

INTERNATIONAL
P U B L I C
T R I B U N A L
ON THE CRIMES
OF UKRAINIAN
N E O - N A Z I

THE FOUNDATION
FOR THE STUDY
OF DEMOCRACY

CRIMES OF THE KIEV REGIME IN THE TOWN OF UGLEDAR

**(Proceedings of the International Public Tribunal on the
Crimes of Ukrainian Neo-Nazis)**

2024

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On 1 March 2022, during an international conference on the initiative of human rights defenders, lawyers and journalists, a decision was made to establish an International Public Tribunal on the crimes of Ukrainian neo-Nazis (chaired by Maxim S. Grigoriev). At present it includes representatives of civil society from more than 30 countries (USA, Canada, Germany, France, Spain, Poland, India, Argentina, Italy, Australia, Israel, Serbia, etc.). The main task of the International Public Tribunal is to collect evidence of the crimes of the Kiev neo-Nazi regime, to present information about them on Russian and international platforms, and to transmit this data to the judicial authorities of countries around the world to enable them to punish those responsible.

The report presents first-hand direct testimonies of residents of the town of Ugledar who suffered from Ukrainian war crimes while it was under Ukrainian control.

Geneva Convention IV defines the need to provide protection to civilians. To this end, 'attacks on life and physical integrity, in particular all forms of killing, will be prohibited at all times and in all places'. Article 147 IV of the Geneva Convention also states that wilful killing constitutes a grave breach of the Convention. Under international humanitarian law, certain categories of persons, such as women and children, should be accorded special respect and protection. Children should receive the care and assistance they need.

The Geneva Conventions and their Protocols explicitly prohibit collective punishment, killings and acts of terrorism against civilians, both in the context of international conflicts and non-international armed conflicts.

According to Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) of 8 June 1977, 'attacks on the life, health, physical and mental condition of persons, in particular murder, collective punishment, acts of terrorism against persons, all persons not taking a direct part in hostilities or who have ceased to take part in hostilities, are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place'. Article 13 of the agreement states that 'the civilian population as well as individual civilians shall not be the object of attack'.

Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) of 8 June 1977, also prohibits 'outrages upon human dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment, rape' (Article 4), and 'acts of violence or threats of violence having as their principal aim the terrorisation of the civilian population' (Article 13). Terror has been a constant component of the Kiev regime's policy towards Russian-speaking residents.

A number of methods of warfare are expressly prohibited by treaty and customary rules of international state law. Robbery was already defined as a war crime in the report of the Accountability Commission established after the First World War, as well as in the Charter of the International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg) established after the Second World War. Article 16 IV of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, also prohibits pillage. Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) of 8 June 1977, 'pillage shall be prohibited at any time and in any place against persons, all persons taking no direct part or having ceased to take part in hostilities.' In its judgement in the Military Junta case in 1985, the Argentine National Court of Appeal applied the prohibition of pillage contained in the 1907 Hague Regulations to acts committed in situations of internal violence. The prohibition of pillage is supported by official statements and other practices relating to non-international armed conflicts. It has been a constant practice of the Ukrainian Armed Forces to loot and steal from the Russian-speaking population in the territory temporarily controlled by the Kiev regime.

Under international law, the facts of the Kyiv regime's crimes presented below qualify as war crimes and have no statute of limitations.

Since 2014, in the Russian-speaking territories, the Kyiv regime has created a practice of terror towards the local population. One of the elements of this terror was the de facto authorisation by the Kyiv regime for the armed forces and special services of Ukraine to kill, rape, torture and beat local residents. Even in cases proven by investigations and judgements by the courts, none of the military personnel were punished for the murders.

Svetlana Evgenyevna Sinitsina, a resident of the town of Ugledar, testifies about the murder of her son by a Ukrainian soldier from the Aïdar unit: 'We have had so many cases here. Girls were raped and abused by Ukrainian soldiers. On 27 August 2016, around 10 p.m. my son was brutally killed by a Ukrainian soldier from Aïdar. Drunk Ukrainian servicemen started talking very rudely to the girls. My son Maxim stopped and reprimanded them. One of them Dmytro Soroka pulled out a knife and stabbed Maxim in the groin artery. My son bled to death within three to four minutes. Our investigators from Ugledar wrote everything correctly, however, his *Aïdar* mates '*Aïdarovtsy*' bailed him out, so nobody punished him.

