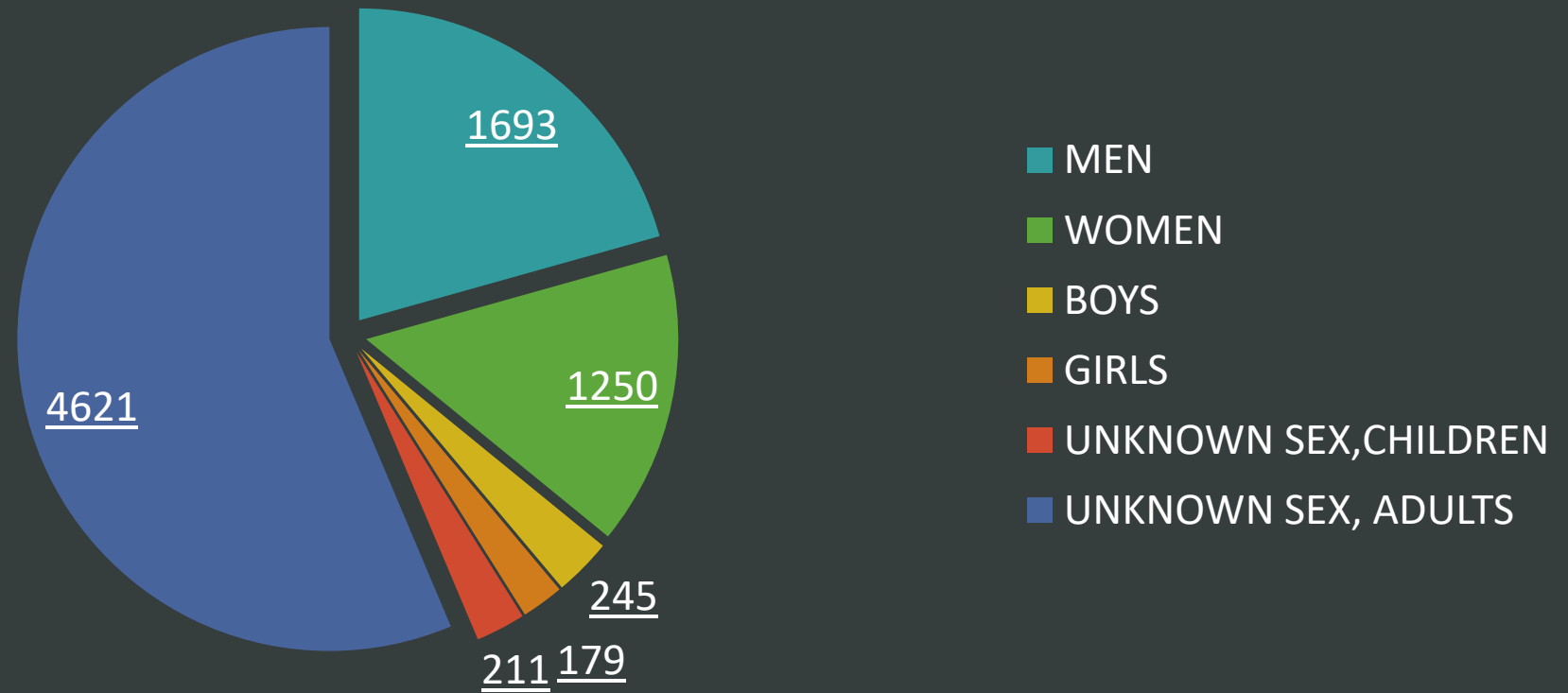


<https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/09/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-5-september-2022>

CIVILIANS KILLED (OHCHR data, to September 7)



CIVILIANS INJURED (OHCHR data, to September 7)



Willful Killing

Mariupol

More than 20,000 civilians had been killed (Mariupol Mayor Vadym Boychenko, 17 May, 2022)

Among them: At least 300 innocent civilians were killed in the russian bombing of Drama Theatre on March 25, 2022

Vinnytsia

Russian troops fired missiles at the center of city: 27 people died, three of them children (14 July,2022)

Source: <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/ukrainealert/putins-mariupol-massacre-is-one-the-worst-war-crimes-of-the-21st-century/>

Mariupol, 2022





Bucha Horror, 2022



https://ep00.epimg.net/elpais/imagenes/2022/04/04/album/1649068530_946039_1649069659_album_normal.jpg

A mass grave containing 445 bodies was found in the liberated city of Iziium of the Kharkiv region.



