

CRIMES OF THE KIEV REGIME IN THE TOWN OF UGLEDAR

The testimonies of the residents of the town of Ugledar, collected by the International Public Tribunal on the Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis, demonstrate the systematic practice of mass crimes by the Ukrainian neo-Nazi regime in the Russian-speaking territories under its control. Such crimes are qualified under international humanitarian law as war crimes and have no statute of limitations.



**Svetlana Evgenievna
Sinitsina**

«I have been living in Ugledar since 1965. I gave birth to my two children here. I have an older and a younger son. The younger son was born in 1989. My son's name is Maxim Alekseevich Gladkikh. I married a second time, so my surname is different.

On 27 August 2016 about 10pm. my son was brutally killed by a Ukrainian military officer from Aidar. Two drunk Ukrainian servicemen walked near the cafe 'Marcel'. They started chatting up girls in a very rude manner. My son Maxim stopped and reprimanded them.

We had many cases here before when the Ugledar girls were raped and abused by the Ukrainian military. Our girls used to disappear, and we did not know where they took them.

So, Maxim stopped and stood up for the girls. He said to those Ukrainian military, 'How long are you going to harass our girls?' People gathered around. Those people who were in the cafe 'Marseille' came out and also joined the crowd.

One of the Ukrainian military started shouting, 'I'm going to detonate a grenade, nobody come near.' He was from the 'Aidar'. He shouted, 'I'm going to detonate a grenade.' So the people made way.

My son was unarmed. He was tall. He worked in a mine. I have all the documents where everything is described. The second 'Aidar' soldier pulled a large knife out from under his boot and stabbed Maxim in the groin artery. He knew where to hit. He hit him, and my son bled for three to four minutes.

I found witnesses and passed all documents to the court. The court imposed a sentence. The Ugledar investigators did everything correctly. I have all the documents how it happened. They described everything. We thought that Ukrainian soldier would be imprisoned immediately, but the 'Aidar' bailed him out. For 6 years I have been challenging them and it has taken all my health. Nobody punished him.

Here is the last summons from the court. The Volnovakha District Court of Donetsk region identifies Svetlana Yevgenyevna Sinitsa as the victim and calls the accused Dmytro Vladimirovich Soroka to appear in court. This is the last summons of 13 January 2022. The trial never took place. Every time I came to the court, there was always a reason why he did not show up in court. Either some paper was not printed, or he was somewhere at the training camp, or he got sick. He was never convicted.

The name of the Ukrainian military who killed my son is Dmytro Soroka, born in 1995, a native of Kherson, Kherson region, citizen of Ukraine. Formally not convicted. He works as Deputy Commander of the Howitzer battery. He is in the Military Unit 2950».



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**Alexander Vladimirovich
Kablukov**

«I have been living in Ugledar since my birth. Today I worked in the mine for 25 years. Sometime in January 2023 the Ukrainian military moved into the neighbouring buildings. By the end of January, their senior came to our entrance and told us to move out.

Gritting my teeth, I had to leave. We moved to Shool №2. We visited our flats from time to time and went home once a week. The neighbouring flats were already broken into. When one day we came to our flat to pick up some stuff, our flats was broken

into and everything was turned upside down.

My TV and my roller skates were gone. My mum and I lived next door to each other. In both our flats everything was turned upside down. On the walls in my mum's flat Ukrainian fighters wrote obscene words against Russians».



**Vitaliy Vitalievich
Bondar**

«The Ukrainian military harassed and intimidated people. They made people panic and move out. The town administration all left from the first days and left us to our own devices. The mayor reported that in 2022 there was no one here, no people at all, although there were still about three thousand people in the town.

In order to encourage people to leave, they drove around Ugledar in pickup trucks and shelled Ugledar with mortars to create panic, so that people would leave as quickly as possible.

In order to show that everyone was running away from the Russians.

The Ukrainian military were stealing happily on a regular basis and in abundance. Everything they could get their hands on was taken out. Of course, the priority was household appliances; TV sets, washing machines and gas cookers. They even went so far as to remove sockets, switches and mixers. Sockets were pulled out, good tiles were knocked off the walls. They sent them home through New Post.

They set up shops in other regions of Ukraine and called them 'Goods from Donbass'. They were selling stolen goods.

My car was stolen. This spring a man from Kurakhovo called me and said: 'I bought your car, but I lost the documents'. He said, 'Could you bring me the technical passport?' I said, 'My car was stolen, and now you want me to give you the documents?!'

The guy who called said that he bought my car from the Ukrainian Traffic Police. There were several cars there, and my car was the best one. The Ukrainian police dealt with such things».



**Natalia Petrovna
Zadorozhnaya**

«I have been in Ugledar since 1989. The Ukrainian military treated us like cattle. We did not see anything good from them. There was always intimidation. When the Ukrainian army forces came, we lived like little mice, because they had machine guns. You could expect anything from them.

They took out everything they could loot. They broke down doors in flats. They took from the flats anything they liked: fridges, cars, even babies' cots and children's toys. They called it not looting, but booty and trophies. They said, they earned them. Later these trophies emerged in the other side, in Ukraine. They called them 'Goods from Donbass'.

