

Mandates of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

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5 December 2025

Excellency,

We have the honour to address you in our capacities as Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation and Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 60/8, 58/19, 54/14, 53/4, 52/4, 53/12, 60/21 and 52/7.

In this connection, we would like to bring to the attention of your Excellency's Government information we have received concerning the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022, which has resulted in severe and widespread violations of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL). A particularly concerning aspect of the conflict is the treatment of civilians detained by Russian forces in occupied territory. Detentions have reportedly been followed by enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, mock executions, and summary killings, among other human rights violations. Civilians have also faced unfair trials, incommunicado detention, and a range of other violations of their rights and dignity, which in addition to first-hand accounts is well-documented in the reports of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹ the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine,² the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation³ and other credible sources.

Special Procedures mandate holders have repeatedly raised similar concerns in previous communications, including in RUS 12/2024, dated 15 September 2025, RUS 10/2025, dated 30 July 2025, RUS 7/2024, dated 23 August 2024, and RUS 29/2023, dated 27 December 2023. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has also expressed concerns in the General Allegations.⁴ We regret that to date, your Excellency's Government has not provided a response to these communications or to the General allegations.

¹ See OHCHR report on: [Treatment of Civilians deprived of their liberty in the context of the armed attack by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, Human rights situation in Ukraine: 1 December 2024 – 31 May 2025, Human rights situation in Ukraine: 1 September – 30 November 2024.](#)

² [A/HRC/58/67, A/79/549, A/HRC/55/66.](#)

³ [A/HRC/54/54, A/HRC/57/59, A/79/508, A/HRC/60/59, A/80/382.](#)

⁴ [General Allegation](#) adopted at the 133rd session, 6-10 May 2024; [General Allegation](#) adopted at the 127th session, 9-13 May 2022.

According to the information received:

Enforced Disappearances and Arbitrary Detentions

Civilians in occupied territories have been reportedly systematically detained without justification. Enforced disappearances often occur during house raids, searches at checkpoints, or as individuals attempt to flee occupied areas. Many are targeted based on perceived affiliations with the Ukrainian Government, military, or civil society. Others are detained for expressing dissent, such as participating in protests or merely displaying Ukrainian symbols.

During these detentions, individuals are often held incommunicado, with their families receiving no information about their whereabouts or fate. This lack of acknowledgment from authorities constitutes a violation of the right to liberty and security of persons, the right to recognition as a person before the law, the prohibition of torture and other forms of inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as the absolute prohibition against enforced disappearance under IHRL and IHL.

Civilians are held incommunicado in unofficial detention sites or transferred to detention facilities in the Russian Federation. In some cases, detainees are transferred out of Ukraine to facilities in the Russian Federation. Civilians detained in northern parts of Kyiv region occupied by the Russian Federation between 24 February and 31 March 2022, have been transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Such transfers violate international prohibitions against forcible deportation of protected persons and underscore the broader patterns of abuse characterizing Russian detention practices.

In many documented cases, individuals have been detained solely for verification purposes. These detentions fall outside any formal criminal proceedings and lack procedural safeguards. Testimonies from former detainees reveal that during this unacknowledged period of deprivation of liberty, individuals are often subjected to torture to extract self-incriminating statements. These statements are later used as the main – if not sole – evidence in criminal proceedings, without courts reviewing the legality of the initial detention or the conditions under which confessions were obtained.

These practices amount to grave violations of international law. Alongside with enforced disappearance, torture, and deportation, these violations form part of a broader state policy targeting those perceived as opposing to the occupation, in breach of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Filtration Processes and Detention Facilities

A particularly concerning practice is the reported implementation of “filtration” processes in occupied territories. Civilians are reportedly subjected to invasive questioning and searches as part of a purported security process to identify individuals deemed a threat to the occupying forces. These filtration procedures allegedly often result in arbitrary detentions, with civilians being accused of

espionage, collaboration, or other unfounded offenses.

According to the reports received, detention facilities range from formal prisons to makeshift sites in basements, schools, and warehouses. Conditions in these facilities are dire. Overcrowding is common, with detainees crammed into small, unsanitary spaces. Many are denied access to sufficient food, water, and medical care, exacerbating their suffering and leading to deteriorating health conditions.

In many instances, civilians detained in occupied territories are forcibly transferred to detention facilities in Russia. These transfers are often carried out under the guise of evacuation or relocation but are, in fact, a means of removing individuals perceived as threats. Such practices violate the Geneva Conventions and constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

Torture, Ill-Treatment, Sexual Violence and Summary Executions

The use of torture and other forms of inhuman treatment has been well-documented in Russian-controlled detention facilities.⁵ Methods of torture include severe beatings, electric shocks, asphyxiation, mock executions, starvation and threats against family members. The primary purposes of these acts are to extract confessions, intimidate detainees, or punish perceived opposition to the occupation.

Psychological abuse is also reportedly prevalent. Detainees are often subjected to prolonged isolation, exposure to constant loud noises, or verbal abuse aimed at humiliating them. Such acts leave profound psychological scars on survivors, compounding their suffering even after release.

Reports of conditions in detention include overcrowding, poor sanitation, and deprivation of or inadequate food and sleep.

Reports have also documented cases of sexual torture against both men and women in detention. Female detainees are particularly vulnerable, with some subjected to rape or sexual harassment by guards. Male detainees have reported beatings and electrocution of genitals, rape and threats of rape, and other sexual violence as a form of humiliation and control. These acts constitute severe violations of torture and further highlight the vulnerability of detainees in such settings.

Mock executions are reportedly frequently used as a psychological tool to terrorize detainees. Victims are made to believe they are about to be killed, often blindfolded and placed in front of firing squads. These staged executions leave lasting emotional and psychological trauma on those subjected to them.

In addition to mock executions, there are numerous reports of unlawful killings. Civilians accused of collaborating with Ukrainian forces or opposing the occupation have been executed without trial, in violation of IHRL and IHL.

⁵ See, e.g. [A/HRC/55/52/Add.1](#), [AL RUS 10/2025](#), [AL RUS 2/2025](#), [AL RUS 29/2023](#), [AL RUS 8/2023](#).

Such killings often occur in detention facilities or during raids, with victims buried in unmarked graves or left in public areas as a warning to others.

Violation of Fair Trial Rights

Civilians detained in Russian-occupied territories reportedly rarely have access to legal representation or fair trials. Judicial proceedings, when they occur, are conducted under Russian-imposed systems that are allegedly lacking in independence or impartiality. Many detainees are charged with collaboration or resistance, often based on fabricated evidence or coerced confessions. The practice of prosecuting civilians may be a tactic used by the Russian Federation to justify their arbitrary detention by presenting them as criminals. Furthermore, such practice may hinder the prospects of their release after the cessation of active hostilities, as envisaged in Customary IHL, rule 128.

In some cases, Russian agents informed families that their loved ones had been detained for examination of the alleged assumption of their cooperation with Ukrainian intelligence or security services. In such cases, the persons are detained outside of the criminal law procedure and are therefore deprived of any procedural guarantees.

Accounts of those released from detention suggest that while detained incommunicado, their captors used various forms of torture to extract self-incriminating statements. In the meantime, Russian authorities would deny the very fact of detention and may conduct unauthorized searches of the victims' homes. At some point, when having accumulated the necessary amount of incriminating evidence, they would charge the victim with espionage or other similar crimes. Information secured in such a manner cannot be treated as evidence in court cases. In some cases, courts have disregarded victims' complaints concerning inconsistencies in the dates of their actual and recorded arrests, or circumstances thereof.

The lack of transparency in these judicial processes further undermines the rule of law. Families of detainees are often denied information about the charges or outcomes of trials, leaving them in a state of uncertainty and despair. The detainees are forced to sign documents on non-disclosure of their whereabouts to third persons, including their relatives or contracted lawyers. Such practices violate the rights to due process and a fair trial, as protected under international law.

Furthermore, in numerous cases, victims reportedly face closed trials due to review of classified documents. Not only does such practice preclude the publicity of the hearing, which ensures transparency of the proceedings, but it also limits access to such cases of lawyers, who are not authorized to work with classified documents. As a result, often families are not even aware of whether their loved ones are prosecuted or are interned as civilians.

Violations Against Specific Groups

Certain groups, such as journalists, human rights defenders, and members of minority communities, allegedly face heightened risks of detention and abuse. Journalists covering the occupation or reporting on human rights violations are often targeted for their work, with many detained under accusations of spreading “false information” or collaborating with Ukrainian authorities.

Human rights defenders, particularly those documenting violations or assisting victims, are also at significant risk. Their work is seen as a direct challenge to the occupation, making them prime targets for intimidation, detention, unlawful killings and other reprisals.

Such practices reportedly form part of a broader strategy to suppress Ukrainian identity in occupied territory. Civilians have been targeted for acts as simple as speaking Ukrainian, displaying national symbols, or teaching Ukrainian history. This suppression is accompanied by the imposition of Russian cultural, legal, and administrative systems, further alienating the local population.

In some cases, Ukrainian cultural artifacts and symbols have been removed or destroyed, while occupying authorities promote narratives that delegitimize Ukrainian statehood and identity. This systematic erasure of culture compounds the human rights violations experienced by detainees and their communities.

Broader Impacts on Families and Communities

The detention of civilians has far-reaching consequences for families and communities in occupied areas. Families of forcibly disappeared detainees face psychological and emotional suffering, exacerbated by the lack of information about their loved ones’ fate and whereabouts or well-being. In many cases, families are also reportedly subjected to harassment or intimidation by occupying forces, further isolating them from support networks.

As concerns families of Ukrainian prisoners transferred from the occupied territory to the Russian Federation, they are frequently unable to communicate with their loved ones or learn their whereabouts. The separation caused by these transfers adds another layer of harm to the civilian population in the occupied territory of Ukraine.

The broader community impact includes an atmosphere of fear and repression. Civilians are aware that they can be detained at any time, often for arbitrary reasons and/or in an arbitrary manner, leading to a climate of mistrust and insecurity. This erodes social cohesion and deepens the trauma experienced by those living under occupation.

Restrictions on Freedom of Expression, Peaceful Assembly, Association, and Movement

In addition to detentions, civilians in occupied territories face severe restrictions on their freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly, association, and movement.

Protests and demonstrations are met with violent repression, and individuals expressing dissent are often detained or punished. Civilians attempting to flee occupied areas face significant risks, including detention, harassment, and violence at checkpoints.

Efforts to document and report on human rights violations are similarly restricted. Journalists and activists attempting to share information are often detained or forced to operate clandestinely, limiting the flow of information from these regions.

Below are the stories of persons who have reportedly been arbitrarily arrested, subjected to enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention, ill-treatment, torture and/or prosecuted on dubious grounds.

1. Ruslan Abdurakhmanov, a Ukrainian national of Crimean Tatar, born on 12 February 1991, residing in Kherson region, was detained at home by Russian forces on 18 April 2022 due to his alleged membership in a Crimean Tatar battalion, which Russian authorities declared a terrorist organization. Torture, threats of sexual violence, as well as threats to his loved ones reportedly forced Mr. Abdurakhmanov to incriminate himself, which was later used by a Russian court to sentence him to a five-year prison term.