Kharkiv and the region

More than 1,000 civilians killed, twice as many have been injured (on 7 August, 2022)

- Among those killed were 52 children.
- The youngest victim of the aggressor's actions was a 5-month-old baby.
- "Every day, the Russian army launches dozens of rockets in the Kharkiv region and fires artillery at populated areas. More than 7,000 buildings in the city and region, 2,800 high-rise buildings, almost 1,800 residential buildings, more than 500 educational institutions and 150 hospitals **have already been completely or partially destroyed.**"
Source:https://khar.gp.gov.ua/ua/golovna_novuna.html?_m=publication_s&_c=view&_t=rec&id=317540

After the shelling of Chuhuyiv, (Kharkiv region), July 16, 2022



photo by Nakypilo

The main thoroughfare in Kharkiv - Sumska Street, 1 March, 2022



<https://credo.pro/pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Via-pixie1811-Twitter-700x525.jpeg>

Kharkiv, 20 July, 2022



https://pravdatut.ua/images/products/105494/105494_1.webp

Violation of International Humanitarian Law

- Human Rights Watch documented eight unlawful incidents of attacks that killed 12 civilians, wounded 26 others, and damaged at least 5 hospital buildings – just a fraction of attacks reported in the Kharkiv region.
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/16/ukraine-unlawful-russian-attacks-kharkiv>

Torture or Inhuman Treatment

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) has accused Russia of perpetrating torture, unlawful detentions, and forcible disappearances of civilians in southern Ukraine's occupied Kherson and Zaporizhzhya regions.
- Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/07/22/ukraine-torture-disappearances-occupied-south>

Torture Case

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- On **March 18, 2022**, Russians detained journalist Yevhen Bal in his own home near Mariupol. The occupiers found several photos of the man with the Ukrainian military during the search, which led to further torture.

The Russians held Yevhen captive for three days. He was released, **severely beaten**, and he died of his injuries.



- <https://war.ukraine.ua/crimes/79-year-old-journalist-yevhen-bal-died-after-being-captured-and-tortured-by-the-occupiers/>

Mass murder of Ukrainian POWs in temporarily occupied Olenivka, 29 July, 2022



Ukrainian Ombudsman (September, 3, 2022)

- The actual public execution of a serviceman of the Armed Forces of Ukraine was planned in advance.
- The explosion was inside, it was not a rocket. Because, first of all, it is easy to check the arrival of the rocket by satellite. Secondly, the rocket leaves the funnel and shatters the room inside with fragments. And here there was an explosion of a projectile, which gives a very high temperature. The bodies are charred.
- https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/ombudsman_lubinets_interview/6729554.html

The International Committee of the Red Cross

- The International Committee of the Red Cross has not yet gained access to the place of death of Ukrainian prisoners of war in the occupied Olenivka colony.
- Source: <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3562265-cervonij-hrest-uze-misac-ne-dopuskaut-do-misca-tragedii-v-olenivci.html>

Rape

The most hidden crime: “people who had been raped or sexually abused in the course of this conflict — most are women and girls, but many are men and boys — are often reluctant to speak even in confidence with a therapist, let alone go to the police or other investigators and provide a detailed account”, Nadiia Volchenska, a 32-year-old Kyiv psychologist.