They're not ashamed of anything. They shoot us in face. Foreign journalists came here with chaplains and said it was Russia that fired. We did not see Russia at that time at all. Look which side they were shooting from. From that side, yes? But Ukraine is over there. Those journalists could draw a conclusion, but no, they were not interested.

It is true, the journalists began with asking us to tell them about the situation, and we did tell them, but they did not write the truth anyway.

They told what was interesting to them, but not to us. They should tell things so that people can know about the real events. How could they do this lying? Are they so clean and fluffy? No. Nothing is clean and fluffy.

In 2023, either July or August, the Ukrainian authorities came to the basement where we lived at that time. They wanted to set up their centre there, to build shower cubicles and install washing machines, so that Ukrainian soldiers could bathe there. They brought a lot of journalists.

I don't know what force carried me out. I went out there and stood at the door, at the entrance, I said, 'I will not let you enter here. You're the Chief of Police, are you, with a machine gun?' And I said, 'That blue house was my home and I was kicked out of it with nothing except what was on me. Now you want to kick us out of the basement?' He looked at me and I looked at him like this.

He says: 'Do you want to go to Russia? I said, Ugledar is my homeland, I live here. I was born and have always lived here. I said: 'do you want to kill me? Shoot me,' I said, 'Take me out there and shoot me. I didn't call you here.' I was under such stress.

I don't think anything good about the Ukrainian authorities. Let them leave us alone. Let them go far away. I would like to see that bastard Zelensky go away.

The Ukrainian armed forces are killing children and old people. They rape women. What for? Why did they come? We did not touch them. They came here because they wanted to take away our Russian language, because we want to speak it? We did not want to stay in Ukraine, we had our own Republic of Donbass».



Evgeny Anatolievich Tarasenko

«In the first days of April 2022 I entered this shelter - the basement of the school, and I have been here already for two years and seven months.

I am a witness of many events. My house faces Kurakhovo in the direction of the third mine. From my balcony I could see everything. I saw a pickup truck driving along the Armed forces of Ukraine's fields with its headlights on. I could see that it was driving along the field. It stopped and fired – bang, and I heard the sound of shelling in the town. Then it moved to another field

on the other side. Bang - he shot there and I could see it from the balcony. Later when the Russian troops came closer, they were afraid to drive with headlights on. They taped up their headlights. But back then they drove openly with their headlights on. At that time, I think, the fighting was just beginning in Volnovakha. In principle, there were no Russian troops even close to the town, and the town was already completely destroyed.

Another episode happened in summer, probably in 2022. I sometimes went home to check my flat, although I had already lived here in the school basement. I went back and had almost approached the school, when I noticed in front of me there was a small figure of a journalist wearing glasses, and behind her there was a Ukrainian serviceman in uniform. I walked behind them towards the school.

The journalist turned around and filmed with a camera. It was quiet and silent on the street, not a shot. There was nothing happening. Then the Ukrainian soldier called on the radio saying: 'It's quiet here, make some noise, make some noise here'. And then it started: shots started to be fired here and there. The journalist shouted, 'Oh my God, oh my God', and ran in the direction of the school. The Ukrainian soldiers asked her, 'Where are you going? Where did you run to? But she disappeared very quickly.

We also had the Right Sector, and the Azov. They were the most marauding ones. Once the town was completely silent. It was dark, and I could hear the doors rattling. The Ukrainian soldiers were walking and talking loudly. There were about five or so people. They were talking loudly, breaking in and taking out everything from flats. Then they came up to a car and started to pry the door of the car. They tried to start the car, but it didn't work. Then they went to another car.

In March 2022 the armed forces of Ukraine began to loot openly in the daytime in pickup trucks. I still walked home from the school basement where I lived. I went to the square and saw a pickup truck. I saw carpets, mattresses, TVs, everything in the truck. The Ukrainians were looting and looting. They were not shy at all. Well, you understand that you would not say much to a man with a gun.

There was a story connected to my lady neighbour. I was looking after the flats and had the keys from some of the flats. I used to call her. She would say, 'Look what's going on there, what's going on in my flat? By that time her flat was empty, there was nothing left. I called her back and said that there was nothing. She said that she had already realised that, because she had found her jacket on sale online. I said, 'how did you know it was yours?' 'Well, I had a bad scratch on the sleeve. There in the sale there was a jacket with a scratch on the sleeve. I looked at the photos, it was exactly my jacket'».



**Sergey Vladimirovich
Zadorozhny (65 years old)**

«Our town started to be shelled when there were no Russian troops here. There were only the Ukrainian armed forces.

My wife and I were walking to the centre when the shelling began. I turned to the hospital, saw the shells coming and heard the explosion. We immediately ran into the flat and I went on the balcony.

There, near the hospital I saw one explosion, then another one, then the third and the fourth. I saw people running from there. I said to my wife, 'I'll go there, maybe someone needs help'. When I got to the hospital, I saw two burnt-out cars and four dead bodies.

The most interesting thing was that the Ukrainian soldiers from the Armed Forces of Ukraine stayed in the sanatorium and not any shell came into that building.

All projectiles exploded in front of the hospital and near the entrance at the transformer station. I ran around the hospital. We have a petrol station there. Cars were still parked there.