2. Serhii Akhmetov, a Ukrainian national born on 12 February 1973, was abducted by Russian soldiers from his home on 9 March 2022, in Bucha, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation, and transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Although Russian authorities confirmed his captivity through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in April 2022, they have not disclosed his place of detention, nor allowed him to communicate with his loved ones. The information on his whereabouts is only coming from other Ukrainians released from captivity. According to their testimonies, he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment throughout his detention. Mr. Akhmetov was released from captivity and repatriated to Ukraine as part of a prisoner exchange process in early October 2025.

3. Ihor Aldokhin, born on 11 August 1965, was abducted from his home on 13 April 2022, together with three other men. Although, Russian authorities confirmed his captivity through the ICRC Central Tracing Agency (CTA) in July 2022, they have not disclosed his place of detention, nor allowed him to send any letters to his loved ones. The information on his whereabouts and transfers among Russian penitentiary facilities was only coming from Ukrainians released from captivity. Mr. Aldokhin was released from captivity and repatriated to Ukraine as part of a prisoner exchange process in early October 2025.

4. Volodymyr Androsovych, a Ukrainian national born on 8 June 1960, was released from captivity and repatriated to Ukraine as part of a prisoner exchange process in early October 2025. He was in detention since 27 February 2022.

5. **Serhii Arefiev**, a Ukrainian national born on 8 September 1992, residing in Kherson, born on 8 September 1992, was abducted on 22 March 2022 from the street after a pro-Ukrainian rally in Kherson, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation, and taken to an unknown location. While in detention he was subjected enforced disappearance, incommunicado detention and severe beatings. In November 2023, a Russian court in Crimea found him guilty of espionage and sentenced him to 11 years and 6 months in prison. The court took the position of the prosecution that Mr. Arefiev was arrested on 28 March 2022, thus confirming that he was outside the protection of the law for six days.

6. **Oleksandr Babych**, a Ukrainian national born on 9 June 1968, and a mayor of Holoprystanska territorial community in Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation, was reportedly arrested by Russian forces on 28 March 2022, and taken to an unknown location. The Russian authorities have not disclosed his place of detention. The information on his whereabouts is only coming from other Ukrainian prisoners released from captivity. Mr. Babych is one of the dozens of Ukrainian local officials abducted by Russian forces for their unwillingness to cooperate with occupation administrations.

7. **Ms. Olha Baranevska**, a resident of Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation, born on 7 September 1963, went through a series of arrests by Russian forces. First, she disappeared on 15 May 2024 after being abducted by Russian special forces. On 27 June 2024, she was released and returned home; a few hours later she was arrested by police on administrative charges. She was transferred among various detention facilities until 12 August 2024, when she was formally charged with unlawful handling of weapons. Her family has limited contact with Ms. Baranevska through her lawyer.

8. **Denys Batrov**, a Ukrainian national born on 17 August 2001, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 19 March 2022 in the village of Khocheva, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. He was abducted, when together with a group of other men he stepped out of home to catch cellular signal. He was then transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Batrov relies on unverified information about his whereabouts.

9. **Viktor Bondarenko** born on 21 June 1973, is a clergyman of the Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church and a volunteer from Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region, who, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, delivered humanitarian aid to Mariupol and helped evacuate civilians from Mariupol to Zaporizhzhia. Due to his frequent travel across the frontline, Mr. Bondarenko came to the attention of Russian forces, who abducted him from his home in April 2022. Twelve days later, he was released; however, in October 2022, the occupying authorities reportedly opened a criminal case against him, preventing him from leaving the occupied territory. On 7 May 2024, Mr. Bondarenko was reportedly abducted again by three men in black uniforms and forced into a car. His whereabouts remained unknown until 29 May 2024, when it was confirmed that he was being held in a detention facility in Melitopol, accused of terrorism and sabotage. According to media reports, in April 2025, an appeal court upheld

the previously issued sentence to 22 years in high security prison; the process was reportedly marred by serious violations of his fair trial rights, including the use of self-incriminating statements extracted through torture and ill-treatment. His whereabouts remain unknown.

10. Vasyl Dmytryk, a Ukrainian national born on 10 January 1952, was detained by Russian soldiers on 17 March 2022 in the village of Blystavytsia, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Although he is a civilian, he was mistaken for a fire spotter.

11. Serhii Dorokhov, a Ukrainian national born on 15 August 1982, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 16 March 2022, from his house in Irpin, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. He was transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Russian Ministry of Defense confirmed his detention for resisting “special military operation”. His family only received one letter from him, however, according to Ukrainians released from captivity, Mr. Dorokhov never received anything in response, despite numerous letters sent by his loved ones through the ICRC. According to the testimonies of the released detainees, Mr. Dorokhov and other detainees, were subjected to torture and ill-treatment and were poorly fed.

12. Ihor Horlov, born on 6 July 1987, and **Andrii Holubiev**, born on 18 November 1977, both Ukrainian nationals were detained by agents of the Russian Federal Security Service on 6 April 2022 in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. While in detention Messrs. Horlov and Holubiev were subjected to severe torture and ill-treatment aiming at securing their “confessions”, which were then used against them during subsequent prosecution and trials on terrorism charges. The lawyer reportedly had no contact with Mr. Horlov for a long time.

13. Oleksandr Hredzhev, a Ukrainian national born on 4 July 1992, was abducted on 9 May 2022 by Russian soldiers from his home in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. According to unverified reports in 2023, Russian troops forced him to dig trenches in the frontline in Zaporizhzhia region. In 2024, a former prisoner reported that Mr. Hredzhev was being detained in SIZO-2 in Taganrog, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

14. Andrii Harasymenko, a Ukrainian national born on 5 April 1977, was abducted on 25 March 2022, by Russian forces from home in the village of Novoukrainske, Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Batrov relies on unverified information on his whereabouts. According to persons released from captivity, while in detention, Mr. Harasymenko was severely beaten. Mr. Harasymenko was released from captivity and repatriated to Ukraine as part of a prisoner exchange process in early October 2025.

15. Mykola Harbar, a Ukrainian national born on 5 October 1969, was abducted by Russian forces on 17 August 2022, from his home in the village of Novokairy, Kherson region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. He

was detained allegedly for transmission of information about Russian military equipment to Ukrainian forces. The search activities undertaken by persons associated with Mr. Harbar both in the Government-controlled territory of Ukraine and in the Russian-occupied territory of Kherson region, have not yielded any results. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

16. Vladyslav Hnedago, a Ukrainian national born on 10 February 1996, was abducted on 9 May 2022 by Russian soldiers from his home in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities have never officially informed his loved ones or provided any information about his health condition and whereabouts. However, his loved ones saw Mr. Hnedago in a video filmed by Russian propagandists. In that video Mr. Hnedago is seen with signs of ill-treatment and torture – his nose is broken and there are multiple scars on face. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

17. Yaroslav Hrokh, a Ukrainian national born on 30 January 1997, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 20 March 2022 from his home in the village of Tolokun, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. A few days later he was transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. His family only received two short letters. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Hrokh relies on unverified information about his whereabouts. His family is not aware if Mr. Hrokh has a lawyer or if he is being prosecuted or detained without any legal justification.

18. Rustem Huhuryk, a Ukrainian national born on 30 November 1971, was detained by Russian forces on 27 March 2022 at the Chonhar checkpoint. He was sentenced to 8 years and six months in high security prison on charges of his membership in the Crimean Tatar battalion, which Russian authorities declared a terrorist organization. The investigation and trial were marred with procedural violations, pointed out by Mr. Huhuryk's lawyer, which however, were disregarded by Russian courts. After prolonged imprisonment, Mr. Huhuryk's health has significantly deteriorated.

19. Yevhen Humeniuk, a Ukrainian national born on 5 October 1979, was detained by Russian forces on 26 March 2022, when he attempted to leave the Russian-occupied territory of the Zaporizhzhia region of Ukraine. Russian soldiers reportedly stopped him at their checkpoint, beat him and took him to an unknown location. Three years later, his family has no communication with him. The information on his whereabouts is only coming from Ukrainians released from captivity. Mr. Humeniuk has not been convicted in the Russian Federation, and the legal grounds for his detention are unclear.

20. Dmytro Ivanov and Serhii Ivanov, both Ukrainian nationals were abducted from their home in Kharkiv region on 25 March 2022. On that day, Russian soldiers conducted a house search, beat both men, blindfolded and took them to their headquarters in the village of Vesele, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. They were interrogated for about five hours until the FSB agents forced them into a car and transferred them to the village of Lyptsi, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. The

brothers sent a few letters to their loved ones informing of their whereabouts. Dmytro Ivanov was released from captivity and repatriated to Ukraine as part of a prisoner exchange process in early October 2025, while Serhii Ivanov remains in detention.

21. Serhii Kabakov, born on 18 January 1974, **Yurii Kaiov**, born on 6 June 1983, **Serhii Ofitserov**, born on 12 May 1976, and **Kostiantyn Rieznik**, born 2 July 1964, all Ukrainian nationals, and five other men were detained on terrorism charges by Russian forces on 21 July 2022, in Kherson, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to the indictment the men have surveilled the officials of the occupation administration and Russian soldiers. Russian court disregarded the men's complaints that they had in fact been detained before August 2022, and during weeks had been subjected to severe torture and ill-treatment. The State-appointed lawyers have reportedly not been interested in defending the men and demanded payment for their services. The men remain in detention without regular direct communication with their families.

22. Roman Kisil, born on 23 November 1991, **Ramiz Musaiev**, born on 14 September 1997, and **Bohdan Shcherba**, born on 16 October 1990, all Ukrainian nationals, disappeared on 26 February 2022, after Russian soldiers stopped their car on the road between the villages of Lubianka and Ozera, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. The victims were initially detained in Hostomel airport and then transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. The Russian authorities confirmed their detention for resisting the "special military operation", however, did not disclose their whereabouts, nor did they allow them to communicate with their loved ones. The information on their whereabouts is only coming from Ukrainians released from captivity.

23. Oleksandr Koltsyn, a Ukrainian national born on 28 February 1984, was detained by Russian soldiers on 26 March 2022, on the road between the villages of Petrivka and Stara Rudnia, Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. It happened when Russian soldiers moving in a military truck towards their checkpoint spotted the three men and chased them down. Russian authorities confirmed the detention of Mr. Koltsyn through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His whereabouts only became known in January 2023, when a prisoner released from detention told his family of what happened to Mr. Koltsyn. After being detained he was taken to an abandoned farm in Vyshneve, Chernihiv region, then transferred to the SIZO in Kursk, and a month later – to the penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation. Mr. Koltsyn was reportedly regularly subjected to severe beatings, which in combination with malnutrition resulted in loss of weight and deterioration of his health. In summer 2023, according to unverified reports, he was transferred to an unknown location. The family is not aware if he is under investigation or facing trial. The family has not received any messages from him.

