

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Titel:	Ukraine: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. October 2025 Update
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Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict

October 2025 update



12 November 2025

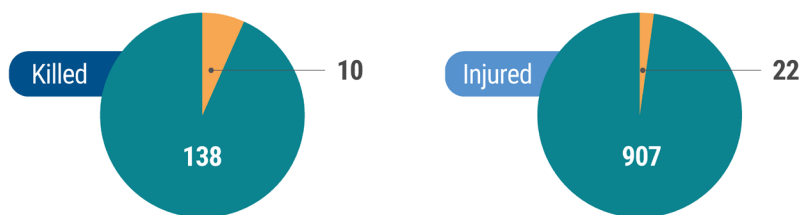
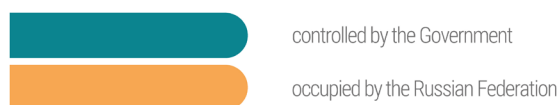
Summary

- Civilian casualties in October 2025 remained high, **with at least 148 killed and 929 injured**, similar to the numbers in September and August.
- Most death and injuries (**65 per cent**) occurred **near the frontline**, with particularly high casualties reported in Kherson, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions. **Long-range strikes** with missiles and loitering munitions launched by Russian armed forces accounted for **35 per cent** of all civilian casualties (38 killed; 334 injured), usually affecting urban centers far from the frontline.
- As in the previous month, the vast majority of civilian casualties (**97 per cent¹**) occurred in areas under the control of the Government of Ukraine. Civilian casualties were recorded across **13 regions** of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv.
- October saw emergency power cuts across multiple regions of Ukraine, driven by the Russian Federation's **continued region-specific attacks and renewed large-scale strikes on energy infrastructure**.
- Total civilian casualties from January to October 2025 **are 27 per cent higher** than during the same period last year, and the number of casualties for the first ten months of 2025 **has already exceeded** the total for all of 2024.

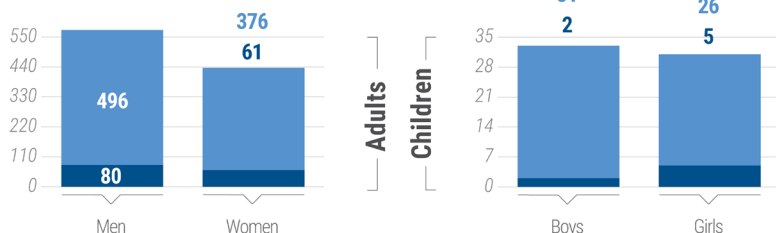
Civilian casualties October 2025²

Total civilian casualties **1,077** [**148** Killed **929** Injured]

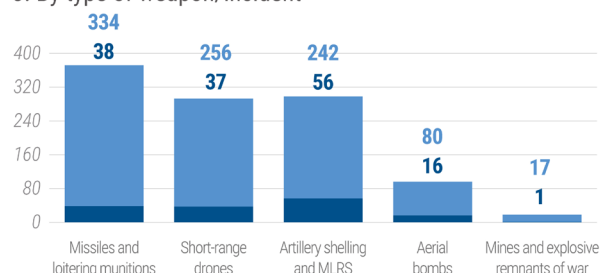
1. By territory where they occurred



2. By age and sex



3. By type of weapon/incident



Representative incidents

"I couldn't get up after the attack. A neighbour lifted me and carried me to safety. I kept losing consciousness, and my husband could not help because he can walk only with a cane."

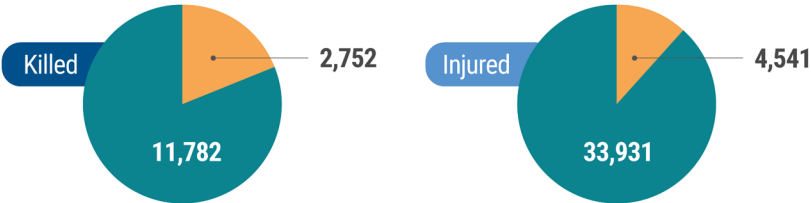
— a 64-year-old injured woman from Kupiansk, Kharkiv region, describing the moments after shelling struck near her home while she was returning with water.

- » Three large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure (10, 22 and 30 October) led to emergency power outages across most regions of the country. They also killed at least 10 civilians (4 men, 2 women, 3 girls, and 1 boy) and injured 100 others (49 women, 39 men, 8 boys, and 4 girls) in six regions and in the city of Kyiv.
- » On 25 and 26 October, attacks on Kyiv caused damage to civilian infrastructure, resulting in 6 civilians killed (4 women and 2 men) and at least 40 injured (19 women, 15 men, 4 girls, and 2 boys).
- » On 24 October, during morning commuting hours, Russian armed forces carried out a massive Multiple Launched Rocket Systems (MLRS) strike in Kherson, damaging residential areas and killing 2 women and injuring 31 civilians (17 women, 11 men, 2 girls, and 1 boy).
- » On 22 October, loitering munitions caused significant damage to a private kindergarten in Kharkiv City. One man was killed, and 10 civilians were injured (7 women and 3 men). Around 50 children were inside the kindergarten when the attack occurred. Though frightened by the explosions, they remained unharmed due to the swift actions of the staff.
- » On 29 October, during morning hours, Kherson Children's Clinical Hospital came under artillery fire by Russian armed forces. At the time, the hospital housed child patients, their parents, and medical staff. 9 civilians were injured, including 4 children and 3 medical workers.
- » On 13 October, Kharkiv City Hospital sustained damage from an aerial bombardment, which injured at least 7 patients (5 women and 2 men).
- » On 12 October, a short-range drone struck a bus in occupied Horlivka, Donetsk region, injuring at least 6 civilians (3 men, 2 women, and 1 boy).