When I got home, this event was on the news and Ukraine reported that Russia has struck Ugledar. Well, who was going to believe it? We did not. Our guys saw it all from the garages. They said, 'What Russia?'. They saw the missiles launched from the side of Kurakhovo.

The interesting thing was, that half an hour before the shelling all Ukrainian soldiers were taken out of there. Then correspondents from Ukraine came and told me that the Russians had fired Smerch or something else. I said to them, 'Why did they withdraw the soldiers half an hour before the shelling? We saw it, people saw where the shelling came from'. I said, 'You know, I ran there and personally saw it all. There was not a single Russian soldier there. It was February 2022.

We went to the School №1 to receive humanitarian aid. As I passed there, I saw an IFV – an infantry fighting vehicle just near the dormitory around the corner. What was it doing there? It came out from that side and fired at this side.

They drove the IFV to get people out of town, that was the command. The IFV drove through, then in the centre. It fired back and forth, then from this side. We all saw it. People told about the shelling, how they drove around the town and shelled us.

We were being shelled with phosphorus. On the next day in the morning or at lunchtime our former bosses drove by, Novikov and others. They told us again to leave the town. Correspondents always came as well. We told them the truth, however, they pushed us to say that they were the Russians who shelled.

When the blue house was shelled for the first time, we were putting out the fire. The most interesting thing was that the Armed Forces of Ukraine came and phoned their people in front of us saying: 'Don't shell the fourth sector, we are helping to extinguish the fire'. Do you understand?

Once I went to the centre of the town and saw the devastation. Oh, my God! It was before the Russian army came. This town suffered a lot from the Ukrainian armed forces. The main thing was, that whoever you talked to about it and whoever came to the town, immediately said, 'Oh, it was Russia. I assured them, that it was not Russia. I said, that there were no Russians here at that time»



**Marina Vladimirovna
Goloborodko**

«On 24 February 2022 the first missile came. It was just the beginning of the fighting in Volnovakha. Then we had the first casualties: two people died, and more were wounded.

From that day shelling started systematically in one part of the town, then in another part of the town. People saw how a Ukrainian tank drove through the centre of the town, then stopped, turned its muzzle and fired at the entrance of the apartment block. Ukrainian military just drove around the town and fired. They shelled the town. A pickup truck with a mortar

drove around and fired. It scared citizens in order to make them leave the town faster and make more room for them. In fact, if there were fewer people, there were fewer witnesses and fewer people who could talk about what they saw. The Ukrainian town administration left in the first few days, and there was no authority here at all. The police, firefighters, EMERCOM - everybody left. The Ukrainian military came here and were in charge.

In 2023 my dad's car was stolen by the Ukrainian military. They just opened the car and stole it. When a man with a gun stands in front of you, it's very hard to object. My apartment has been burgled. They even cut out a piece of my jacket lapel with a jewellery pin».



**Irena Vitalievna
Lydina (67 years old)**

«In 2022 five people were killed by the Ukrainian military shelling. It was in the end of March, beginning of April.

I went through the yards to get water. I saw something there and thought that somebody was feeding dogs. But there were brains and somebody's head. There were remains of people's bodies without arms and legs. It was scary. In five minutes after shooting there were journalists around, a big white car. I was surprised that they came out and filmed everything. They were smiling. I thought, 'God, why are you smiling if people are dead?'

This was like in horror films. It was really creepy and very scary. It was a special shooting for PR video. Everybody thought so. The Ukrainian soldiers were shooting from the roof of a nine-storey building. They blew up everything: the people, a plastic water barrel; nothing was left.

Our neighbour and a five year old child were in the house. I live on the third floor and they lived on the fourth floor. The child asked: 'Daddy, where is Daddy? The child's father, Kostya, was killed. Why did the Ukrainian armed forces do such atrocities? It all started with the collapse of the Soviet Union, that Russians are bad and so on. The Americans were tinkering the Ukrainians. Such atrocities were just for propaganda. The reporters who came here, said that Russia did it, though they saw with their own eyes, that they were Ukrainian military who did it. The bastards. I remember when we received humanitarian aid near School №1. A Ukrainian tank fired at the school. It was back in 2022».



**Sergey Anatolievich
Goloborodko**

«I am a pensioner now. I worked as a miner and continued working at the mine until 24 February 2022.

On 12 March the armed forces of Ukraine, who were fleeing from Volnovakha, came in Ugledar. They kicked us out of our house. They knocked at apartments and told us, 'You have half an hour to pack up and get out of here'. They also broke into my neighbour's car.

We packed our things and came here, to the school basement. The armed forces of Ukraine moved into our flats, looted, took all the equipment, a camera, speakers, audio-video equipment. They took everything, even my wife's underwear.

When we came back home, we entered the room and saw all the clothes on the floor thrown from the cupboards. They took everything they wanted.

We had a garage broken into. Ukrainian soldiers stole expensive bicycles and all the equipment that was in there. They also took the tyres off the car and the winter tyres from the basement. They smashed the side window of the car. All the glove compartments and the boot were open.

There was another episode. There was a house next to the school with a basement. It was locked. Once we heard that somebody was talking there. Slavik and I went in the house and saw two military men. They were unarmed. We asked them what they were doing in that house and they said, that they were watching the positions around.