24. Leonid Kondratskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 1 January 1959, was abducted by Russian forces on 7 October 2022, from his home in Nova

Kakhovka, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. While in detention Mr. Kondratskyi was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. In the absence of the confirmation of his detention from Russian authorities, his family relies on information received from Ukrainians released from captivity. According to unverified reports, Mr. Kondratskyi might be prosecuted on terrorism charges.

25. Oleksandr Kostiuk, a Ukrainian national born on 9 January 1977, was abducted on 5 March 2022 by Russian soldiers near the village of Dzerkalka, Sumy region, from where he was supposed to evacuate someone, as the village was in the vicinity of the front line. Based on the testimonies of other Ukrainians released from captivity, his family managed to trace his whereabouts until late May 2022. However, there has been no news from him since then. His family does not know if he is even alive.

26. Bohdan Kostyrenko, a Ukrainian national born on 5 June 1980, and a war veteran, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 14 March 2022 from his home in Bucha, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. In the absence of direct communication with him, the family of Mr. Kostyrenko relies on unverified information on his fate or whereabouts. From Ukrainians released from captivity, his family learned that Russian soldiers transferred him to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus, and that he has been subjected to torture and ill-treatment throughout his detention.

27. Oleh Kotov, a Ukrainian national born on 13 September 1966, and a police pensioner, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 23 April 2022 from his home in the village of Kozacha Lopan, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. The first news of his fate and whereabouts came some two weeks later from a local resident, who saw him in detention at the Russian border crossing point, where he was severely tortured. The Russian authorities only confirmed his detention in summer 2023; however, they obstructed his communication with the family.

28. Fedir Kozak, a Ukrainian national born on 20 April 1976, and a veteran of the ‘anti-terrorist operation’ in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, was detained on 5 April 2022, at the Russian checkpoint in the village of Vynohradne, when leaving the besieged Mariupol, Donetsk region. His family saw his video appeal to the Ukrainian authorities to be exchanged. His family is not aware if Mr. Kozak is under investigation or facing trial; he does not have a lawyer.

29. Ivan Kozlov, a Ukrainian national born on 7 July 1988, was detained on 21 April 2022, by agents of the Russian Federal Security Service at their checkpoint in Armiansk, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as he was evacuating his family from Kherson, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. He was detained incommunicado for almost a year, until espionage charges were formally pressed, and he got access to a lawyer. Throughout his detention he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and suffered from poor detention conditions and lack of medical care. In late 2023, he was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

30. Vadym Kriukov, a Ukrainian national born on 23 June 1988, was detained by Russian soldiers on 29 March 2022 in the village of Vilkhivka, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. The Russian authorities confirmed his captivity, however, did not disclose his place of detention. In September 2023, his family received two letters, which Mr. Kriukov wrote in August 2022. They have had no other communication with him.

31. Oleksandr Kurdin, a Ukrainian national born on 5 June 1986, was detained by Russian soldiers on 22 March 2022 in Bucha, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation, and on 25 March 2022, transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Russian authorities have confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA more than a year after, however, did not disclose his place of detention. In April 2025 a released prisoner has reported that Oleksandr was detained in the penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Kurdin relies on unverified information about his whereabouts.

32. Roman Levytskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 28 August 1981, was detained by Russian soldiers on 18 March 2022 in the village of Mykolaivka, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian soldiers transferred Mr. Levytskyi to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Levytskyi relies on unverified information about his whereabouts. According to Ukrainians released from captivity, throughout his detention, Mr. Levytskyi has been subjected to beatings and stress positions.

33. Volodymyr Lukashenko, a Ukrainian national born on 29 September 1987, disappeared on 12 November 2023, after being abducted by Russian forces from his home in Rubizhne, Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Lukashenko relies on unverified information about his fate or whereabouts, which they first discovered half a year after his disappearance.

34. Vasyl Maleta, born on 13 August 1991, and **Artur Sirenko**, born on 18 January 1989, disappeared on 2 April 2022 after being abducted by Russian soldiers from the street in Balakliia, Karkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to witnesses, Russian soldiers stopped the car, dragged both men out, beat them and drove them to an unknown location. There has been no news about their fate or whereabouts ever since.

35. Oleh Morochkovskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 27 August 1992, disappeared on 3 August 2022 after being detained by Russian forces at their checkpoint in Enerhodar, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. Two weeks later, Russian media broadcasted a staged video of arrests of Ukrainian spotters, terrorists and saboteurs, featuring Mr. Morochkovskyi. Despite search activities carried out by his family, he was nowhere to be found until December 2022, when Russian forces brought him home for a house search. Following a trial behind closed doors, Mr. Morochkovskyi was sentenced to 11 years in prison on espionage charges.

36. Ihor Mykhalchuk, a Ukrainian national born on 13 April 1984, disappeared on 11 March 2022, after being detained by Russian soldiers near the village of Mazhuhivka, Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. In summer 2022, Russian authorities confirmed his detention, however, there has been no information on his fate or whereabouts ever since.

37. Damian Omelianenko,⁶ a Ukrainian national born on 14 July 2001, residing in Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia region, was first detained by Russian security forces on 24 May 2022. Nearly a month after his enforced disappearance, he was released on 22 June, showing signs of torture, including broken ribs and severe weight loss, and was prohibited from leaving Berdiansk. On 16 November 2022, he was reportedly abducted again by the FSB. The following day, his mother received threats and was coerced into recording a “confession” video admitting to organizing terrorist acts. On 9 February 2023, Russian authorities publicly released the video as well as reported on the detention of three Berdiansk residents, including Mr. Omelianenko, accusing them of involvement in assassinations and sabotage attacks against Russian-installed officials in occupied Berdiansk. Despite credible allegations, the Russian authorities have not investigated his enforced disappearance, alleged torture, and other IHL and IHRL violations. Furthermore, they have reportedly coerced him into confessing to terrorism-related charges and used this confession against him in court.

38. Pavlo Orlov, a Ukrainian national born on 31 August 1973, was detained by Russian forces on 2 July 2022, at his home in the village of Mali Prokhody, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to local residents, until 5 September 2022 he was detained in the basement of a school in neighboring Strilecha (Kharkiv region), where he was tortured, and then transferred to the Russian Federation. Sometime later, Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC without disclosing his whereabouts. On the other hand, the Russian Ministry of Defense as well as the Penitentiary Service denied the detention of Mr. Orlov, raising concerns over the grounds for his detention and his legal status.

39. Ruslan Panchenko, a Ukrainian national born on 15 September 2000, was abducted by Russian soldiers from the street on 9 March 2022 in Dymyri, Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Mr. Panchenko relies on unverified information about his whereabouts. His family is not aware if any charges are pressed against Mr. Panchenko.

40. Valerii Panchuk, a Ukrainian national born on 29 October 1976, disappeared on 22 August 2022, after being abducted from home in Kakhovka, Kherson region occupied by the Russian Federation. The Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention, nor have they disclosed his whereabouts or allowed him to communicate with his loved ones. However, from other former

⁶ [AL RUS 12/2024](#).

detainees, his family learned where he was detained and that he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

41. Dmytro Pavlenko, born on 4 August 1996, and **Mykhalo Pavlenko**, born on 15 February 1975, disappeared on 13 April 2022, after being taken from their place of residence in Chuhuiv district, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Seven months later their family received a letter from Messrs. Pavlenkos, saying that they were alive, and in early 2023, the Russian authorities confirmed their detention through the ICRC. In the absence of direct communication, the family of Messrs. Pavlenkos relies on information from other Ukrainians released from captivity. Their present whereabouts remain unknown.

42. Oleksandr Pavlenko, a Ukrainian national born on 28 October 1971, disappeared on 11 July 2022, after Russian soldiers took him away from his home in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

43. Yevhenii Petlits, a Ukrainian national born on 26 July 1978, was detained by Russian soldiers on 26 March 2022 in Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. When Russian troops retreated, they took Mr. Petlits to the Russian Federation, where he is currently detained. Russian authorities confirmed his detention, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. In the absence of direct communication, the main source of news concerning Mr. Petlits are Ukrainians released from captivity, who reported that while in detention he has been systematically subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

44. Viktor Ponomarenko, a Ukrainian national born on 11 December 1994, was detained by Russian soldiers on 19 March 2022 in the village of Melekine, Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation. In response to multiple queries submitted by his loved ones more than three years after, Russian authorities have been consistently saying that they are examining his alleged participation in the armed conflict against Russian armed forces. Hence, there is no information about whether Mr. Ponomarenko is under investigation, and if yes, on what charges. He is deprived of contacts with his lawyers and his family. While in detention, Mr. Ponomarenko has been subjected to severe torture, however, Russian authorities have completely disregarded relevant reports transmitted by his family.

45. Serhii Popov, a Ukrainian national born on 6 May 1979, disappeared on 24 September 2023 after being arrested by Russian forces in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. There has been no information about him for five months during which, as his family realized later, he was detained in an unlawful detention facility and subjected to torture and ill-treatment. After his family hired a lawyer, his detention was formalized, he was charged with espionage, and was allowed to communicate with his family.

46. Ihor Protokovylo, a Ukrainian national born on 2 October 1989, was abducted by Russian forces on 19 April 2022, from home in Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. He was tortured and

subjected to ill-treatment with a view to forcing him to incriminate himself. In June 2024, more than two years after his arrest he obtained access to a lawyer, and since July 2024 he was allowed to send letters to his family. Mr. Protokovylo is under investigation into his alleged cooperation with Ukrainian military and security forces.

47. Oleksandr Rieznik, a Ukrainian national born on 28 August 1988, who participated in the “anti-terrorist operation” in Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014-2015, was abducted on 5 July 2022 by Russian forces from his home in the village of Lyptsi, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. His family later learned that he was first detained in a basement of an improvised detention facility in Strilecha, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. While in detention, he was subjected to torture and suffered from malnutrition. In the absence of direct communication with him, the family of Mr. Rieznik relies on information coming from persons released from detention.

48. Yurii Sadovskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 29 May 1971, disappeared on 16 May 2022, after being abducted by Russian soldiers from home in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. His family learned of his fate half a year later, when he called them, and before that, Russian authorities denied his detention. It is reported that he was tortured, by beatings and sexualized violence, and that the perpetrators threatened to rape his wife to secure his self-incriminating statements.

49. Hennadii Shcherban, a Belarusian citizen born on 29 February 1968, residing in Ukraine, disappeared on 16 March 2022 after being abducted by Russian forces on 16 March 2022 from his home in Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. This happened after he refused to join the Russian army. He was then transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Russian authorities eventually confirmed his detention through the ICRC, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. In the absence of direct communication with him, the family of Mr. Shcherban relies on unverified information on his health and whereabouts.

50. Oleksandr Shcherbatyi, a Ukrainian national born on 15 December 1974, disappeared on 10 March 2022 after being abducted by Russian forces from his home in the village of Shestavytsia, Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to witnesses, Russian Federal Security Service agents dragged him out of the house, beat him and took him to the Russian Federation. More than three years after, his fate and whereabouts remain unknown as Russian authorities refuse to disclose any relevant information.