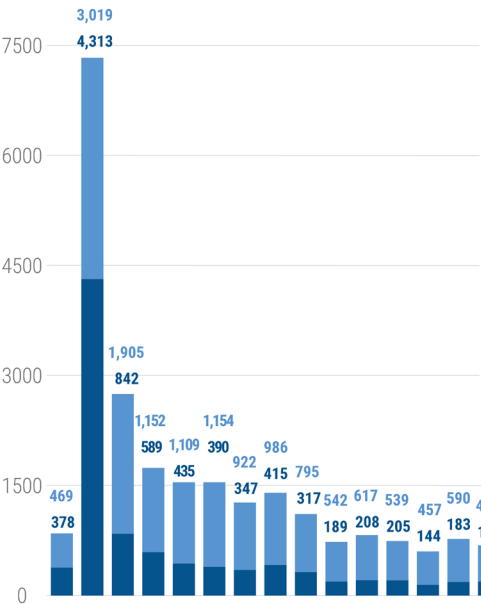
Civilian casualties since 24 February 2022³

Total civilian casualties **53,006** [**14,534** Killed **38,472** Injured]

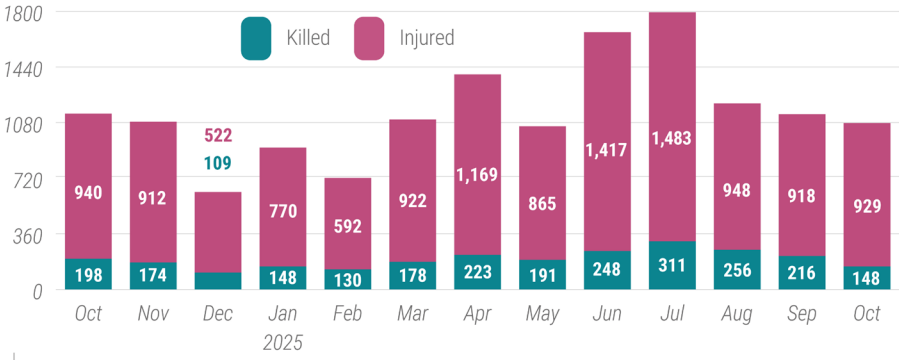
1. By territory where they occurred



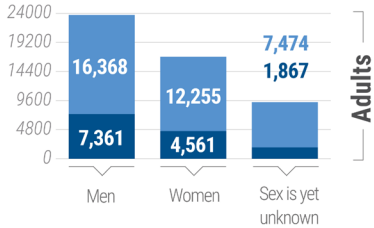
2. By month



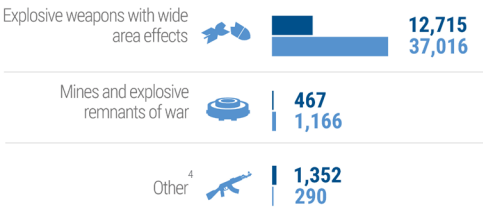
For the period from October 2024 to October 2025



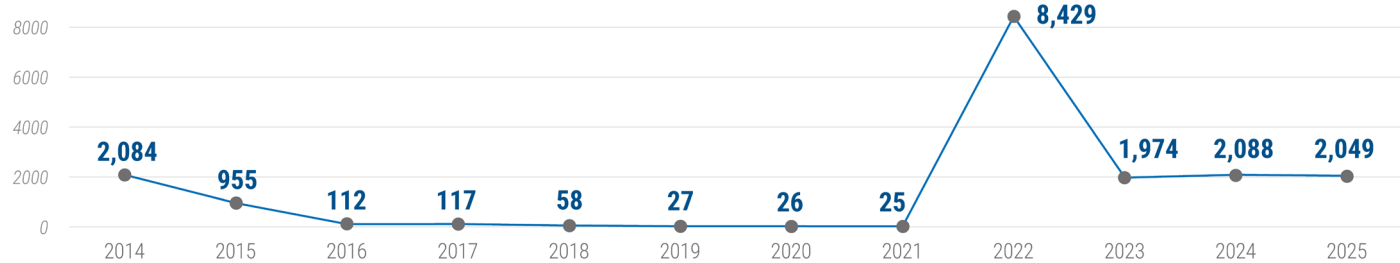
3. By age and sex



4. By type of weapon/incident



Civilians killed since 2014





The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine

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

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

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

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

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

¹ 1,045 civilian casualties in territory controlled by Ukraine and 32 in territory occupied by the Russian Federation.

² The actual number might be higher as some reports are still pending confirmation.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.