Then they ran away quickly through the window. A day later five men came. They went straight to the door of the entrance, which was closed. The lock was hanging there all the time, but they pointed at the grenade launcher and wanted to blow up the lock. We said, 'What are you doing? Here is the key'.

They started poking us with machine guns, shouting, 'We'll shoot you'. They tore Slavik's Ukrainian passport, although, in fact, they had no right to check our passports. But the law doesn't apply here. They took our passports and checked them. We thought they would shoot us. We opened the entrance. They went and searched the flats there. Then they came back a few more times. They said, 'Give us the keys'. We heard them breaking down the doors, and they came out with a bag.

Another episode was when a fellow miner was relaxing in a cafe. A military man came in and started shouting: 'Glory to Ukraine!'. The miner responded: 'Glory to the miners!' The Ukrainian soldier stabbed him with a knife and the guy bled to death. The soldier did not get any punishment for this.

When it all started, there were a lot of people in the town. Almost half of Ugledar was still there. Then people started asking the Head of the Civil Military Administration: 'Where is the military commandant's office, which will restore order? When will the town administration take measures against looting and drunkenness?' But the mayor did not answer and left the town. The citizens later said that he gave the town to the Ukrainian military forces and said that they could do whatever they wanted».



**Svetlana Gennadyevna Panova,
victim of the Armed Forces
of Ukraine crimes**

«I have lived in Ugledar for 52 years. I was four years old, my mum brought me here as a little girl. Miners were given flats here, so I grew up in Ugledar.

On 6 February 2023, the armed forces of Ukraine forbade me to enter my flat in my house. I needed to get water. We had nothing. We lived in the basement between the second and the third entrance of the apartment block. All other entrances were

mined. We could not go there.

Only the second and third entrances were available. They told us: 'Why are you staying here? You need to move out, it's careless to stay in town.' We needed money to move out, but we did not have it. I worked in the hospital. All my documents got burnt in the hospital there. All I have is my passport.

On that day I poured out food for the dogs. It was in February, it was cold. We heard pebbles starting to crack so we went straight into the basement. The Ukrainian armed forces have caused a lot of trouble. All pro-Ukrainians went to Ukraine. We only stayed here to wait for our people in Russia. Sashka is a pensioner. Valik who is wounded, is a pensioner. And us three old women.

One person said, 'Someone is at the entrance.' Indeed, they stood under the stairs. We could hear cracking under their feet.

People usually smoked near the stove in the street. I saw Sasha lying there, and he was of a strange colour. He said: 'I think I'm dying'. I took a step or two and fell on the bed. Aunt Lyuba fell over there as well. We were lying there like rats and could barely move our lips. We were completely paralysed. I touched aunt Valya. She was cold. I screamed, 'Aunt Valya's dead'.

Yurka guessed that something in the air was wrong, and put on a gas mask. He opened the door and said, 'Let's get up, let's go outside'. We were in a horrific state. I mean, well, our bodies had been producing involuntary actions and we didn't feel anything at all. We were in shock.

The armed forces of Ukraine were testing something on us like guinea pigs. Our basement was nice and warm, so maybe they wanted to kick us out.

There were side effects from that treatment, something happened with our facial muscles. The dogs also had strange facial expressions.

Then a day later the Ukrainian army people came in. They wanted to know how many people were left in the basement. I said, 'You counted us last night'. They said, 'Where is the seventh person? Where did he go?' Valik, the invalid pensioner, went away.

I think it's Nazism. It's that old Nazism from the previous war. I speak Russian, I don't speak Ukrainian very well. I didn't care before, whether it was Ukrainian or any other nation. But now I can't stand Ukrainians.

I don't want to live in Ukraine. I didn't think I would hate them so much».



**Alina Petrovna Golodnyak (74 years old),
victim of the Armed Forces
of Ukraine' crimes**

«On 24 February 2022 they started shelling. There was a Ukrainian sabotage. Some people believe that it was Ukrainian sabotage, and others thought differently. Ukraine unleashed all this.

Once in 2022 there was a curfew and two men didn't go inside the building because they were expecting some stew tins which somebody promised to bring them. I said, 'Why didn't you come in and lock the door?' They said, that they were expecting food to be brought to them. And then shelling began, and there

was an explosion instead of food. One man was killed. I was concussed. It was at Easter.

A flat was completely blown apart. I was stunned by the whole thing, of course. A woman started crying, her husband was still in the flat, but there was nothing left of the flat. The man was killed at once. The dog in the flat was killed as well.

They shell us because they do not like us in Ukraine. They call us separatists. We were in the basement, when two Ukrainian guys came in and said: 'What are you doing here? Why do we have to fight for you, separatists?' We asked them not to scare us with their machine guns, because sometimes they would come running in with machine guns, making checks. Of course, we were afraid».



**Elena Alekseevna Kuzicheva (73 years old),
victim of the Armed forces
of Ukraine' crimes**

«I have been living in Ugledar since 1978, and I am 73 years old. The Armed forces of Ukraine broke into flats and took out everything they wanted. They also stole cars that were parked in the yards.

We had a Soviet-era car in the back of our house. The Ukrainian soldiers wanted to take it, but could not start it. They took out washing machines and refrigerators and put them on the porch.