Sergey Anatolievich Goloborodko recounts: 'A fellow miner was resting once in a café. A military man came in and started shouting 'Glory to Ukraine!' The miner said to him, 'Glory to the miners!' And for that he got a knife. The military man did not receive any punishment for this.

Svetlana Gennadyevna Panova talks about how the armed forces of Ukraine's servicemen tested nerve paralyzing substances on the citizens of Ugledar. 'The armed forces of Ukraine tested something on us like guinea pigs. We lay like rats. We could barely move our lips, but could not do anything. We were paralysed. Then in a while we got up and were examined and described. We couldn't even feel anything, our organs couldn't feel anything at all. We were in shock.'

Residents of Ugledar testify that since 2022 Ukrainian troops have been terrorising the town through shelling. They specifically emphasise that the shelling came from the direction of Ukrainian positions and started when Russian troops were far away.

Yevgeny Anatolievich Tarasenko, like many other residents of Ugledar, personally saw the Ukrainian military shooting at the town. He said, 'I am a personal witness - my house looks towards Kurakhovo, towards the third mine. I went out at the balcony and I could see everything. A car roared through the fields on the territory of the armed forces of Ukraine. It was a pickup car. Its headlights were on. It was clear that the car was driving through the field. Then it was shelled. Stepan Anatolievich Koltakov said, 'The Ukrainian military fired particularly often at clusters of civilians. At the very beginning of the war the Ukrainian forces saw that people did not want to evacuate. Well, the residents did not want to leave, that's all. So the Ukrainian military started mortaring them. It was at the time, even Volnovakha had not yet been taken. The Ukrainians were already bombing us with mortars. Some five or six men came out to have a smoke and have a chat. A mortar hit them. Choo! Bang! All of them. Arms and legs were blown off. My mum's Godfather was killed. The armed forces of Ukraine always did this. They hit the people who gathered to receive humanitarian aid. Svetlana Gennadyevna Panova, a resident of Ugledar, also told about it. 'The armed forces of Ukraine see that there is an accumulation of people and start bombing. Let's say, a chaplain brought bread. When he came, we told him to quickly give us bread and water, and then we wanted to leave, but Ukrainians told us to wait when journalists could take photos of shelling. They said, 'Wait, say on camera that it was Russia who shelled. I said, no. We can't tell them the truth, because we would be shot right away.

Ivan Andreevich Ponomarenko, like many others, said that it was easy to determine that it was the armed forces of Ukraine who shelled the town. 'My friends told me that the armed forces of Ukraine

came to the west of the town to Molodezhnaya Street where we were, and fired in the direction of Pavlovka. Then they turned their muzzles around and fired on the town. School №3 was hit a couple of times. 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 were from the direction of Kurakhovo. The shelling was from the north from the Ukrainian side. The residents of the town testified that a particularly large amount of destruction in the town was due to the intention of the armed forces of Ukraine. They caused the most damage when leaving the town. 'My mum told me how the Ukrainian military were walking through the streets. One soldier said to my mum, 'We have an order. We will withdraw from here and make a 'black park' here'. That meant wiping the town off the face of the earth.'

Testimony collected in Ugledar by the International Public Tribunal indicates that, as in other locations, the armed forces of Ukraine killed their own citizens so that Western and Ukrainian journalists could film bloody, staged footage to incriminate Russia. There was no doubt among local residents as to who was shelling and where the shelling was coming from.

Irina Vitalievna Lydina told: 'In 2022, five people were killed by the armed forces of Ukraine shelling. I went through the yards to get water and I saw that there were brains and somebody's head. There were remains of people's bodies without arms and legs. A child of five years old was crying 'Daddy, where's my Daddy? His father, Kostya, was killed. In five minutes after shooting there were journalists around. Such atrocities were carried out just for the sake of propaganda. The reporters who came here said that Russia did it. Although they saw it with their own eyes, bastards.

Sergey Vladimirovich Zadorozhny said that such kind of orchestrated shelling started from the very beginning of hostilities. 'Our town was shelled when there were no Russian troops here. When I ran to the hospital I saw two burnt-out cars and four dead bodies. It was interesting that the Ukrainian soldiers from the armed forces of Ukraine stayed in the sanatorium, and nothing hit that building, though everything exploded in front of the hospital. When I came home, Ukrainian radio was already broadcasting that Russia had struck Ugledar. Well, who would believe it? We did not. When the blue house was shelled for the first time, we put out the fire. The most interesting thing was that the Ukrainian soldiers came and called their military mates in front of us, saying, 'do not shell the fourth sector, we are helping to extinguish the flat there'.

