Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict July 2025 update

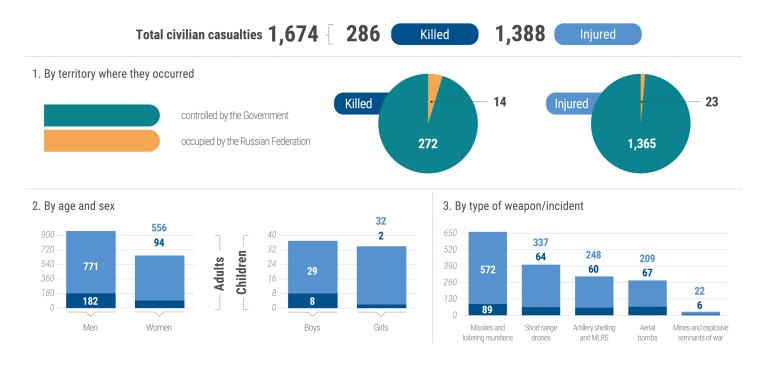


13 August 2025

Summary

- With at least 1,674 civilian casualties (286 killed; 1,388 injured), the number of civilian casualties continued to rise in July, setting a new record for monthly overall casualties since May 2022. In July 2025, 22.5 per cent more civilians were killed or injured than in July 2024.
- The increase in the number of civilian casualties between June and July 2025 mainly took place in **areas controlled by the Government of Ukraine along the frontline**, reflecting intensive military efforts by Russian armed forces to capture territory. **Aerial bombs** dropped by Russian armed forces accounted for the largest increase in civilian casualties with 276 casualties (67 killed; 209 injured) in July 2025 compared with 114 (34 killed; 80 injured) in June 2025.
- While the number of casualties from long-range strikes with missiles and loitering munitions decreased by about 20 per cent in July
 compared with June 2025, they continued to pose a significant threat to civilians, causing almost 40 per cent of all civilian casualties,
 including in urban centres such as Kyiv, Dnipro and Kharkiv.
- Short-range drones were the second leading cause of civilian casualties, after long-range weapons, accounting for 24 per cent of the casualties (64 killed; 337 injured)².
- Like in previous month, the vast majority of civilian casualties (98 per cent)³ occurred in areas controlled by the Government of Ukraine. Civilian casualties were recorded across 18 regions of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv.

Civilian casualties July 2025



Representative incidents

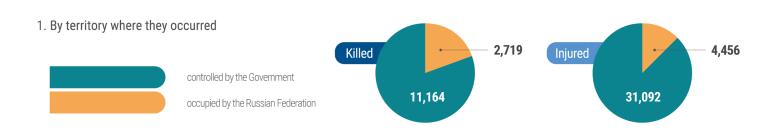
"Her intestines were ruptured, and she has been taken to a hospital. I don't know what condition she is in and whether she survives."

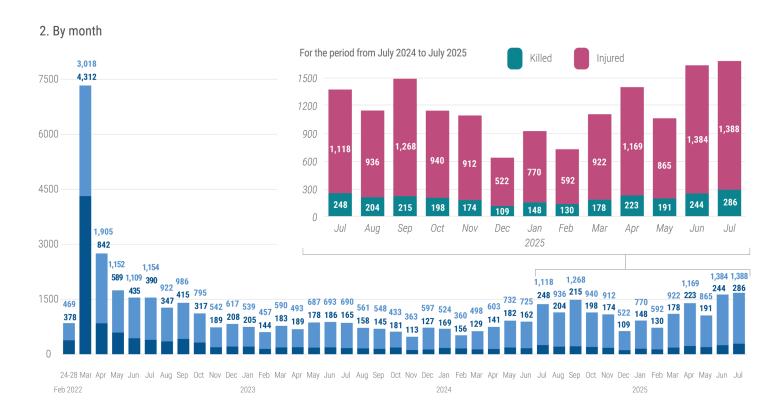
— a resident of Kamianske city describes the injuries sustained by a nurse after a missile attack damaged the maternity ward of the city hospital on 29 July 2025.

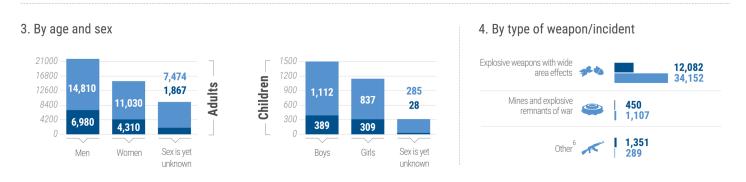
- » On 1 July, two missiles struck Huliaipole village, Dnipropetrovsk region, killing at least 11 civilians (6 women and 5 men) and injuring 5 more (3 men and 2 women).
- » On 4 July, a large-scale attack with missiles and loitering munitions struck Kyiv city, killing a man and a woman and injuring at least 31 civilians (22 men, 8 women and 1 girl).
- » On 12 July, a large-scale combined attack involving missiles and loitering munitions struck several regions of Ukraine, including Chernivtsi and Lviv. In Chernivtsi city, the attack resulted in civilian casualties for the first time since February 2022, with 5 people killed (3 women and 2 men) and at least 4 injured (3 women and 1 man).
- » On 16 July, an aerial bomb struck the centre of Dobropillia, Donetsk region, killing 3 women and injuring at least 27 civilians (20 women and 7 men).
- » On 27 July, a short-range drone struck a passenger bus near the village of Ivolzhanske, Sumy region, killing 3 elderly women and injuring at least 17 civilians (9 men and 8 women).
- » On 28 July, several aerial bombs struck a penal colony in Bilenke, Zaporizhzhia region, killing 16 prisoners and injuring at least 43. All the killed and injured were men.
- » On 29 July, a missile strike damaged a hospital in Kamianske, Dnipropetrovsk region, killing 2 patients, including a pregnant woman, and injuring at least 22 civilians (16 women and 6 men), among them medical staff and patients.
- » On 29 July, a multiple launch rocket system attack in the village of Novoplatonivka, Kharkiv region, killed 7 civilians (4 men and 3 women) as they waited in line for water distribution.
- » On 31 July, a large-scale attack with missiles and loitering munitions struck Kyiv, resulting in the highest verified number of civilian casualties in the city since the start of the full-scale invasion. The attack killed 31 people (14 men, 12 women, 3 boys, and 2 girls) and injured 171 others (79 men, 75 women, 10 girls, and 7 boys). In one residential building hit by a missile, 9 families suffered the loss of at least two family members in the attack.

Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022⁵

Total civilian casualties 49,431 13,883 Killed 35,548 Injured











The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

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

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

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

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

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

Instagram: @UNHumanRights.Ukraine

Based on data verified by HRMMU, July 2025 has seen the highest overall number of civilian casualties since May 2022 (1,741 civilian casualties: 589 killed and 1,152 injured).

² For an analysis of the use of short-range drones in Ukraine, see: The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, <u>Deadly drones: Civilians at risk from short-range drones in frontline areas of Ukraine</u>, <u>24 February 2022 — 30 April 2025</u>, <u>26 June 2025</u>.

 $^{^{\}circ}$ 1,637 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 37 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

 $^{^{\}rm 4}$ The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

⁵ In comparison with the previous update, an increase in total figures in this update is not only due to casualties that occurred in the reporting period, but also to the corroboration by OHCHR of cases that occurred before the reporting period.

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

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