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## **Criminal Case Initiated on Wounding Civilian and Destruction of Numerous Residential Buildings Due to Massive Shelling by Ukrainian Military**



The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation continues to identify officials involved in the use of prohibited means and methods of warfare against the civilian population of Donbass, as well as to record evidence of their crimes.

According to the investigators, on February 17, 2022, servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces carried out massive shelling with heavy weapons and grenade launchers in several settlements of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics. As a result of shelling of Staromikhailovka, a civilian who was not involved in the armed conflict suffered shrapnel wounds from a grenade explosion.

At least 12 residential buildings, a gas pipeline, and a power line were damaged in the settlements of Nikolaevka and Donetsk, which were under Ukrainian military forces' fire, as well as in Petrovsky

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District of Donetsk. The civilians are forced to hide from exploding shells in basements.

By shelling the settlements, the Ukrainian servicemen intended to commit murder or cause severe bodily harm to an unlimited number of civilians residing in the south-east of Ukraine and not participating in the armed conflict. The Ukrainian armed forces violated the Protocol on the Cessation of the Use of Weapons in southeastern Ukraine and the Memorandum thereto, as well as the provisions of the Convention Relative to Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and Additional Protocol II thereto.

A criminal case has been initiated on a possible crime under Part 1 of Article 356 of the Criminal Code (use of means and methods prohibited by an international treaty of the Russian Federation in an armed conflict).

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