Yevgeniy Anatolievich Tarasenko told us that right before his eyes the Ukrainian military fired at the town in order that Western journalists could film it. 'In 2022, I was approaching the school, and in front of me there was a woman journalist wearing glasses. Behind her there was a Ukrainian serviceman in uniform. I walked up to the school behind them. The journalist turned around with her camera and filmed the street. It was quiet in the street. There was silence and not a shot. Nothing happened. Ukrainian soldier said on the radio: 'It's quiet here, make some noise, make some noise here'. And it started, shots were fired here and there. And the journalist shouted, 'Oh my God, oh my God,' and ran away.

Another method of terrorising the local population was their forced mobilisation by the armed forces of Ukraine. Local residents were forced to hide men and teenagers. Natalia Yevgenievna Novak told how she hid her teenage children for two and a half years. 'I have two sons. Now the older one is 22 and the younger one is 19. To prevent the boys from being taken to the armed forces of Ukraine, we hid them in the ventilation. It was already practised when the Ukrainian military came. Children immediately hid in the ventilation wearing whatever they had on, even barefoot. It happened that they were lying there for several hours while we were raided.

Data collected by the International Public Tribunal unequivocally indicates that the Russian-speaking residents of Ugledar, as well as in other settlements, were subjected to total robbery and theft by the Ukrainian armed forces. In most cases, this was not hidden in any way and was done openly in front of the robbed residents. Witnesses say that their property was openly exported by lorries, sent by Ukrainian mail, often sold in neighbouring territories under Ukrainian control, and in a number of cases when selling stolen goods, they openly said 'Goods from Donbas'. The theft by Ukrainian military personnel was of a total nature: audio and video equipment, including television sets, household

appliances, including refrigerators, microwave ovens and hoovers, sanitary ware, clothing, children's toys and furniture, women's underwear, etc. In the same way as they robbed private flats and houses, they robbed state organisations, schools and kindergartens.

Vitaliy Vitalievich Bondar states: 'The Ukrainian military stole regularly and with pleasure. They took everything they could. Of course, the priority was household appliances, TV sets, washing machines and gas cookers. We even went so far as to remove sockets, switches and mixers. Sockets were pulled out, good tiles were knocked off from the walls and floors. They sent all this through the New Post. They set up shops in the neighbouring communities. They were called '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?'

Alexander Kablukov's flat was also robbed by Ukrainian military. 'They visited residents' flats from time to time. My TV set and my roller skates disappeared. They even wrote obscene words against Russians on the walls of my mother's flat.

Sergey Anatolievich Goloborodko told us how his flat was robbed by the armed forces of Ukraine: 'The armed forces of Ukraine moved into our flats, looted, took all the equipment, a SLR camera, speakers, audio-video equipment. They took it all, even my wife's underwear which was hanging in the room. When we entered the room, it was knee-deep in clothes and other staff. The Ukrainian soldiers threw everything from the cupboards on the floor and took what they wanted. They also broke into my garage and stole expensive bicycles and basically all the equipment that was in there. They also took the tyres off the car and smashed the side window. All the glove compartments and the boot were open. They also took the winter tyres from the basement.'

Dmytro Zhitnik spoke about how he was almost killed: 'Ukrainian military walked around, brazenly with crowbars and tire irons. They broke flats and stole refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, hoovers and even fans. Once I was almost shot dead'.

Vitaliy Sergeevich Geza told how the stolen goods were exported by lorries: 'The residents had not even moved out of the town, when the Ukrainian military stole their property exporting it by KAMAZ trucks. They came several times to every entrance of apartment blocks. We saw it very well. They were not ashamed, did everything in the daytime.

Sergey Bulava also told us how the armed forces of Ukraine openly robbed his own flat: 'In October I came to the kitchen, and a soldier came out. There was no washing machine in the flat. The bicycle was dismantled and the tyres were taken.

Elena Alekseevna Kuzicheva told how a kindergarten was looted. 'The armed forces of Ukraine took out washing machines and refrigerators. I was approaching the house when they drove with an infantry fighting vehicle. I came up. Those guys, of course, were from Western Ukraine.

We watched from the windows as the armed forces of Ukraine took everything out of the kindergarten. I thought, Oh my God, oh my God. They took everything; mattresses and dishes, and lots and lots of things.