51. Mykola Shcherbyna, born on 10 September 2001, and **Oleksandr Shulha**, born on 28 March 1997, were detained on 14 November 2022 by Russian forces in Novotroitsk, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. According to Russian authorities, the men are charged with espionage, however, the family is not aware if they are on trial yet. Noteworthy is that while Russian authorities confirmed their detention, the families have no

direct communication with neither Mr. Shcherbyna, nor Mr. Shulha. Instead, the authorities suggested that families reach out to the ICRC, saying they have all the information.

52. Vadym Shevchenko, a Ukrainian national born on 13 April 1996, was detained on 15 March 2022 by Russian soldiers at their checkpoint during the evacuation from Polohy, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities only confirmed his detention in December 2022, though they have not until now disclosed his place of detention. In the absence of direct communication with him, the family of Mr. Shevchenko relies on unverified information about his health and whereabouts

53. Serhii Shevchuk, a Ukrainian national born on 29 January 1997, was detained on 18 March 2022 by Russian soldiers at their checkpoint in Sumy region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities confirmed his detention on 22 April 2022, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. In June 2023, Russian authorities informed his family that Mr. Shevchuk was detained “for resisting special military operation”. They have also suggested that his family reaches out to the ICRC, which can help with transmitting letters.

54. Mykyta Shkriabin, a Ukrainian national born on 25 June 2002, and a full-time student, was abducted on 29 March 2022 by Russian soldiers from his home in Vilkhivka, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities confirmed his detention months after his apprehension, however, did not disclose his whereabouts, nor did they allow for his family to communicate with him. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation informed his family that he was going through a verification process of whether he had committed a crime. However, they did not reference any legal acts to explain or justify such verification activities concerning Mr. Shkriabin.

55. Anatolii Siryi, a Ukrainian national born on 21 December 1963, the chief of the Novoborovytskyi community in Chernihiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation, disappeared on 29 March 2022 after being abducted by Russian soldiers. A few days later they retreated from the Chernihiv region, presumably taking Mr. Siryi with them. Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention, however, according to unofficial sources, he is detained in the Russian Federation.

56. Mykhailo Slobodian, a Ukrainian national born on 27 June 1988, disappeared on 9 March 2023, after being abducted by Russian soldiers from his place of residence in the Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Despite numerous appeals, Russian authorities denied the very fact of his detention. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

57. Lina Smirnova, a Ukrainian national born on 18 April 1984, was abducted by Russian forces on 14 July 2023, from her place of residence in Rovenky, Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation. For more than half a year, Russian authorities only informed her loved ones that Ms. Smirnova

was alive, was not cooperating with the investigation, and only granted one visit to a contracted lawyer. On 21 May 2024, Russian authorities opened a criminal case on espionage charges against Ms. Smirnova. This coincided with her allegedly forced confession, which was disseminated by social media on 27 May 2024. Since June 2024, communication with Ms. Smirnova has been established.

58. Ihor Stanislavov, a Ukrainian national born on 29 August 1969, was abducted by Russian forces on 4 May 2022, from his place of residence in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. The immediate attempts of his family to locate him have not yielded any results – the law enforcement and military authorities have denied his detention. A few weeks later, a former detainee contacted Mr. Stanislavov’s family, saying that they had been detained together in various improvised detention facilities, among which detainees are moved blindfolded. He said that the detainees are subjected to various forms of torture, suffer from malnutrition and terrible detention conditions. Russian authorities confirmed Mr. Stanislavov’s detention through the ICRC one year later, on 13 May 2023. His family sent him many letters through the ICRC but never heard back. According to other people released from detention, his family learned that detainees suffered from torture and ill-treatment, lack of medical care and malnutrition, and that they have never been visited by the ICRC or other independent monitors.

59. Serhii Stroiev, a Ukrainian national born on 28 May 1990, was abducted by Russian forces on 28 April 2022 at his place of residence in Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation, and taken to an unknown location. In the first few days, the search for Mr. Stroiev was not fruitful – occupation authorities would give misleading responses, first that he was never detained, and then that he was released. Only a few days later, they informed his loved ones that Mr. Stroiev was detained by the Russian Federal Security Service on suspicion of espionage and taken to Belgorod for “reeducation”. However, formally, Russian authorities still deny his detention, and his fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

60. Serhii Sytnyk, a Ukrainian national born on 11 July 1989, was abducted together with another man by Russian soldiers on 16 March 2022 from his place of residence in Trostianets, Sumy region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to the available witness testimonies, while in detention Mr. Sytnyk has been interrogated, subjected to torture and ill-treatment, and death threats. The search activities undertaken by Mr. Sytnyk’s loved ones have not yielded any results, for the occupation authorities have denied the very fact of his detention. It was only in April 2022 that the Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC; however, his whereabouts remain unknown. His family received eight letters from Mr. Sytnyk until September 2023. He has been out of touch ever since.

61. Sergiy Tsyhipa,⁷ a Ukrainian national born on 10 August 1961, who is a journalist and civic activist, was abducted by Russian forces on 12 March 2022

⁷ [AL RUS 12/2024](#).

at their checkpoint in Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. His fate was only clarified on 22 April 2022, when Russian media published a video of his interview. He was allegedly subjected to torture and ill-treatment as part of the interrogation and securing testimonies process, which resulted in his conviction to 13 years imprisonment on espionage charges. He suffers from lack of medical care in detention and hence health deterioration.

62. Serhii Udovichenko, a Ukrainian national born on 15 November 1987, was abducted on 20 March 2022, from his place of residence in the village of Bairak, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. According to witnesses of the incident, Russian soldiers took him to an unknown location along with few other local residents. Russian soldiers did not deny the fact of his detention, nor did they share any information about what happened to him or where he was taken. Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, according to unverified reports he could be detained in SIZO-3 in Belgorod, Russian Federation.

63. Anatolii Vaskivskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 4 April 1982, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 21 March 2022, from his place of residence in Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. They forced him out of the house and publicly beat him in front of local residents. A few days later when the Russian forces retreated, Mr. Vaskivskyi along with other abductees was transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. In August 2022, his family received the only letter from Mr. Vaskivskyi which was dated April 2022. However, according to the released and repatriated detainees, Mr. Vaskivskyi never received the letters they sent in response. They have also informed that Mr. Vaskivskyi and other Ukrainians detained in the Russian Federation are subjected to ill-treatment on a regular basis. Mr. Vaskivskyi is reportedly not on trial.

64. Yevhen Volotin, a Ukrainian national born on 6 December 1984, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 26 July 2022, in the Kherson region. He has been detained in the basement of the Russian Federal Security Service in Kherson until October 2022. According to the detainees released, Mr. Volotin and others have been regularly subjected to beatings and other forms of torture and ill-treatment. After the retreat of the Russian troops from the city of Kherson, he was moved to Chaplynka, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation, where he was last seen in December 2022 when his trace was lost. Russian authorities deny the very fact of his detention. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown.

65. Volodymyr Vorovka, a Ukrainian national born on 28 April 1970, was abducted by Russian forces from his own house in the village of Tambovka, Melitopol district, Zaporizhzhia region, on 13 December 2022. The detention of Mr. Vorovka was confirmed by the ICRC and the Russian Ministry of Defense, however, as of the date of this letter, there is no official conviction or any charges pressed against him.

66. Oleksandr Yarovyi, a Ukrainian national born on 9 February 2000, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 2 March 2022, from his place of residence in

Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Until 25 March 2022, he was secretly detained in an improvised detention facility, where he was subjected to torture and ill-treated, and then transferred to the Russian Federation through the territory of Belarus. Mr. Yarovyi is reportedly not on trial.

67. Serhii Yukhnyk, a Ukrainian national born on 1 July 1996, was abducted by Russian soldiers on 27 February 2022, at their checkpoint in Velyka Bilozerka, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. His family's efforts to locate him were not fruitful as Russian soldiers would not provide any relevant information. Sometime later, they learned from a released detainee that Mr. Yukhnyk had been detained in Melitopol airport, where he was subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The family has no information on the legal grounds of his detention.

68. Ivan Zabavskiyi, a Ukrainian national born on 26 October 1995, disappeared on 30 September 2022, after being detained by Russian soldiers near the village of Tavilzhanka, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Mr. Zabavskiyi was going there to pick up and evacuate his mother. His mother learned that he had been detained only three months after, from her neighbor. Russian authorities confirmed his detention in May 2023, saying that he had been detained for "resisting the special military operation". From persons released from captivity, his relatives learned that he had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment. According to Russian media, Mr. Zabavskiyi is standing trial behind closed doors before a court in Saint Petersburg on espionage charges.

69. Oleksandr Zabolotnii, a Ukrainian national born on 11 May 1981, disappeared on 26 May 2023, after being abducted by Russian soldiers in Oleshky, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. In search of Mr. Zabolotnii, his loved ones appealed to Russian authorities, however, they denied the very fact of his detention. Furthermore, Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention to the ICRC. In October 2023, relatives of Mr. Zabolotnii received a call from a person who said that he had been detained together with Mr. Zabolotnii in an improvised detention facility. However, the person could not identify the location of the facility because he had been taken there blindfolded.

70. Oleksandr Zaporozhets, a Ukrainian national born on 27 September 1969, disappeared on 14 March 2022, after being abducted by Russian soldiers from the street in the village of Bairak, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. His relatives appealed to the local occupation administration, and later to Russian authorities. However, they denied the very fact of his detention. Furthermore, Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention to the ICRC.

71. Oleksandr Zarivnyi, a Ukrainian national born on 17 December 1968, who was a public official with the Kherson regional state administration and was mobilized to participate in the "anti-terrorist" operation in Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2015-2016, was abducted on 17 March 2022, by Russian soldiers

from his place of residence in Oleshky, Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. On 29 November 2023, a Russian court sentenced Mr. Zarivnyi to 13 years in prison on espionage charges.

72. Volodymyr Zbukar, a Ukrainian national born on 25 May 1967, was abducted by Russian soldiers at their checkpoint in the village of Verbivka, Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Based on the accounts of persons released from detention at various times as well as on other unverified information, his loved ones managed to track his path to SIZO-3 in Belgorod, Russian Federation. However, Russian authorities deny the very fact of his detention. Furthermore, Russian authorities have not confirmed his detention to the ICRC. The appeals of the lawyer, who his family hired in the Russian Federation, have also not yielded any results. In these circumstances, the family has no information concerning his fate, whereabouts, or state of health. Nor do they know if there have been any criminal charges pressed against him.