They came to our house on their armoured vehicle. They were from Western Ukraine. I came up and said, 'Well, guys, well, it's time to negotiate peace. And one guy told me in Ukrainian, that Macron had already gone to negotiate peace with Zelensky. I said, 'What does Macron have to do with it? Who is our president? It is Zelensky. He should act'. I was under the impression that they were interested in our land, but we did not exist for them.

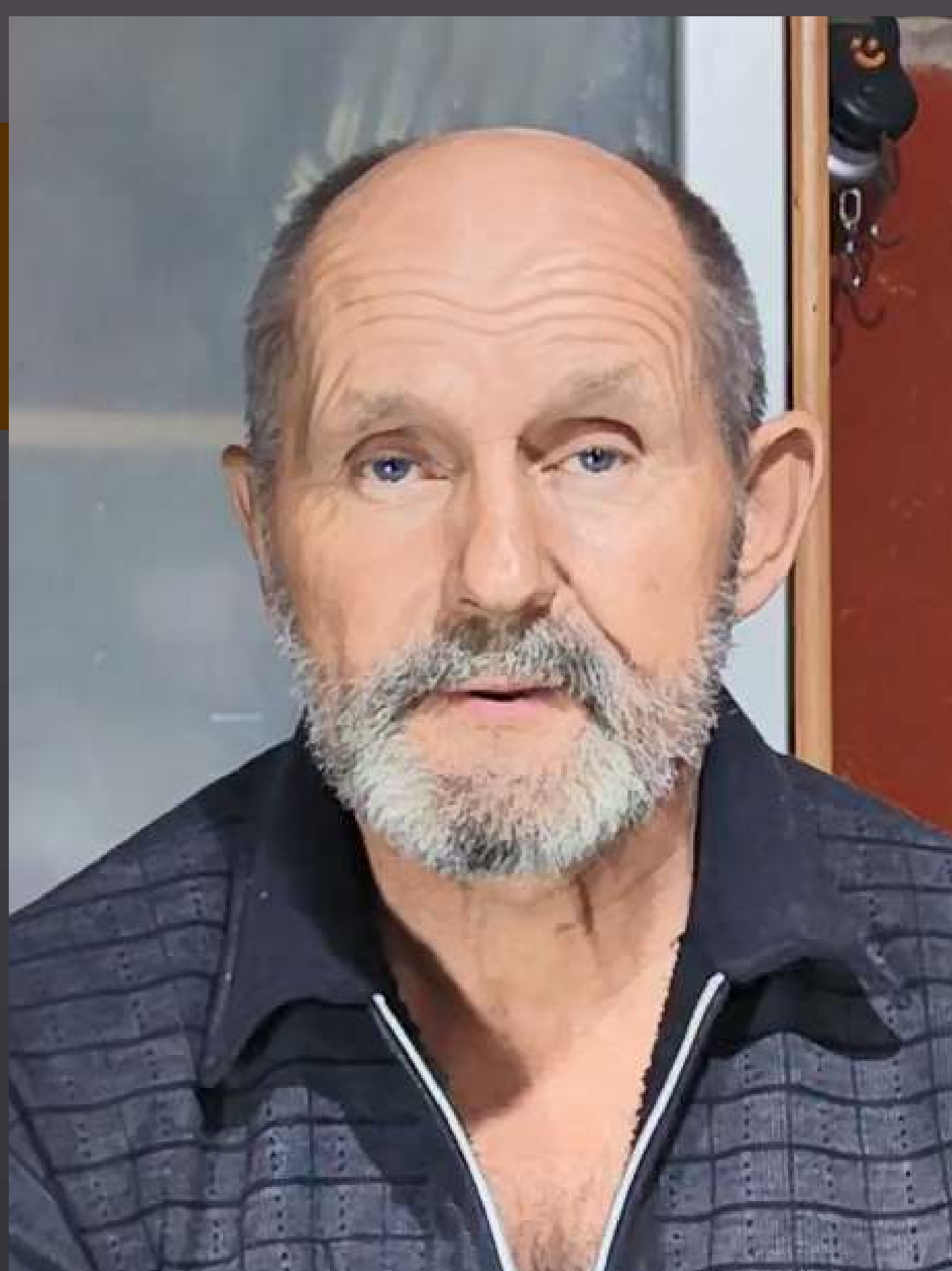
We watched from our windows that the Ukrainian servicemen were taking everything from the kindergarten. I thought, 'Oh my God, oh my God. They took everything: mattresses, plates and lots of other things».

**Sergey Viktorovich
Bulava**

«All the residents of our part of the apartment block left. Only I stayed. I saw Pavlovka when it was shelled. I looked from the roof of my house and they noticed me. In the morning there was a knock on the door. I opened the door, there were military men there. They told me to get ready, take my documents and my phone with me. They put a black bag over my head so I couldn't see them and where they were taking me. It was early summer of 2022.

They started asking me why I was looking at Pavlovka. I told them that my mum, my brother and my sister lived there. They hit me in the ribs very hard. I had bruises afterwards. One rib hurt for a long time. They hit me on both sides and then interrogated me from about half past nine in the morning until about one o'clock in the afternoon. Four and a half hours.

I said I wasn't guilty of anything. I was just watching. I asked them to let me go. But they first interrogated me in one place, then put me in the car and took me to another place with a black bag on my head. I didn't see them. They didn't talk to each other either. It was somewhere not far from Ugledar, where they let me go. They dropped me off from the car and took off the sack from my head. Then they showed me the direction to Ugledar».