Natalya Petrovna Zadorozhnaya said that the Ukrainian military regarded the stolen goods as their 'booty' and 'trophies' from the territory they had seized. 'We sat like little mice, because they had machine guns. They took everything out of the flats, everything they liked. They broke down the doors of the flats, took refrigerators, cars, even cots and children's toys. It was looting. As they said later, it was not looting, but booty, trophies. They earned them. But then for some reason these trophies turned up on the other side in Ukraine. Goods from Donbass.'

The Ukrainian servicemen often from Western Ukraine did not hide their attitude towards the inhabitants of Russian-speaking settlements and, like the German Nazis, were sure that they would take flats and houses from the locals, and the inhabitants of Donbass would serve them as slaves.

Olga Ivanovna Byshenko-Epifanova said that the Ukrainian military directly said that they would take away houses and land from the residents of Donbas: 'The Ukrainian military came, in particular from

Western Ukraine, and said that this dacha would be their dacha, and this land would be their land. People were worried that they would be left without land, because it was supposedly already promised to the Ukrainian servicemen.

Vyacheslav Eduardovich Riman recounted: 'The police chief told us, that we should move out. He said, 'The last soldier will shoot you dead before he would leave the town. There were Ukrainian military men who said, 'Let's get out of here.' 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'. They needed slaves there.

Svetlana Yevgenyevna Sinitsina testified: 'These Ukrainian soldiers who were here, told us that they would give us land and five slaves. You will work for us'.

Residents of the town of Ugledar gave an unambiguous assessment of the actions of the Kiev regime, qualifying them as Nazi. Natalia Petrovna Zadorozhnaya spoke about what happened: 'The Ukrainian armed forces killed children and old people, and raped women. What did you come for? We didn't touch you. For our Russian language, because we want to speak it? We didn't want to stay in Ukraine.' Svetlana Genadyevna Panova qualified Ukraine's actions as 'underhanded Nazism' and harshly formulated her personal attitude to its regime: 'Why were they shooting at us? I think it's all Nazism. Now I can't stand Ukrainians. And I don't want to live in Ukraine. I didn't think I would hate them so much.'

APPENDIX

TESTIMONIES OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF UGLEDAR

1. Svetlana Evgenievna Sinitsina, resident of Ugledar

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. He lives at the address: 4, Naberezhnaya street, Kupel village, Volochysky district, Khmelnytsky region.

During the time that the trial was going on he managed to get married and came here with his wife, you know. The only thing I want is for his mother to feel what I've been feeling all these years. When my son died, my grandson was 5 years old. Now he is 12.

From the beginning of the war Ukrainian missiles shelled the hospital. I personally saw the shelling from the blue house there. It was from the side of Kurakhov. Russia was not even close to it. I myself thought, at first unjustly, that it was the Russians who shelled, but it was Ukraine all the time.

All our houses were shelled by the Ukrainians. That blue house where I my sister lived, caught fire. I lived there for a while as well. When it caught fire, we all rushed and started saving it. These were the first fires. At that time we still tried to save the houses.

The Ukrainian military came, and what do you think? They seemed to help us to put out the fire. The shelling was still going on. Many people gathered there and suddenly we heard on the radio, how one of the Ukrainian military said, 'Guys, don't shoot in this square, we're here, we are here.' What does that mean? The shelling stopped. No one shelled that square anymore.

We are sitting here in the basement of the school. I came here on 11 March 2022. I have been here for 2 years and 7 months. We can even follow from where the shelling came and who fired. All shelling comes from Ukraine. They shelled us. God saved us, that is why it didn't get to our basement. Our whole school is trashed. The basement, where we stayed, thank God the missiles did not hit. We sat there thinking and saying goodbye every second, thinking that this was the last second of our life. That's how we spent two years and seven months here.

The Ukrainian troops stole everything they could. They took everything beginning with children's small bicycles up to furniture. My flat is located right where their trenches were. My husband and I managed to run out twice and pick up our clothes. My mum has a flat right next door. She used to work abroad and had lots of good things in her flat in old-fashioned way; carpets, nice furniture and crockery. She is now 86 years old. The Ukrainian military marauders took everything.

She was not the only one. We were at school here and we saw the Ukrainian armed forces' cars loaded with refrigerators, TVs, furniture - everything. Go into any flat now - there's nothing. Many people left Ugledar. Mostly they left light, just taking some things. The flats were locked with everything in them. We are a mining town, so people lived well. Now there's nothing in the flats. Absolutely everything has been taken away. Go into any flat, there's absolutely nothing. Cars have been taken away.