73. Kostiantyn Zinovkin, a Ukrainian national born on 22 October 1989, was abducted on 12 May 2023 by Russian forces in Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. In the morning of that day, three men in plain clothes in balaclavas entered his home using his key. They said that Mr. Zinovkin was arrested for “violation of the regime” and brought him to the military commandant’s office. They said that he would be released after they ran some checks. They searched the house, seized some personal belongings and left. They came to search the house again a few times. His relatives’ search for him yielded no results as the local occupation authorities denied his detention. On 14 June 2023, Russian agents who did not introduce themselves came for a “formal” house search with attesting witnesses. They informed that Mr. Zinovkin confessed to preparing to blow up a person, and that he was detained in the police precinct in Pryazovia, Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation. According to his lawyer, Mr. Zinovkin is under investigation, which was launched on 30 May 2023, more than two weeks after his detention. His family has no access to his case file, which according to his lawyer is classified.

List of civilians who reportedly disappeared in the occupied territory of Ukraine after encountering Russian forces:

1. Kamal Bidzinov, a Ukrainian national born on 19 December 1991. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

2. Oleksii Brazhnyk, a Ukrainian national born on 18 September 1971. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

3. Asif Dadashov, a Ukrainian national born on 6 May 1974. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Zaporizhzhia region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

4. **Andrii Korovkin**, a Ukrainian national born on 9 December 1994. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

5. **Vadym Lomachuk**, a Ukrainian national born on 27 July 1982. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation.

6. **Yurii Poiedyntsev**, a Ukrainian national born on 4 July 1968. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation.

7. **Ihor Priadko**, a Ukrainian national born on 3 March 1983. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation. According to unverified reports, Mr. Priadko could be detained in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

8. **Artem Pylypenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 22 March 1977. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation.

9. **Ivan Repii**, a Ukrainian national born on 14 July 1986. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

10. **Serhii Serhieiev**, a Ukrainian national born on 6 October 1993. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kharkiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation.

11. **Serhii Shvets**, a Ukrainian national born on 30 August 1980. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kyiv region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation.

12. **Valentyn Sobol**, a Ukrainian national born on 18 November 1982. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Kherson region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

13. **Dmytro Tyshchenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 17 July 1990. His fate and whereabouts remain unknown after his disappearance in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

Additional list of civilians, whose detention was confirmed by the Russian authorities or otherwise:

1. **Serhii Aleksiienko**, a Ukrainian national born on 13 August 1977. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention since April 2025, when he was transferred from the Kirovska correctional colony No. 33 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian

Federation, to an unknown location.

2. **Vitalii Artsybashev**, a Ukrainian national born on 2 April 1994. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Kirovska correctional colony No. 33 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

3. **Mykola Babaivskiy**, a Ukrainian national born on 18 August 1948. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in the Nizhny Novgorod region of the Russian Federation.

4. **Nikita Bakumenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 24 May 2002. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Novosibirsk, Russian Federation.

5. **Artur Baranets**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 March 2000. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

6. **Andrii Bielyi**, a Ukrainian national born on 24 February 1987. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.

7. **Dmytro Bohaievskiy**, a Ukrainian national born on 26 October 1982. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.

8. **Vadym Burdiienko**, a Ukrainian national born on 18 July 1994. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the correctional colony No. 33 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

9. **Mykyta Buzinov**, a Ukrainian national born on 26 January 1997. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

10. **Mariano Garcia Calatayud**, a Spanish national born on 2 February 1948, residing in Kherson, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention since 1 June 2023, when he was transferred from SIZO-2 in Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, to an unknown location.

- 11. Yaroslav Chashchyn**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 April 1991. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 12. Serhii Cherniaiev**, a Ukrainian national born on 30 June 1966. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Biysk, Altay Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 13. Oleksandr Chyrkov**, a Ukrainian national born on 11 November 1973. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Vyazma, Smolensk region of the Russian Federation.
- 14. Denys Derevianchuk**, a Ukrainian national born on 16 February 1984. Russian authorities reportedly confirmed his detention, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
- 15. Mykhailo Demchenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 1 October 1999. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 16. Ihor Diachenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 1 September 1971. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Biysk, Altay Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 17. Vladyslav Dobrovolskyi**, a Ukrainian national born on 18 September 1998. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Novozybkov, Bryansk region of the Russian Federation.
- 18. Ivan Drozd**, a Ukrainian national born on 8 July 1994. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.
- 19. Serhii Diachok**, a Ukrainian national born on 30 April 1984. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 20. Andrii Dyhutis**, a Ukrainian national born on 24 October 1976. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

- 21. Vitalii Hvozdenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 August 1979. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 22. Roman Ishchenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 23 August 1976. Russian authorities confirmed his detention. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Sukhodilska correctional colony No. 36 in Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.
- 23. Serhii Kaptol**, a Ukrainian national born on 20 June 1973. Russian authorities confirmed his detention, however, did not disclose his place of detention. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 24. Serhii Kasianenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 5 April 1960. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 7 in Pakino, Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.
- 25. Dmytro Katsura**, a Ukrainian national born on 2 October 1984. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Torezka correctional No. 28 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.
- 26. Bohdan Khonichev**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 June 1999. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Torezka correctional No. 28 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.
- 27. Dmytro Khrulenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 27 November 1980. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 28. Serhii Khrypun**, a Ukrainian national born on 30 January 1975. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-3 in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 29. Borys Kleshchov**, a Ukrainian national born on 6 September 1983. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.
- 30. Sviatoslav Kolchus**, a Ukrainian national born on 12 September 1984. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

- 31. Oleksandr Koshel**, a Ukrainian national born on 27 February 1980. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
- 32. Oleksandr Koval**, a Ukrainian national born on 26 January 1997. Russian authorities confirmed his detention, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
- 33. Oleksandr Krasnikov**, a Ukrainian national born on 29 October 1981. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 34. Vladyslav Kravchenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 24 December 1996. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Biysk, Altay Krai of the Russian Federation.
- 35. Oleksandr Kuchai**, a Ukrainian national born on 29 March 2000. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.
- 36. Volodymyr Kudriavtsev**, a Ukrainian national born on 5 June 1990. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
- 37. Andrii Kushch**, a Ukrainian national born on 1 June 1972. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 2 in Borisoglebsk, Voronezh region of the Russian Federation.
- 38. Ruslan Kuvshynov**, a Ukrainian national born on 14 November 1975. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.
- 39. Vitalii Kuznietsov**, a Ukrainian national born on 27 December 1985. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.
- 40. Denys Lynkov**, a Ukrainian national born on 25 November 1985. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Vyazma, Smolensk region of the Russian Federation.

41. **Oleksandr Malovanyi**, a Ukrainian national born on 5 April 1974. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 7 in Pakino, Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.
42. **Vasyl Manchuk**, a Ukrainian national born on 6 December 1989. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.
43. **Danylo Manukhin**, born on 25 September 2001, and **Maksym Manukhin**, born on 13 July 1977, both Ukrainian nationals. Russian authorities confirmed their detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, Danylo Manukhin is currently detained in SIZO-3 in Kizel, Perm Kray, and Maksym Manukhin is detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.
44. **Serhii Mariniuk**, a Ukrainian national born on 29 January 1971. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he could be detained somewhere in Biysk, Altay Kray, Russian Federation.
45. **Oleksandr Masiuk**, a Ukrainian national born on 31 May 1973. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Glazov, Udmurt Republic of the Russian Federation.
46. **Roman Matviichenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 22 January 1973. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to unverified information he is in the custody of Russian forces, though his whereabouts remain unknown.
47. **Oleksandr Moholenets**, a Ukrainian national born on 6 July 1987. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
48. **Mykola Morokhovskiy**, a Ukrainian national born on 28 November 1991. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Biysk, Altay Kray, Russian Federation.
49. **Oleksandr Navrotskyi**, a Ukrainian national born on 2 May 1989. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.
50. **Anatolii Nepomniashchyi**, a Ukrainian national born on 10 January 1971. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony

No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.

51. Oleksandr Nesterenko, a Ukrainian national born on 31 July 1991. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

52. Oleksandr Novatskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 29 March 1988. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he is currently detained in the SIZO in Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

53. Oleksii Okhrytskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 29 March 1992. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Sukhodilska correctional colony No. 36 in Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

54. Andrii Parkhunov, a Ukrainian national born on 10 June 1999. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-2 in Kamyshin, Volgograd region of the Russian Federation.

55. Stanislav Pashkulskyi, a Ukrainian national born on 19 August 1974. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

56. Taras Pavlenko, a Ukrainian national born on 22 December 1994. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-3 in Kizel, Perm Kray, Russian Federation.

57. Volodymyr Pavlenko, a Ukrainian national born on 28 July 1996. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.

58. Yaroslav Platonov, a Ukrainian national born on 6 June 1998. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 7 in Pakino, Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.

59. Vitalii Profatylov, a Ukrainian national born on 18 May 1968. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

60. Vitalii Prokhorchuk, a Ukrainian national born on 9 January 1992. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According

to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 12 in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

61. Serhii Pyvovar, a Ukrainian national born on 3 May 1974. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

62. Ivan Remez, a Ukrainian national born on 10 May 1991. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Vyazma, Smolensk region of the Russian Federation.

63. Andrii Repik, a Ukrainian national born on 5 November 1990. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

64. Vitalii Riazanov, a Ukrainian national born on 3 May 1987. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 6 in Tver region of the Russian Federation.

65. Ivan Rieznik, a Ukrainian national born on 12 April 2001, was detained by Russian forces on 23 March 2022 in Putyvl, Sumy region, at that time occupied by the Russian Federation. Russian authorities confirmed his captivity through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Kursk, Russian Federation.

66. Viktor Rudenko, a Ukrainian national born on 13 October 1964. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in the village of Fornosovo, Leningrad region of the Russian Federation.

67. Mykola Savka, a Ukrainian national born on 21 October 1958. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

68. Pavlo Semenenko, a Ukrainian national born on 2 August 1982. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

69. Artem Shlapak, a Ukrainian national born on 1 July 1988. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Torez, Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

70. Serhii Shpak, a Ukrainian national born on 2 October 1980. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained somewhere in Kizel, Perm Kray of the Russian Federation.

71. Roman Shulha, a Ukrainian national born on 27 August 1998. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 7 in Pakino, Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.

72. Serhii Spartesnyi, a Ukrainian national born on 19 September 1961. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Saratov, Russian Federation.

73. Kostiantyn Stalnov, a Ukrainian national born on 11 January 1984. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA, however, did not disclose his whereabouts. His loved ones have no information about his place of detention.

74. Kostiantyn Struk, a Ukrainian national born on 11 October 1976. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

75. Maksym Tapekha, a Ukrainian national born on 5 February 1988. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in SIZO-3 in Perm, Russian Federation.

76. Ihor Vasylenko, a Ukrainian national born on 14 October 1999. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.

77. Volodymyr Vorovchenko, a Ukrainian national born on 25 April 1987. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 12 in Kamensk-Shakhtinsky, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

78. Oleksii Yashchenko, a Ukrainian national born on 13 June 2001. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to unverified information he is in the custody of Russian forces, though his whereabouts remain unknown.

79. Yurii Yatsiuk, a Ukrainian national born on 23 May 1962. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in the Torezka correctional colony No. 28 in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

80. Yurii Yevchenko, a Ukrainian national born on 12 July 1974. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 7 in Pakino, Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.