**Vyacheslav Eduardovich
Riman**

«I walked to the shop crossing the central road, and there were three mortar shelling rounds. They landed in the area of our school. Every day the Ukrainian armed forces shelled three mortars at different points. There were a lot of people in our school. Once we were shelled, and after that 180 people left the town immediately. Two days later they shelled again and another 160 people left.

One day the Ukrainian military fired here, on another day they fired at the Molodyozhka district. On the following day they fired at the Staroye settlement and near the Vector area. All the time they shelled where people were gathered. At the Vector area people came to get water. There was a big gathering of people. A 120mm mortar shell arrived and there were a lot of casualties. The perished victims were picked up by pieces and then buried.

The Chief of Police told us: 'Get out of the town. Whoever does not leave the town, will be shot dead by the last Ukrainian soldier before he leaves the town. There were Ukrainian soldiers who said, 'Let's get out of here so that they don't see us. One of them came up to me and said, 'Are you thinking of leaving?' I said, 'Actually, no, I have no pension, nothing'. He said: 'Come to my village and work for a bowl of soup, you will always need a bowl of soup'. They needed slaves there».



**Vitaliy Sergeyevich
Geza**

«It started in March 2022, and became really very active in April 2022. A Ukrainian tank and a mobile mortar were driving around the town in the open. They hit houses without hesitation. They burned down my flat. They were shooting drones. They burned down and smashed the houses with tanks and mortars.

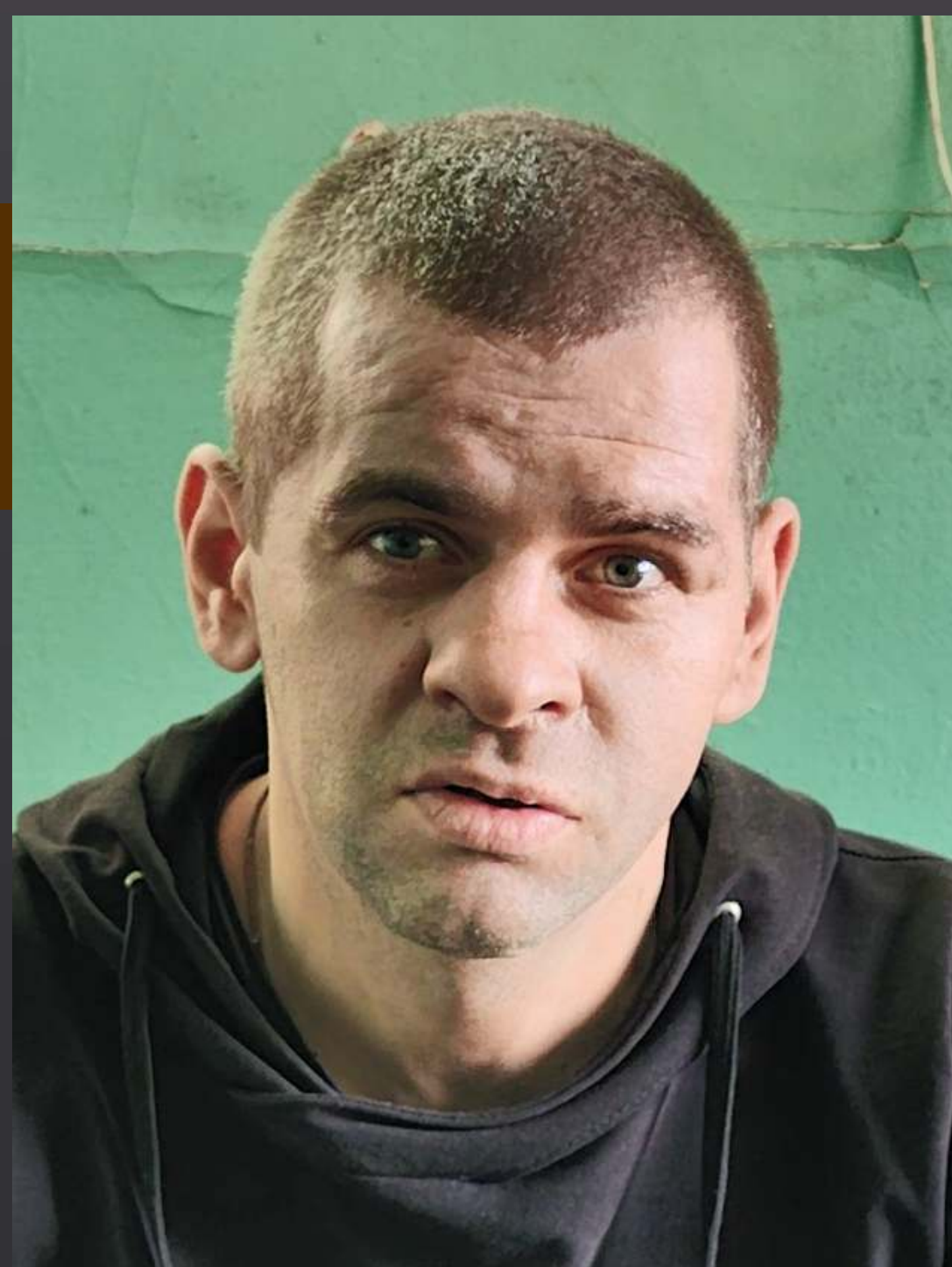
People hadn't even left yet, when the Ukrainian army servicemen started robbing their flats and houses. They were hauling stuff out in Kamaz trucks, a lot of them. They came several times to the same set of apartments. We saw it very

vividly. They were not shy looting in front of our eyes. It was in the daytime.