There was an episode. The guy who lived here, got a call from Kurakhovo. Some Ukrainian called him and said that he was given that guy's phone number. That Ukrainian from Kurakhovo called him, asking for the technical passport of his car? It was a new, imported very good car. Our man said, 'I don't understand, what technical passport should I give you? My car was stolen, and you bought my stolen car.'

Not only did they steal from the houses, they also stole from the dachas. What do people usually have at their dachas? Our dachas are small. What people didn't need in their flats, they took to their dachas. Do you understand?

There was another case. I stay at school now, and my house is the very first house at the beginning of the town. Ukrainians put their cannons and tanks there near the first houses, and they fired right next to the houses, where people lived.

Our neighbours there terrified. They were hiding in the basement, and Ukrainian tanks were firing. Our Ugledar man came up and started talking to the soldiers telling them that they should not shoot near the houses, that they should go a little further away, because, he said, the response fire will come, and all our houses will be blown up. The military said that they were Ukrainians and if that man carried on talking to them that way, they would shoot him dead. The man started talking to them again. And then the neighbours who were in the basement, heard two shots like from the gun, 'pow, pow'. Everybody stopped talking. In the morning his wife came running. She asked all the people if they'd seen her husband.

The men who were there, went looking for him. My house is right across the street from the bus stop. There was a ditch of some kind. They found the man there. He was lying dead in that ditch behind the branches. Everyone realised that the Ukrainian military shot him. It was at the beginning of the war.

These Ukrainian soldiers who were here, told us that they would be given our land and five slaves each. I said, 'what kind of slaves?' They answered, 'You will work for us. They promised us in Ukraine that they would give us land here and five slaves, do you understand?'

2. Alexander Vladimirovich Kablukov, resident of Ugledar

I have been living in Ugledar since my birth and until. 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.

3. Vitaliy Vitalievich Bondar, resident of Ugledar

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.

How do you file a theft report if the Mayor dismissed all the services including police and hospitals? He ordered the fire service to close, but the firemen still stayed in the town on their own initiative. Then the Mayor ordered them to leave, so we had a town without any services: no water since 2022, no gas, no light. We organised ourselves as best we could. That's how we survived. People huddled together like sparrows.

4. Natalia Petrovna Zadorozhnaya, resident of Ugledar

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.

5. Evgeny Anatolievich Tarasenko, resident of Ugledar

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.

In 2023, in the beginning, the Ukrainian fighters brought us humanitarian aid. Later I understood the purpose. They brought it because they wanted us to give them our data information: our passports, ID number and phone number. Then they put us all in their list and after that gave us humanitarian aid. There were such cases when some guys came to pick up humanitarian aid, and a white minibus was standing there, looking for them. Then later the Ukrainian servicemen would pick them up, knowing their passports, addresses and telephones. I know that they found some people who watched Russian television on the Internet in their phones, some videos on 'VKontakte' or somewhere else on Telegram and some videos from the Donetsk People's Republic. Five persons signed a contract with the armed forces of Ukraine under threat: join the Ukrainian armed forces or get ten years imprisonment.

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'.

6. Sergey Vladimirovich Zadorozhny (65 years old), resident of Ugledar

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.

A Polish guy came once. He said, 'Did the Russians shoot?' I said, 'The soldiers were shooting from over there, from Kurakhovo'. I told him, 'Let's go, I'll show you.' I went and showed him the holes, where shelling came from the cottage. I said, that there were no Russians. It was the Azov, the nationalists. I said, 'Look, where the Ukrainian soldiers shelled from, they shelled my house from there.' And we were all indignant, did they shell their own people?

Some Ukrainian correspondents from the Unian or somewhere else. One of them came up to me, saying, 'Can I interview you?' I said, 'no'. 'Why not?' I said, 'Because you're lying'. I said, 'It's impossible to listen to your news'. I told him the truth, and then they didn't come to our school again.

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.

As Ukrainians were chased away from Volnovakha, it was a whole horde. Not even one journalist wrote about who was shelling us, who robbed us and all that.

The American journalists came as well. I told them all this and they shook their heads negatively. What we said was nowhere to be found, not on the news and not on the Internet.