81. Roman Yevtushenko, a Ukrainian national born on 14 October 1997. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 10 in Udarny, Republic of Mordoviya, Russian Federation.

82. Oleksandr Zaichenko, a Ukrainian national born on 13 June 1991. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 1 in Donskoy, Tula region of the Russian Federation.

83. Vadym Zamkovyi, a Ukrainian national born on 22 December 1986. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he is currently detained in penal colony No. 4 in Belgorod region of the Russian Federation.

List of civilians sentenced by Russian authorities on dubious grounds

1. Ihor Artemenko, a Ukrainian national born on 8 March 1970. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 9 in Shakhty, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

2. Denys Baievskiy, a Ukrainian national born on 20 March 1983. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained somewhere in Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

3. Artem Baranov, a Ukrainian national born on 9 October 1990. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 15 in Bataysk, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

4. Ms. Anna Bazikalo, a Ukrainian national born on 31 March 1983. Russian authorities confirmed her detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, she has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 6 in Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.

5. Artur Davehlis, a Ukrainian national born on 23 February 1991. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 15 in Bataysk, Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

6. **Artem Hrebeshkov**, a Ukrainian national born on 25 February 1993. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-5 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
7. **Andrii Harrius**, a Ukrainian national born on 5 January 1988. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained somewhere in Rostov, Russian Federation.
8. **Oleksandr Irkha**, a Ukrainian national born on 23 February 1979. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-5 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
9. **Yuliia Koveshnikova**, a Ukrainian national born on 2 September 1978. Russian authorities confirmed her detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, she has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 15 in Samara region of the Russian Federation.
10. **Nataliia Kozhemiatska**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 February 1979. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm her detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, she has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
11. **Artem Kudzhanov**, born on 9 June 2003, and **Ibrahim Kudzhanov**, born on 19 November 1973, both Ukrainian nationals. Russian authorities confirmed their detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, both men have been convicted; Artem Kudzhanov is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Kursk, and Ibrahim Kudzhanov is currently detained in SIZO-3 in Belgorod.
12. **Oleksii Kyrychenko**, Ukrainian national born on 16 September 1990. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
13. **Oleksii Kyselov**, a Ukrainian national born on 2 February 1964. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 17 in Murmansk region of the Russian Federation.
14. **Serhii Lykhomanov**, a Ukrainian national born on 3 June 1973. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-8 in Simferopol, Autonomous Republic of Crimea, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation.

- 15. Kostiantyn Maksimov**, a Ukrainian national born on 16 March 1983. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 23 in Saratov region of the Russian Federation.
- 16. Ihor Malyshev**, a Ukrainian national born on 29 January 1967. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 3 in Ryazan region of the Russian Federation.
- 17. Kyryl Moriev**, a Ukrainian national born on 29 November 1997. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in the Krasnolutska correctional colony No. 19 in Luhansk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.
- 18. Denys Petranov**, a Ukrainian national born on 24 May 1979. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-5 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
- 19. Yurii Petrov**, a Ukrainian national born on 23 April 1961. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
- 20. Leonid Popov**, a Ukrainian national born on 31 October 2000. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in a psychiatric clinic in Zhdanivka, Donetsk region, occupied by the Russian Federation.
- 21. Andrii Serozhenko**, a Ukrainian national born on 13 December 1982. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in SIZO-1 in Rostov, Russian Federation.
- 22. Artur Shashenok**, a Ukrainian national born on 25 January 1998. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained somewhere in Rostov, Russian Federation.
- 23. Vitalii Skakun**, a Ukrainian national born on 7 August 1990. Russian authorities confirmed his detention through the ICRC CTA. According to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 2 in Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.

24. Valerii Yuzefovych, a Ukrainian national born on 18 July 1969. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 4 in Saratov region of the Russian Federation.

25. Pavlo Zaporozhets, a Ukrainian national born on 19 May 1990. Russian authorities reportedly did not confirm his detention through the ICRC CTA. However, according to available information, he has been convicted and is currently detained in penal colony No. 2 in Vladimir region of the Russian Federation.

Without prejudging the accuracy of the information received, we are writing to express our most heightened alarm at the above-referred allegations of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, in some cases leading to deaths, which, if confirmed, would confirm the view that the Russian Federation is perpetuating a deliberate policy of torture including sexual torture in violation of international humanitarian and human rights laws, including against the civilian population.

The prohibition of torture is absolute and non-derogable. The conducts described are in violation of Russia's international humanitarian law obligations, specifically article 32 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War, 1949 and rule 90 of customary IHL.

The conduct would also violate Russia's IHL and IHRL obligations, including articles 6, 7, 9, 10 and 16, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3), of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by the Russian Federation in 1973; and at least, articles 1, 2, 15 and 16 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, ratified by the Russian Federation in 1987, as well as rules 98 and 99 of customary IHL.

The consistency in the manner and methods in which these practices are pursued – and the sustained period over which such reports continue to arise suggest that they are committed within the framework of a higher order policy requiring a level of coordination, planning and organisation, as well as the direct authorization, deliberate policy or official tolerance from superior State authorities.

The above-mentioned allegations further illustrate concerns regarding the right to the highest standards of health under article 12 of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, ratified by the Russian Federation in October 1973, and the right of women to be protected from violence, in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, ratified by the Russian Federation on 23 January 1981.

We wish to remind your Excellency's Government that the right to life and the prohibition of enforced disappearance have attained the status of *jus cogens*, and that, acts amounting to enforced disappearance or arbitrary deprivation of life, when perpetrated as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian population, would amount to crimes against humanity.

As of May 2025, thousands of Ukrainian civilians remained forcibly disappeared in Russian detention, according to the most recent report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/60/59](#), para. 98). The number of deaths from torture, including denial of medical treatment, is unknown. As of May 2025, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, a Ukraine State body, reported that of the 5,000 Ukrainian soldiers whose remains had been repatriated, 206 had died in Russian captivity, with autopsies revealing torture and denial of medical care as causes of death (para. 99).

We remain deeply concerned that Russian law enforcement and security agencies use periods of enforced disappearance to extract forced confessions from civilians and POWs, which are subsequently used against them in court. Available judicial documents overwhelmingly side with the prosecution and fail to duly examine allegations of human rights violations perpetrated against defendants.

We are further alarmed at the use of terrorism-related charges against several individuals mentioned above. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation emphasized in her most recent report to the General Assembly, that while the use of torture, in particular to extract confessions or to punish dissent, was common prior to 2022, it has severely intensified since then and become widespread and systematic and is particularly prevalent in investigations pertaining to national security, including terrorism-related cases, in particular against Ukrainian detainees (A/80/382, para. 140).

We remind your Excellency's Government that any measures taken to combat terrorism or violent extremism must comply with the obligations of States under international law, in particular international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. Although no universal treaty generally defines "terrorism", States should ensure that counter-terrorism legislation is limited to criminalizing conduct which is properly and precisely defined on the basis of the international counter-terrorism instruments,⁸ the General Assembly's Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (1994), and Security Council resolution 1566 (2004).⁹ Based on these authoritative sources, the model definition of terrorism advanced by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism provides clear "best practice" guidance by identifying conduct that is genuinely terrorist in nature and precisely defining the elements (A/HRC/16/51, para. 28).

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, please refer to the **Annex on Reference to international human rights law** attached to this letter which cites international human rights instruments and standards relevant to these allegations.

As it is our responsibility, under the mandates provided to us by the Human Rights Council, to seek to clarify all cases brought to our attention, we would be grateful for your observations on the following matters:

⁸ See https://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/studies/page2_en.xml.

⁹ A/RES/49/49, annex, para. 3.

1. Please provide any additional information and/or comment(s) you may have on the above-mentioned allegations.
2. Please provide information as to the directives, policies and laws applicable to Russian military and other personnel (including FSB) and occupying authorities to ensure that torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – including sexual torture – are absolutely prohibited and prevented, including through the application of international human rights and humanitarian law standards of detention, training and education protocols (article 10 Convention against Torture) and reviews of interrogation and custody rules (article 11 Convention against Torture), including those applicable in armed conflict.
3. Please provide information about all measures – legislative, executive, military, administrative, and other measures – being taken to prevent the recurrence of cases of torture and specifically sexual torture and the dismantlement of the asserted policy and pattern of sexual torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment and arbitrary detention, perpetrated on Ukrainian civilians and/or prisoners of war by Russian military personnel.
4. Please provide detailed information about the factual and legal basis for the arrest and detention of the above-mentioned individuals, and the exact charges on the basis of which each individual was detained and convicted. Please explain the compatibility of these measures with Russia's obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law. Please also advise what measures were taken to inform their relatives and/or lawyers about their arrest, and the place of their detention.
5. Please provide detailed information as to the measures taken to safeguard the rights to due process and to a fair trial of the above-mentioned individuals and explain how such measures comply with international law.
6. Please explain whether any investigation is being or was conducted in respect of the allegations reflecting a pattern of torture and ill-treatment in accordance with international standards in respect of any of the aforementioned cases, including the Istanbul Protocol (Manual on Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 2002 edition) and please provide details on any outcomes (prosecutions, penalties), including persons in positions of command. If no investigation has been carried out, please explain why.
7. Please also explain what efforts have been taken to permit consular access to all persons detained, including States exercising consular functions on behalf of Ukraine, pursuant to the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963, acceded to by the Russian Federation on 15 March 1989.

8. Please provide an explanation as to why detention facilities occupied by the Russian Federation, or within the territory of the Russian Federation, have not allowed access of the ICRC and other international independent observers, to inspect and visit detainees, as required by IHL.
9. In relation to alleged deaths in detention related to torture and denial of medical care, please provide information on whether any investigation is being or was conducted, details on how the investigations complied with international standards including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death and the results of the investigation.
10. In relation to allegations of enforced disappearances, please provide information on the measures taken to elucidate the fate and whereabouts of persons reported missing or forcibly disappeared, to investigate the corresponding allegations, identify perpetrators, and where appropriate, prosecute and sanction them.
11. Please provide information as to the specific measures put in place to ensure that human rights defenders and civil society actors in the “occupied areas of Ukraine” can carry out their legitimate work in a safe and enabling environment, without fear of harassment and intimidation from the authorities or any other agent acting on their behalf or with their acquiescence.

This communication and any response received from your Excellency’s Government will be made public via the communications reporting [website](#) within 60 days. They will also subsequently be made available in the usual report to be presented to the Human Rights Council.

While awaiting a reply, we urge that all necessary interim measures be taken to halt the alleged violations and prevent their re-occurrence and in the event that the investigations support or suggest the allegations to be correct, to ensure the accountability of any person(s) responsible for the alleged violations.

Further, we would like to inform your Excellency’s Government that after having transmitted the information contained in the present communication to the Government, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention may also transmit the case through its regular procedure in order to render an opinion on whether the deprivation of liberty was arbitrary or not. The present communication in no way prejudices any opinion the Working Group may render. The Government is required to respond separately to the allegation letter and the regular procedure.

