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## **Investigation Gives a Legal Assessment of the Facts of Shelling of the Civilian Population in Donbass by Ukrainian Nationalists**



The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation continues to record the crimes of the armed formations of Ukraine against the civilian population of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics.

During the period from March 8 to March 10, 2022, numerous artillery and mortar attacks by representatives of the Ukrainian armed formations at settlements and life support facilities of the DPR and LPR were recorded. A female civilian was killed as a result of the shelling of Donetsk, Gorlovka, Dokuchaevsk, Yasinovataya, Volnovakha Raion of the DPR, settlements of Pervomaisk, Kirovsk of the LPR. Six more non-combatants were injured of varying severity, 83 residential buildings were damaged and destroyed. In addition, an Orthodox church in Donetsk was shelled; the power line between the Mikhailovskaya and Petrodonetskaya substations was damaged resulting in power outages in the settlements of Donetsk and Golubovskoye, the LPR.

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The shelling of settlements with heavy weapons of indiscriminate action and having high damaging properties by the Armed Forces of Ukraine and Ukrainian nationalist armed groups violates the provisions of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly, which proclaims the right of every person to life, liberty and personal immunity. The provisions of the Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and its Additional Protocols ensure that the civilian population and individual civilians enjoy general protection against the danger arising from military operations and must not be the object of attack.

In addition, the actions of Ukrainian nationalists bear signs of the violations of the Convention (IV) on the Laws and Customs of War on Land and its Regulations (the Hague Regulation) on the Laws and Customs of War on Land (The Hague, 18.10.1907), Article 25 of which contains a prohibition on attack or bombardment, by whatever means, of undefended towns, villages, dwellings or buildings.

The Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has initiated two more criminal cases under Article 356 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (ill-treatment of the civilian population, the use in an armed conflict of means and methods prohibited by an international treaty of the Russian Federation).

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