The armed forces of Ukraine robbed right in front of our eyes. There was a car near the entrance of the apartment block. Two people drove up. The Ukrainian soldiers came up to them saying, 'Give us the car'. The car owners jumped out of the car saying, 'Guys, what are you doing? It's our car'. There was no battery in the car, so they left and then came back, put the battery in and stole the car.

7. Marina Vladimirovna Goloborodko, resident of Ugledar

I worked in Ugledar as a college director. The shelling of the town by Ukrainians began when there were no Russian troops in the vicinity. Neither the Donetsk People's Republic, nor Russian troops.

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.

I saw with my own eyes the state of alcoholic and drug intoxication of Ukrainian military men. Their eye pupils became twitchy. They shot at the windows of houses just for fun. We always tried to get away and to stay out of sight.

Ukrainian servicemen were evicting us from our apartments. They didn't ask, they just said, 'You have 10 minutes or half an hour to vacate the flat.'

When shelling of the town began, 680 people hid in the basement of the school. Then people started to move out, and mass evacuations began. Little by little some people died naturally. Then parents with children had to leave, because they were forced to evacuate. There were cars with a note on the side 'White Angel.'

They told us that if we did not leave, they would take our children out by force. They would take away the children and put their parents in jail.

Our task here was to save our men, and we hid them in the basement. We had a place where we hid them. That was for two and a half years. There was mobilisation, the time came when we simply did not allow our men to show on the streets. In Ugledar the Security service of Ukraine would check the documents and phones. In one of these visits they took away two men, who, unfortunately, we did not have time to hide. They serve somewhere in the armed forces of Ukraine.

I was terrorised by the Ukrainian soldiers all the time. I was told: 'You are young and have education. You can work. Why don't you go to Ukraine? If you are not a separatist or a traitor, why do you stay here and not leave?'

While my parents and grandmother were here, I said, that I would not leave them. Then my grandmother died, my father became very ill and had to leave. He had an operation. I stayed and tried to be invisible'.

8. Sergey Anatolievich Goloborodko, resident of Ugledar

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.

A Ukrainian jeep with a mortar moved around and shelled the town. I think it was on purpose to make the town residents to leave.

9. Irena Vitalievna Lydina (67 years old), resident of Ugledar

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.

10. Svetlana Gennadyevna Panova, victim of the Armed Forces of Ukraine crimes from Ugledar

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.

A long time ago, where the house eight existed, we had a shop, where you could buy bread. The Ukrainian military drove by on the tank and saw a cluster of people. They turned the tank around and fired four shots at the house. Everyone shuddered. We quickly went down to the basement where Svetka was. Of course, there were a lot of splinters. People were hit.

The Ukrainian authorities told the people to go to the Vector for water. Everyone who needed water went there. There were old women, pensioners and young people. A large number of them gathered there. And that was where the Ukrainian fighters struck. It was terrible. People had their arms and legs blown off. And heads. A lot of casualties. And reporters came at once.

The Ukrainian armed forces saw the crowd of people and started bombing. They shot at the crowd. Once a chaplain brought bread. It happened rarely. He brought it right here on the square in front of the school. We came, and Ukrainian drone flew over. Many people were hit. Next time when they brought bread, we told them: 'Give us bread and water quickly'. And they said, 'Wait, speak on the camera'. 'What should I tell?' 'That it was Russia that shot at everything'. I said, no. But we could not tell them the truth, because we would be shot right away. We were threatened. It was creepy.

Why were they shooting at us? 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.

There were two or three people living in each house, people did not want to leave, they wanted to stay. But the armed forces of Ukraine kept telling us to leave. We were in their way.

Why do we bother them? We are on our own land. It was Ukrainian forces who came to us, destroyed everything, robbed us, bombed us, burned our houses, made us homeless.

When Russia came in, it was probably the happiest day of my life. Young Russian guys came in. I was so euphoric, the ground was coming out from under my feet. That's the joy here. I'm very grateful. Thank you, thank you, and a big bow to all the Russian guys.

11. Alina Petrovna Golodnyak (74 years old), victim of the Armed Forces of Ukraine' crimes from the town of Ugledar

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.

12. Olga Ivanovna Byshenko-Epifanova, resident of Ugledar

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.

In the beginning of 2022 people who evacuated from Ugledar, found their stuff at the markets. When the war started, the Ukrainian army drove out people's property in KAMAZ trucks. They weren't shy at all. They took refrigerators and other stuff.

The Ukrainian army people created places in garages where they put all the stolen goods, and then, apparently, when there was a rotation, they took it all out. It was very blatant, very obvious. We were lucky that we were all alive, because witnesses, as you know, do not live long. We saw it all with our own eyes.