We would also like to inform your Excellency’s Government that given the allegations of enforced disappearance, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances may decide to transmit relevant cases through its humanitarian procedure. The Government is required to respond separately to the present communication and the humanitarian procedure.

Given the seriousness of these allegations, we may publicly express our concerns in the near future as, in our view, the information upon which the press release will be based is sufficiently reliable to indicate a matter warranting immediate attention. We also believe that the wider public should be alerted to the potential implications of the above-mentioned allegations. The press release will indicate that we have been in contact with your Excellency's Government to clarify the issues in question.

Please be informed that a copy of this letter will be sent to Belarus, Spain and Ukraine, for their information.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Matthew Gillett
Vice-Chair on communications of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Nils Muižnieks
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

Gabriella Citroni
Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Morris Tidball-Binz
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

Mary Lawlor
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Margaret Satterthwaite
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Mariana Katzarova
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation

Alice Jill Edwards
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Annex

Reference to international human rights law

In connection with the above alleged facts and concerns, we would like to refer your Excellency's Government to the following:

Absolute prohibition against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); and at least articles 1, 2 and 16 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Convention against Torture) prohibit torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The prohibition on torture has attained the status of a peremptory norm of international law for which no exceptions or derogations are permissible.

Attached to such prohibition are obligations to criminalize and investigate all acts of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to prosecute or extradite suspects, to punish those responsible and to provide remedies to victims.

States parties to the Convention against Torture have explicit treaty duties to establish all acts of torture as offences under domestic law (art. 4), to exercise jurisdiction over said offences (art. 5), to receive complaints and examine them promptly and impartially (art. 13), and to investigate those allegations promptly and impartially (art. 12).

Defendants cannot rely on orders of a superior or public authority, or states of emergency, to exonerate their actions (art. 2 (3) and 2(2)), while any legal mechanisms which interfere with that obligation, such as statutes of limitations, immunities or amnesties, are considered contrary to the non-derogable nature of the prohibition (art. 2(2)). Amnesties provided in domestic law do not remove criminal liability pursuant to international tribunals or universal jurisdiction. Prosecutors and courts have a duty to refuse evidence obtained, or suspected of having been obtained, through torture or other illicit means (art. 15).

Victims are to be protected from reprisals or intimidation during said investigations (art. 13) and they have an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation including the means for as full rehabilitation as possible (art. 14).

States are to establish jurisdiction over all acts of torture on territoriality, flag State, active nationality, passive nationality and universal jurisdiction principles (art. 5). The Convention against Torture further imposes duties to extradite alleged offenders when they are not prosecuted (arts. 5 (2) and 7 (1)).

At no time shall torture be used to extract information or a confession (art. 1), and any statement which has been obtained via such methods, shall be excluded from any proceedings except against a person accused of torture as evidence that the

statement was made (art. 15).

States parties to the Convention against Torture have overarching obligations to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment via effective legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures (articles 2 and 16), to educate and train relevant personnel including military officials on the prohibition (article 10) and to keep all rules, instructions, methods and practices relating to interrogation, custody and treatment under systematic review (article 11).

Under international humanitarian law, torture and other inhumane acts are likewise absolutely prohibited.

The Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949, provides:

Article 17, fourth paragraph: “No physical or mental torture, nor any other form of coercion, may be inflicted on prisoners of war to secure from them information of any kind whatever. Prisoners of war who refuse to answer may not be threatened, insulted, or exposed to unpleasant or disadvantageous treatment of any kind.”

Article 87, third paragraph: “Any form of torture or cruelty is forbidden.”

Article 89: “In no case shall disciplinary punishments be inhuman, brutal or dangerous to the health of prisoners of war.”

Article 32 of the Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, provides: “The High Contracting Parties specifically agree that each of them is prohibited from taking any measure of such a character as to cause the physical suffering ... of protected persons in their hands. This prohibition applies not only to ... torture ... but also to any other measures of brutality whether applied by civilian or military agents.”

“Torture or inhuman treatment” and “wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body or health” are grave breaches of international humanitarian law according to article 50 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, Geneva; article 51 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea; article 130 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War; and article 147 of the 1949 Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

International humanitarian law also imposes investigative obligations similar to those under the Convention against Torture. High Contracting Parties are obliged: to enact legislation to provide penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, torture and inhuman treatment, including biological experiments; to search for such persons in order to bring them to justice; and to prosecute suspects of acts of torture as grave breaches under universal jurisdiction, which is considered obligatory. States may discharge their obligation to investigate war crimes and prosecute the suspects by setting up international or mixed tribunals.

The duty to investigate and prosecute torture, genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity also forms part of customary international law, applicable to crimes committed in international and non-international armed conflict. Customary international law requires States to establish jurisdiction and investigate war crimes allegedly committed by their nationals or armed forces, including outside their territory, and, if appropriate, to prosecute the suspects. Customary law also establishes that soldiers have a duty to disobey superior orders of grave breaches of international humanitarian law and that there is no relief for following such orders. Also considered customary norms are the prohibitions of amnesties and statutes of limitation for serious international crimes.

Absolute prohibition of sexual torture

Sexual torture – like all other forms of torture – is strictly prohibited under international law (A/77/502, para. 29). The obligations and rights mentioned above must also be applied to cases of sexual torture.

Sexual torture may constitute a war crime, crime against humanity or even genocide. Sexual violence in war or other security or terrorism contexts can also constitute a crime of torture without further qualifying elements. The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment considers that there is an overwhelming consensus which crystallizes rape and other forms of sexual aggression of comparable gravity into prohibited forms of torture as *jus cogens*.¹⁰

Sexual torture and similar outrages upon human dignity include such acts as forced nudity, verbal abuse and threats of a sexual nature, forced masturbation or urination, physical trauma, electrocuting, mutilating or targeting of genitalia, reproductive organs or breasts, rape (involving digital, object or penile penetration), enslavement, mock or real castrations and forced abortions, pregnancies or sterilizations. These violations are intended to cause maximum humiliation and cruelty. In extreme cases, sexual torture may be part of political and/or military strategies.¹¹

Sexual assaults committed by warring parties are almost always torture.¹² The Trial Chamber of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found that: “Like torture, rape is used for such purposes as intimidation, degradation, humiliation, discrimination, punishment, control or destruction of the person. Like torture, rape is a violation of personal dignity”. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia held that forcing male prisoners to commit sexual acts against each other,¹³ and forcing people to watch other people being raped,¹⁴ constitute torture or cruel and inhuman treatment. The International Criminal Court has found that rape and sexual

¹⁰ A/79/181, Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Investigating, prosecuting and preventing wartime sexual torture, and providing rehabilitation to victims and survivors, 18 July 2024, para. 30, [A/79/181: Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment - Note by the Secretary-General | OHCHR](#).

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para. 22.

¹² *Ibid.*, para. 21.

¹³ International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Prosecutor v. Tadić, IT-94-1-T, Judgment of 7 May 1997, paras. 206, 726, and 730.

¹⁴ International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Prosecutor v. Furundžija, IT-95-17/I-T, Judgment of 10 December 1998, paras. 266-269.

violence against abducted women constitute torture as a crime against humanity and a war crime.¹⁵

Every international and regional human rights body, including courts and committees, has recognized rape and other sexual assaults of comparable gravity as torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and has placed a priority on victims of war violence.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women that your Excellency's Government ratified on 23 January 1981, defines in article 1 discrimination against women. The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women has acknowledged that various forms of gender-based violence may constitute torture (CEDAW/C/GC/35, paras. 16-18).

In its thematic report (A/HRC/41/33), the Working Group on Discrimination against Women and Girls notes that not only the causes but also the consequences of deprivation of liberty are gendered, and women and girls experience their confinement in specific ways and are often at risk of heightened gender-based discrimination, stigma and violence.

The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) (resolution 65/229, annex) state that women prisoners who report abuse shall be provided immediate protection, support and counselling, and their claims shall be investigated by competent and independent authorities, with full respect for the principle of confidentiality (rule 25). In particular, women prisoners who have been subjected to sexual abuse shall receive appropriate medical advice and counselling and shall be provided with the requisite physical and mental health care, support and legal aid.

The Human Rights Committee held that gang rape by soldiers violates article 7 of the ICCPR.

The Committee against Torture has regularly, through its individual communications procedure, prevented the expulsion of individuals at risk of threats of sexual torture.

The European Court of Human Rights has held that individually or by accumulation, acts of physical and mental violence including rape amount to torture in violation of article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Absolute prohibition of enforced disappearances

Enforced disappearance is prohibited under both international human rights and humanitarian treaty law and as customary international law. The prohibition requires

¹⁵ International Criminal Court, Prosecutor v. Ongwen, ICC-02/04-01/15, Judgment of 4 February 2021, paras. 3072-3077.

States to investigate enforced disappearances. In fact, the prohibition of enforced disappearances and the corresponding obligation to investigate them has attained the status of *jus cogens*. The prohibition on enforced disappearances can be prosecuted as a war crime and a crime against humanity when part of a widespread or systematic attack with knowledge of the attack. According to the UN Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Declaration), States shall not practise, permit or tolerate enforced disappearances (article 2) and no circumstances whatsoever, including the state of war can justify enforced disappearances (article 7).

The Declaration also proclaims that each State shall take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced disappearance in any territory under its jurisdiction. In particular, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances recalls that the Declaration sets out the necessary protection by the State, in particular articles 9, 10, 11 and 12, which relate to the rights to a prompt and effective judicial remedy to determine the whereabouts of persons deprived of their liberty; to access of competent national authorities to all places of detention; to be held in an officially recognized place of detention, and to be brought before a judicial authority promptly after detention; to accurate information on the detention of persons and their place of detention being made available to their family, counsel or other persons with a legitimate interest; and to the maintenance in every place of detention of official up-to-date registers of all detained persons. Article 13 also stipulates that steps shall be taken to ensure that all involved in the investigation, including the complainant, relatives, counsel, witnesses and those conducting the investigation, are protected against ill-treatment, intimidation or reprisal.

Enforced disappearance is also prohibited under customary international humanitarian law (Customary IHL – rule 98). Furthermore, each party to the conflict must take all feasible measures to account for persons reported missing as a result of armed conflict and must provide their family members with any information it has on their fate (rule 117).

Furthermore, we would like to recall that under the international humanitarian law, the parties to the conflict have obligations to: whenever circumstances permit, and particularly after an engagement, take all possible measures to search for, collect and evacuate the dead without adverse distinction; take all possible measures to prevent the dead from being despoiled, and to refrain from mutilation of bodies, which is prohibited; facilitate the return of the remains of the deceased upon request of the party to which they belong or upon the request of their next of kin; dispose of the dead in a respectful manner and to respect and properly maintain their graves; and to record all available information prior to disposal and mark the location of the graves in order to ensure the identification of the dead (Customary IHL, rules 112-116).

Enforced disappearances, which, under certain circumstances, may amount to a crime against humanity, entail violations of articles 6, 7, 9, 10 and 16, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3), of the ICCPR with regard to the disappeared person and of article 7, read alone and in conjunction with article 2(3), of the ICCPR with regard to family members.