My friend's father was killed by tank shelling. He and other people went to get water from the well near the School №2. They walked to the entrance of the building and heard a tank shot, then a whistle. There were three of them: my cousin - in law, his father and his friend. That was in 2022. Lately, Ukrainian drone pilots settled around. We stayed in the basement for a long time. They burned the houses before the town was liberated. They realised what was going on, and started burning houses very actively. It was impossible to put the houses out. We tried, but it was impossible. The Ukrainian soldiers burned everything on purpose. A tank drove around and fired; everything was targeted. They were hitting houses day and night.

Lately, Ukrainian drone pilots settled around. We stayed in the basement for a long time. They burned the houses before the town was liberated. They realised what was going on, and started burning houses very actively. It was impossible to put the houses out. We tried, but it was impossible.

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**Dmitry Aleksandrovych
Zhitnik**

«Ukrainian military broke into apartments brazenly using crowbars, tire irons and bolt cutters. I remember that one of the neighbours asked them why they looted. They said that it was for the army. They took refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, hoovers and even fans. They were impudent and didn't shy away from anyone.

They nearly shot me dead once. I live in the second entrance of the apartment block. The Ukrainian soldiers came to the first entrance and asked for a ladder. I had a ladder outside, so I gave

them my ladder. Then I came to get back my ladder. I was on the ground floor when a young soldier ran down from the first floor and clicked his machine gun. He cursed and said: 'What are you doing here? I don't want to see you, otherwise I will shoot you'».



**Stepan Anatolievich
Koltakov**

«I am a miner, I have lived and worked here all my life. Ukrainians shelled everything they could. In March 2023, there were no Russians here. Ukrainian troops fired mortars at the people here.

At the very beginning of the war, the Ukrainians saw that people were not evacuating. They didn't want to leave, that's all. So they started to mortar them. Volnovakha had not been taken yet by the Russian troops, but Ukrainians already shelled us with mortars. People were driven out of the town that way. It looked

like a cleansing. We didn't even understand what kind of cleansing. The Ukrainian military said, 'Clean-up, clean-up, here's the clean-up'. When there was no water, we went to the post office, where there were wells and generators. The whole village took energy from there. Then a bomb hit the crowd. Everything was destroyed and people were blown up. Then we stopped going there».



**Sergey Viktorovich
Schebelsky**

«There was an episode in Olginka village in 2016. I brought watermelons from the gourds and we were shelled. I came from work to see my mum. The Armed forces of Ukraine had a roadblock there on the motorway. They were either from the 'Aidar' or the 'Right Sector'. At night I went outside around 1am. and heard shelling. The Ukrainian armed guys had a disagreement with the Aydar or someone else, because they took less tribute from the trucks to get through the checkpoint, while Aidar or Right Sector took more. They started shelling the

Ukrainian armed forces from Blagodatnoye and Novotroitskaya settlements. So they shelled this checkpoint. And we were at the crossroads of the fire. Nobody raised their heads. The houses were battered. And we were in the basement for two nights in a row.

The armed forces of Ukraine were real looters. They looted, and then a truck would come in the evening or at night, and they loaded up. They blew up our apartment block entrance, where the flats were locked. You can see there, everything is blown up, all the doors.

On 19 April 2022, I was wounded. The Ukrainian armed forces were shooting. We cooked food near the school. The Ukrainian soldiers started shooting. I entered the building and managed to get the girls in, but didn't have enough time, and shrapnel hit my hand. It was a mortar.

My mum told me how once Ukrainian soldiers were walking through the streets, and one soldier said to my mum: 'We have an order. When we withdraw from here, we will make a 'black park' here.' It means wiping our town off the face of the earth».



**Anton Vladimirovich
Savich**

«The Ukrainians all that time were shooting from the West. The shelling was going on all the time. It was even difficult to sleep, three years of constant shelling. Visually we saw that it was Ukrainian nationalists.

Once a car came to the school porch. It brought food and humanitarian aid, water, cereals and porridge in boxes. The chaplains from the Christian churches brought it all. They said, 'Let's pray', so we prayed. The car drove off and then the shelling started. The iron door was reduced to a sieve. I used to play

chess with guys there.

The local residents were killed and torn apart by the shells from the incoming attacks. Here are the graves. We buried people where we could: in the rubbish area and everywhere. I personally buried Ruslan at the very beginning. He was killed two years ago near the first mine stop, at the exit. That is where his grave is. Then Denis is buried here, then Andrei. Igor's wrestling coach came out of the basement six months ago, and a shell blew him up. There was a barrel with water there, on the corner of the Vector area. We went there to get water. Four men were blown up to bits. Bodies were all over the place. And there are a lot of cases like that, just from shelling».