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. Many people may not believe it, because we had to smile when Ukrainian volunteers came, otherwise we would be left without water, food or other things.

We felt that we did not want to live in our country because there was violence. We realised that in Ukraine there were no other options. We either do the way they wanted, or if you did not do so, you would suffer, and your loved ones would suffer.

The residents of Ugledar complained a lot that the Ukrainian military came, in particular from Western Ukraine, and said that native citizens would not live here in Donbass. They said that they would live here on our land. Our dachas and our land would be their dachas and land. People were afraid. They felt that they were written off.

The Ukrainian military already thought that everything here was their property. In fact, they said: 'These are our flats and our land. People were directly worried that they would be left without land, because it was supposedly already promised to the Ukrainian armed forces.

13. Natalia Evgenievna Novak and her son Sergey Novak (19 years old), residents of Ugledar

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. They brought bread and water. Many thanks to them. However, others just did it for PR, they simply advertised themselves.

14. Elena Alekseevna Kuzicheva (73 years old), victim of the Armed forces of Ukraine' crimes from Ugledar

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.

15. Sergey Viktorovich Bulava, resident of Ugledar

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. I came home, but the flat was locked and there were no keys, they took the keys, so I went to the school basement.

Later I came to my flat. There was a soldier in the flat. I asked him if I could take my things and he allowed me to do it. He checked my passport. I said I was registered and lived here. Anyway, I took some stuff and in about five minutes I left.

In October I came again to my flat. I entered the kitchen. A soldier came out and saw that I was in the flat. I said that it was my flat and I lived there. The soldier said: 'You have five minutes to take things and humanitarian aid.' There was no washing machine in the flat. My bicycle was also taken. Then in December 2022 my flat burnt down.

16. Vyacheslav Eduardovich Riman, resident of Ugledar

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.

17. Vitaliy Sergeyevich Geza, resident of Ugledar

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.

18. Dmitry Aleksandrovych Zhitnik, resident of Ugledar

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'.

19. Stepan Anatolievich Koltakov, resident of Ugledar

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.

20. Sergey Viktorovich Schebelsky, resident of Ugledar

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.

I think, that the Ukrainian army fired at the people on purpose, to get more people out of the town. They were shelling the town to push the people out from the town, the more the better. All the time they asked: 'Why aren't you moving out? Why aren't you moving out?' Where am I supposed to go?

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.

21. Anton Vladimirovich Savich, resident of Ugledar

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.

22. Vera Semyonovna Makhova, resident of Ugledar

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. She said that they sent everything including furniture, washing machines, refrigerators, TVs and clothes - anything you wanted. They said that in Western Ukraine mothers of the Ukrainian army servicemen used to say: 'Oh, such generous people in Ukraine. They send us such gifts. Of course, they did. They took everything new and of a good quality. From all the houses where we lived.

We went to our dacha. I gave my flat to my children and lived at my dacha in the country for 20 years. The Ukrainian military took everything from us, everything they could. What they did not need, was scattered, dishes were trampled and cupboards were broken. It seemed like they were broken by an axe.

I said to one of the soldiers later: 'Why did you do that? You took something, but why did you need to break the furniture? There was a window next to the cupboard, and it was intact, but the cupboards were all broken.

The chaplains from the church brought us dumplings and stuffed cabbage. They gave them out in buckets. Lately they wouldn't let volunteers come to our town. They said there were no people here, so there is no reason to come here. Volunteers, who travelled here, were brought back. They say that they carried good humanitarian aid. Our Ukrainian Chief of Police forbade them to bring it here.

Journalists from Estonia came here. They wanted us to tell them about the cruelty that Russians committed. What will I tell them? How can I say that it was all lies? That I cannot forgive the Ukrainians for what they did? You couldn't look at them sideways, let alone say anything.

They asked tricky questions. As soon as you started answering something they did not like, they switched off the camera. You could see that they turned the camera off and did not film it. Sometimes it was like this: we watched the interview on internet. It was still working then. I was talking to them, they filmed me. The question was correct, but the answer was different. I could see that it was not what I said. How was it combined, I do not know. It was a completely different answer.

23. Ivan Andreyevich Ponomarenko, resident of Ugledar

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. It was a couple of days after they had kicked people out of their flats. So in two days after they kicked the people out of their flats, they immediately started looting.