In its General Comment on women affected by enforced disappearances (A/HRC/WGEID/98/2), the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary

Disappearances reminds that women suffer particular types of harm based on their gender, including instances of sexual violence, and forced impregnation, and the resulting psychological damage and social stigma, as well as the disruption of family structures. In addition, women from minority groups and women affected by poverty and social inequalities are particularly vulnerable and exposed to enforced disappearances.

Right to life

We would like to remind your Excellency's Government about its obligations under article 6 of the ICCPR which guarantees the right to life.

The right to life is a supreme right from which no derogation is permitted, even in situations of armed conflict and other public emergencies that threaten the life of the nation. The right to life has crucial importance both for individuals and for society as a whole. It is most precious for its own sake as a right that inheres in every human being, but it also constitutes a fundamental right, the effective protection of which is the prerequisite for the enjoyment of all other human rights and the content of which can be informed by other human rights (general comment no. 36).

Article 6 of the ICCPR is included in the list of non-derogable rights in article 4 (2) of the ICCPR. Hence, the guarantees against arbitrary deprivation of life contained in article 6 continue to apply in all circumstances, including in situations of armed conflict and other public emergencies.

In its general comment no. 36, the Human Rights Committee provided that "States parties also have a heightened duty of care to take any necessary measures to protect the lives of individuals deprived of their liberty by the State, since by arresting, detaining, imprisoning or otherwise depriving individuals of their liberty, States parties assume the responsibility to care for their life and bodily integrity, and they may not rely on lack of financial resources or other logistical problems to reduce this responsibility. The same heightened duty of care attaches to individuals held in private incarceration facilities operating pursuant to an authorization by the State. The duty to protect the life of all detained individuals includes providing them with the necessary medical care and appropriately regular monitoring of their health" (para. 25).

We wish to stress that the obligation to respect and to ensure the right to life extends to reasonably foreseeable threats and life-threatening situations that can result in loss of life even if such threats and situations do not result in loss of life.

Loss of life occurring in custody, in unnatural circumstances, creates a presumption of arbitrary deprivation of life by State authorities, which can only be rebutted on the basis of a proper investigation that establishes the State's compliance with its obligations under article 6(1) of the ICCPR. Investigations and prosecutions of potentially unlawful deprivations of life should be undertaken in accordance with relevant international standards, including the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death, and must be aimed at ensuring that those responsible are brought to justice, at promoting accountability and preventing impunity, at avoiding denial of justice and at drawing necessary lessons for revising practices and policies with a view to avoiding repeated violations (Human Rights Committee, general

comment No. 36).

In the context of an international armed conflict and belligerent occupation, civilians in the hands of a Party to the conflict (“protected persons”) are entitled to humane treatment and protection of life. The wilful killing of protected persons is expressly prohibited and constitutes a grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention (GC IV, art. 147). Common article 3 of the four Geneva conventions further prohibits “violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds,” and forbids “the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court” affording the essential judicial guarantees (common art. 3(1)(a), (d)). Additional protocol I reiterates the fundamental guarantee against violence to life, including murder, for all persons in the power of a Party to the conflict (AP I, art. 75(2)(a)), and recognizes wilful killing as a grave breach (AP I, art. 85).

With respect to deaths in custody, IHL requires prompt official inquiry where death or serious injury occurs in detention under suspicious circumstances. For civilian internees, an “official enquiry shall be held immediately” whenever violence is alleged or suspected (GC IV, art. 131); analogous obligations exist for prisoners of war (GC III, art. 121). These duties form part of the Detaining Power’s obligation to protect the lives of persons deprived of their liberty.

Arbitrary Detention

We would like to remind your Excellency’s Government about its obligations under article 9 of the ICCPR, which provides that no one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention or deprived of their liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law. As interpreted by the Human Rights Committee in general comment No. 35 (CCPR/C/GC/35), the notion of “arbitrariness” is not to be equated with “against the law” but must be interpreted more broadly to include elements of inappropriateness, injustice, lack of predictability and due process of law, as well as elements of reasonableness, necessity, and proportionality (paragraph 12). According to the same general comment (paragraph 17) and the jurisprudence of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, arrest or detention of an individual as punishment for the legitimate exercise of the rights guaranteed by the ICCPR, including freedom of opinion and expression (article 19), freedom of assembly (article 21), freedom of association (article 22), is arbitrary. Further, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has reiterated that a deprivation of liberty is arbitrary when it constitutes a violation of international law on the grounds of discrimination based on birth, national, ethnic, or social origin, language, religion, economic condition, political or other opinion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or any other status, that aims towards or can result in ignoring the equality of human beings. In this respect, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has concluded that being a human rights defender is a protected status under article 26 of the ICCPR.

We stress that States parties to the ICCPR have an obligation to respect and to ensure the rights under article 9 of the Covenant to all persons who may be within their territory and to all persons subject to their jurisdiction. Enforced disappearances constitute a particularly aggravated form of arbitrary detention (general comment no. 35, para. 17).

Right to a fair trial

We further recall that article 14 of the ICCPR enshrines the right to a fair trial and due process. In particular, article 14 (3) of the ICCPR guarantees the right to be informed promptly of the nature and cause of the charge against the person arrested, which constitutes “the first of the minimum guarantees in criminal proceedings of article 14” (general comment no. 32, para. 31). Similarly, customary IHL rule 100 provides that “[n]o one may be convicted or sentenced, except pursuant to a fair trial affording all essential judicial guarantees.

Violations on the right to health

Concerning detention conditions, we would like to remind your Excellency’s Government of article 10 of the ICCPR, which requires that all persons deprived of their liberty be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person. In this regard, we would also like to refer your Excellency’s Government to the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2015 (the Nelson Mandela Rules). We wish to draw your Excellency’s Government’s particular attention to relevant rules concerning health – namely rules 1, 13, 18, 19, 22, and 24-35, concerning the respect due to the inherent dignity and value of all prisoners as human beings, prison administration’s obligation to provide every prisoner with food of nutritional value adequate for health and strength, of wholesome quality and well prepared and served, as well as a number of obligations concerning healthcare services and personal hygiene.

We wish to remind your Excellency’s Government that article 6 of the ICCPR extends to reasonably foreseeable threats and life-threatening situations that can result in loss of life. The duty to protect the life of all detained individuals includes providing them with the necessary medical care and appropriate regular monitoring of their health. States assume a heightened duty of care and must take all necessary measures to protect the lives of individuals deprived of their liberty (see CCPR/C/GC/36 para. 25).

In this regard, we further refer you to article 12 of ICESCR, which protects the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Duty to investigate, prosecute and sanction perpetrators

Concerning the obligation to prosecute persons allegedly responsible for grave breaches of international humanitarian law, we would like to recall article 146 of the Geneva Convention (IV) according to which the High Contracting Parties undertake to enact any legislation necessary to provide effective penal sanctions for persons committing, or ordering to be committed, any of the grave breaches of the Convention defined in article 147. In addition, each High Contracting Party shall be under the obligation to search for persons alleged to have committed, or to have ordered to be committed, such grave breaches, and shall bring such persons, regardless of their nationality, before its own courts. It may also, if it prefers, and in accordance with the provisions of its own legislation, hand such persons over for trial to another High Contracting Party concerned, provided such High Contracting Party has made out a ‘prima facie’ case. Furthermore, each Party shall take measures necessary for the

suppression of all acts contrary to the provisions of the present Convention other than the grave breaches defined in article 147. In all circumstances, the accused persons shall benefit by safeguards of proper trial and defence, which shall not be less favourable than those provided by article 105 and those following of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 12 August 1949.

In addition, article 2 of the ICCPR sets out the duty of States to ensure that any person whose rights were violated has an effective remedy, and that the competent authorities enforce such remedies. As established by the Human Rights Committee in its general comment No. 31, States have an obligation to investigate and punish serious human rights violations, such as torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. Failure to investigate and prosecute such violations is in itself a breach of the norms of human rights treaties (paragraph 18). Impunity for such violations can be an important element contributing to the recurrence of violations.

Similarly, the Updated Set of Principles for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights through Action to Combat Impunity, requires undertaking prompt, thorough, independent and impartial investigations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and to ensure that those responsible for serious crimes under international law are prosecuted, tried and duly punished (principle 19).

Human rights defenders

We would also like to refer to the fundamental principles set forth in the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, also known as the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. In particular, we would like to refer to articles 1 and 2 of the Declaration, which state that everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels and that each State has a prime responsibility and duty to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights while countering terrorism

With respect to the apparent use of counter-terrorism charges against some of the above-mentioned individuals, we would like to stress that any measures taken to combat terrorism or violent extremism must comply with the obligations of States under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.¹⁶ Although no universal treaty generally defines “terrorism”, States should ensure that counter-terrorism legislation is limited to criminalizing conduct which is properly and precisely defined on the basis of the international counter-terrorism instruments,¹⁷ the General Assembly’s Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (1994), and Security Council

¹⁶ Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1456 (2003), 1566 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017); Human Rights Council resolution 35/34; and General Assembly resolutions 49/60, 51/210, 72/123 and 72/180, among others.

¹⁷ See https://treaties.un.org/Pages/DB.aspx?path=DB/studies/page2_en.xml.

resolution 1566 (2004).¹⁸ Based on these authoritative sources, the model definition of terrorism advanced by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism provides clear “best practice” guidance by identifying conduct that is genuinely terrorist in nature and precisely defining the elements (A/HRC/16/51, para. 28).

The principle of legal certainty under article 15 (1) of the ICCPR requires that criminal laws be sufficiently precise so that it is clear what types of behaviour and conduct constitute a criminal offence and the legal consequences of committing such an offence. This principle seeks to prevent ill-defined and/or overly broad laws which are open to arbitrary application and abuse to target civil society on political or other unjustified grounds.¹⁹ According to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, “the term ‘extremism’ has no purchase in binding international legal standards and, when operative as a criminal legal category, is irreconcilable with the principle of legal certainty; it is therefore per se incompatible with the exercise of certain fundamental human rights” ([A/HRC/43/46](#), para. 14).

Many resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, Security Council and Human Rights Council reaffirm that any measures taken to combat terrorism and violent extremism must comply with the obligations of States under international law, in particular international human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law.²⁰ Counter-terrorism measures must conform to fundamental requirements of legality, legitimate aim, necessity, proportionality, and non-discrimination. Disregard for these principles can have exceptionally harmful effects on the protection of fundamental rights, particularly for minorities, historically marginalized communities, and civil society. States must ensure that measures to combat terrorism do not hinder the work and safety of individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights (A/HRC/RES/22/6, para. 10(a)).

¹⁸ A/RES/49/49, annex, para. 3.

¹⁹ [A/70/371](#), para. 46(b).

²⁰ Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1456 (2003), 1566 (2004), 1624 (2005), 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2341 (2017), 2354 (2017), 2368 (2017), 2370 (2017), 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017); Human Rights Council resolution 35/34; and General Assembly resolutions 49/60, 51/210, 72/123 and 72/180, among others.