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2022-08-21/russias-most-hidden-crime-in-ukraine-war-rape>

- June 23, 2022, the first trial of a Russian soldier charged with rape.
- <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2022-06-23/ukraine-to-begin-first-trial-of-russian-soldier-accused-of-rape>

Rape, UN data

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has received 124 reports of alleged acts of conflict-related sexual violence across Ukraine (July, 2022)
- Source: <https://theowp.org/un-says-sexual-violence-is-pervasive-in-war-torn-ukraine/>

Extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly



<https://decentralization.gov.ua/news/14680#gallery-9>

- Military targets were hit 73 times less often than civilians.
- M.Podolyak, Adviser to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine
- Source:
https://twitter.com/Podolyak_M/status/1559183185317187586?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1559183185317187586%7Ctwgr%5Edc9c010dc92ae8d1bc043cd23de1183583a26ac7%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fuv.ua%2Fukr%2Fworld%2Fgeopolitics%2Fpodolyak-vidpoviv-skilki-udariv-rosiya-zavdala-po-civilnih-ob-yektah-novini-ukrajini-50263340.html

Kharkiv, Saltivka district, March, 2022



On March 20, Russian shelling killed at least five civilians in Kharkiv, including one child

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Downtown Kharkiv, 6 September, 2022



<https://i.lb.ua/112/04/631728a435742.jpeg>

Ukrainian civilians crowd under a destroyed bridge as they try to flee Irpin on the outskirts of Kyiv on March, 5, 2022



Emilio Morenatti (AP)

The Chaplyne railway station in Dnipropetrovsk region, Independence day (24 August, 2022)

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25 people died, 31 were injured

Borodyanka, Kyiv region (AP Photo/Vadim Ghirda)

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<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-kyiv-moscow-crimea-d30d8125fcf480852757a5a2304d64c7/gallery/19ac7bb82c9e4674bb4fec0d6dba219e>

Russia dropped bombs on Borodyanka in early March



https://s.abcnews.com/images/International/borodyanka-residential-rt-ps-220303_1646317502714_hpMain_16x9_992.jpg

A destroyed apartment building in the town of Borodyanka in Kyiv Oblast, seen on April 5, 2022.



photo - Illia Rusachkov

Hospitals, other medical facilities (127 - totally destroyed, as of September, 8)



Schools and Universities

- ***2177 EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS DAMAGED
284 TOTALLY DESTROYED (AS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2022)***

- The aggressor says it is only military targets of our country that are struck. The Ministry of Education and Science has collected numerous facts and arguments to refute this statement: the Russian troops destroy schools and universities, kindergartens and orphanages.
- Source: Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. <https://saveschools.in.ua/en/>

Kharkiv School, 23 March, 2022

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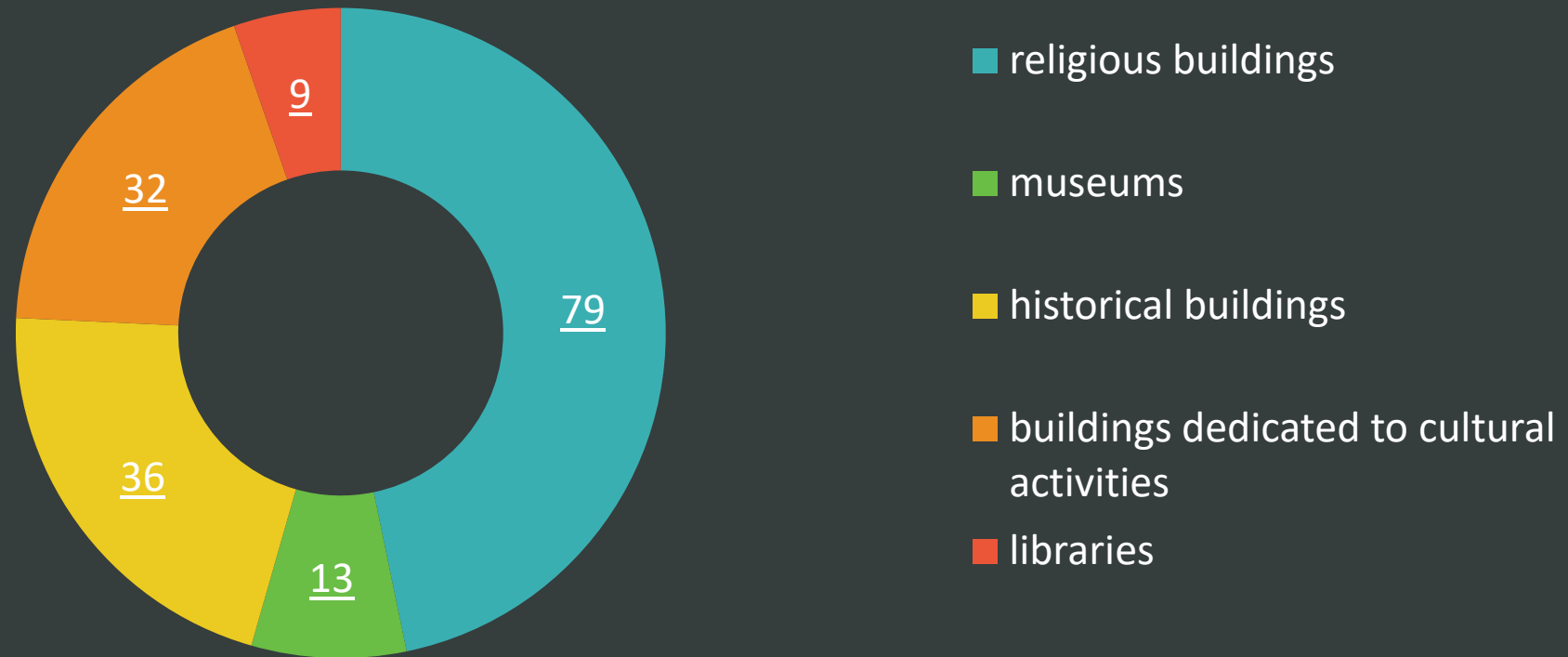