**Vera Semyonovna
Makhova**

«I have been a resident of Ugledar since 1979. I worked in the hospital and in the mine. I am a medical worker.

The armed forces of Ukraine were not just shooting, they were shooting up the town. As soon as evening came, people on the ground floors were all sleeping under the windows, because they couldn't sleep on their beds. The Ukrainian soldiers walked along the streets and shot at the windows and at the balconies. All glass and frames flew into the flats.

Ukrainian mortars were deliberately located near the houses. The soldiers would come out in the evening and move their mortars. They would shoot at one place, then another place. In short, they shelled all the town. They shot up all the shops one by one, and then looted them. After that they burned them.

The Ukrainian military used axes and crowbars to open our apartments. Where there were metal doors that didn't open well, they broke them with crowbars. All flats and houses were opened and everything was taken. They took all the cars around. They took everything from the street. The garages were also broken out and everything was taken out in a methodical way.

The armed forces of Ukraine took things and sent them by post. I had a friend who worked at the New Post Office».

**Natalia Evgenievna Novak and her son
Sergey Novak (19 years old)**



«I have two sons. The eldest is 22 now, the youngest is 19. To prevent the boys from being taken to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, we hid them in the ventilation.

They had it so well-practiced: when the Ukrainian military was coming, the children immediately hid in the ventilation in what they were wearing, even barefoot. There were times when they lay there for several hours, while there was a raid and an ID check by the Ukrainian servicemen.

The Ukrainian Armed Forces herded people together here in the basement. There was such a moment, when my eldest son managed to jump off the bed and hide in the dark corner, where we had exercise equipment and exercise machines, but the younger one did not have time to hide. The Ukrainian soldiers started walking with machine guns, checking everywhere. My younger son jumped onto the bed and hid behind the clothes. I see that he stands there and the soldier walks towards him. I just had to draw attention to myself so that the soldier would turn away and not see that there was a child standing there. The soldier lit up the room with a torch. I was afraid that he could see my son's legs. So I started screaming and talking nonsense, and the soldier walked over to me. I don't even know how my son managed to squeeze through there. Later, when I was able to get closer, he was gone. I was just horrified. I couldn't

understand where he had gone.

My son bent over there and managed to hide in the ventilation in the dark. Of course, it was very scary and creepy. My children lay there naked for three hours. When they came out, they were shaking. They were dressed only in T-shirts and were barefoot. It was winter. It was already cold in the basement. It was so scary.

Olga, Marina and I were on duty on the stairs. Well, that was at 5 or 6am. until 12 o'clock. In any weather we were at the door, like the guard, so that if we saw Ukrainian soldiers or volunteers somewhere, we would have time to warn our men. Everyone was aware and knew: if any men were coming, everyone hid.

Journalists came to us. It reminded me of monkeys in a cage. They walked around and filmed. What were they filming? Why? What did they want to see? Our people were exhausted, many were elderly people. Those journalists behaved brazenly. They were Ukrainian and foreign ones.

Ukrainian volunteers came as if they helped us. We did not want them to come just to tick off a box. This was not help. Some people did help. However, others just did it for PR, they simply advertised themselves».





**Olga Ivanovna
Bysenko-Epifanova**

«The Ukrainian armed forces looted. I personally saw it with my own eyes. We locked our house so that people could keep at least some of their belongings. Many people left their belongings in the hope that they would return.

The Ukrainian armed forces wanted to open the house by using grenade launchers. We asked them what they wanted, and they demanded that we open the doors. Our guys opened the doors of the house. The Ukrainian military went in with bags and later came out with huge bags full of stuff. It was all so direct

and brazen. It was in the middle of the day, when people were standing in the street, doing laundry, taking out the rubbish, sweeping, whatever. The Ukrainian servicemen did not even conceal their actions. They took the bags out, said, "Now you can lock the house". It was the beginning of 2023.

People who left Ugledar, our neighbours who went to other places in Ukraine, don't believe that the Ukrainian army was looting. They think that we are the ones who looted the flats, not the great Ukrainian army.

We were terribly afraid of the Ukrainian soldiers because they were very rarely sober. They intimidated us saying: 'We will take you all out by force. If we do not stay here, we will bury you all'. We lived with that. We understood that they hated us.

They said they would shoot us. For two and a half years we lived in terrible fear».



**Ivan Andreyevich
Ponomarenko**

«My friends told me that the Armed Forces of Ukraine came to the west of our town to Molodezhnaya Street and fired towards Pavlovka. Then they turned their muzzles and fired at the town. School №3 was hit a couple of times, and the roof caught fire.

Russian troops were nowhere near here. After the first two or three months of the special military operation, the first attacks on houses came from the direction of Kurakhovo. If you look at the map, shelling was from the north. The projectiles came from the Ukrainian side and the houses were battered from the north

side. That was the Ukrainian side.

Once the Ukrainian military brigade came in here. They pulled full bags from the hospital with medicine.

They opened our flats and took out TVs, refrigerators and microwaves. I saw it myself how they looted the flats from the fourth floor. I was at the balcony and saw it. People on Molodyozhnaya Street also saw the armed forces of Ukraine pickup trucks coming at night. At night they loaded everything they could on the trucks. So in two days after they kicked the people out of their flats, they immediately started looting».