SERGEY BOBOK/AFP via Getty Images

Cultural Heritage

- As of August 3, 2022, the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy recorded 500 episodes of Russian war crimes against Ukrainian cultural heritage.
- <https://mkip.gov.ua/news/7646.html>

Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO (As of 5 September,2022)



Source: <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/damaged-cultural-sites-ukraine-verified-unesco?hub=66116>

Hryhorii Skovoroda National Museum (May 7, 2022)

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Cluster Munitions

- Russia has used at least six types of cluster munitions in Ukraine since 24 February, with both old stocks and new weapons deployed. As of 1 July 2022, The Cluster Munitions Coalition NGO members - had documented hundreds of such attacks by Russian forces in at least ten regions: Chernihiv; Dnipropetrovsk; Donetsk; Kharkiv; Kherson; Luhansk; Mykolaiv; and Odesa.

Source:

<https://khpg.org/en/1608811078?fbclid=IwAR0Kf7qAtyPLVklQfv0bQiUSKerHvBmbxiIFVfxGiyx2FhjG90CiFRyc6Q>

The forced deportations from Ukraine

- Violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and International Human Rights Law
- Since the beginning of the full-scale war, Russia has deported more than 7 thousand children from Ukraine. So far, only 51 of them have been returned (Ukrainian Ombudsman, September 3, 2022)
- https://ukrainian.voanews.com/a/ombudsman_lubinetts_interview/6729554.html

Filtration Centers

21 facilities that are forcibly detaining thousands of Ukrainians were created in the occupied territory and in Russia.

- Ukrainians have faced interrogation and even torture
- During filtering measures, the Russian military illegally collects biometric data of civilians, conducts searches, interrogations, detains, beats and tortures in order to obtain the necessary information or simply to film an interrogation for propaganda purposes.

(Dmytro Lubinets, Ombudsman, 7 September, 2022)

- Sources: <https://www.wired.com/story/satellites-show-the-alarming-extent-of-russian-detention-camps/>
- <https://bykvu.com/ua/bukvy/rosiia-filtruie-ukraintsiv-ta-bezzhalno-znyshchuie-tykh-koho-vlada-rf-vyznaie-nevypravnyomy-ombudsmen-dmytro-lubinets/>

War crime trials in Ukraine



The 21- old Russian soldier Vadim Shishimatin was sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder of an unarmed civilian.



Thank you!

- Ukraine will win the war!
- #STANDWITHUKRAINE