

**WAR CRIMES
AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY
COMMITTED BY THE UKRAINIAN
MILITARY-POLITICAL LEADERSHIP
IN DONBASS**



COMMENT OF THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF RUSSIA REGARDING THE CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACEFUL POPULATION OF DONBASS

Starting from 2014, Ukrainian forces have been conducting warfare in Donbass.

Over all this time, for almost 8 years, Ukraine's authorities and representatives of militarized formations in fact have been exterminating the civilian population of the self-proclaimed People's Republics of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Unstopping fire from large-caliber artillery - mortar and grenade guns - as well as light weapons claimed thousands of lives. Among the victims, there are elderly people and children, whereas lives of others are destroyed by heavy injuries. For example, the story of little Vanya Voronov who survived the explosion of a projectile only by miracle. Those people, especially children, take no part in the armed conflict. It is just as obvious to Ukrainian military who carry high-precision firepower against residential buildings, schools, hospitals, culture facilities, critical infrastructure, public transit, etc. Nevertheless, official Ukrainian authorities pay no attention to these merciless attacks, and give no security guarantees to civilians. On the contrary, they basically ignore this problem and encourage the illicit activities of the military despite the effective international agreements on that matter.

Ever since 2014, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has been legitimately investigating hundreds of crimes of terrorism and extremism against peace and security of mankind that have been committed during the armed conflict. Based on the established facts, the Committee initiated 467 criminal cases with regard to the developments in Ukraine and Donbas. Those cases implicate representatives of Ukraine's military and political leadership, members of radical nationalist formations - "Right Sector", Ukrainian Volunteer Corps, Azov Detachment; and all those who are involved in these crimes.

The investigation ascertained that starting from April 2014, the Ukrainian side has been bombing civilian areas of the two self-proclaimed republics while using tactical operational missile complexes "Tochka- U", multiple rocket launchers "Grad" and "Uragan", unguided airborne rockets, and other types of heavy offensive weapons of indiscriminate action that have broad impact effect, as well as light firearms. As a result, thousands of civilians were wounded or killed, over 2,200 facilities of civil infrastructure were completely or partially destroyed.

Most casualties were caused by fire of Ukraine's governmental forces that used explosive weapons, small arms and light weapons.

During the proceedings, over 146,000 people were interviewed, more than 22,000 people were recognized as victims, including some 2,500 minors. By now, 103 individuals have been called to criminal liability in absentia - for crimes against the peace and security of mankind during an armed conflict. Among them Ukraine's former minister of the interior A.Avakov, former governor of the Dnepropetrovsk region of Ukraine I.Kolomoiskyi, brigade commanders and officers of Ukraine's armed forces who carried out the shelling that targeted peaceful population.

Ukrainian forces and authorities not only used banned techniques and methods of warfare, but also committed murders of Russian journalists, rights advocate A.Mironov, and Italian national A.Rocchelli. They are also responsible for kidnappings, impeding legitimate activities of journalists, tortures, incitement of hatred or enmity, public calls to start an aggressive war, and other crimes.

We have records about members of the criminal community kidnapping Russian nationals in Ukraine with involvement of the SBU. They intend to exchange them for members of the Ukrainian military, inflict heavy injuries on the prisoners, they also seek to mistreat, torment and torture peaceful population of southeastern Ukraine.

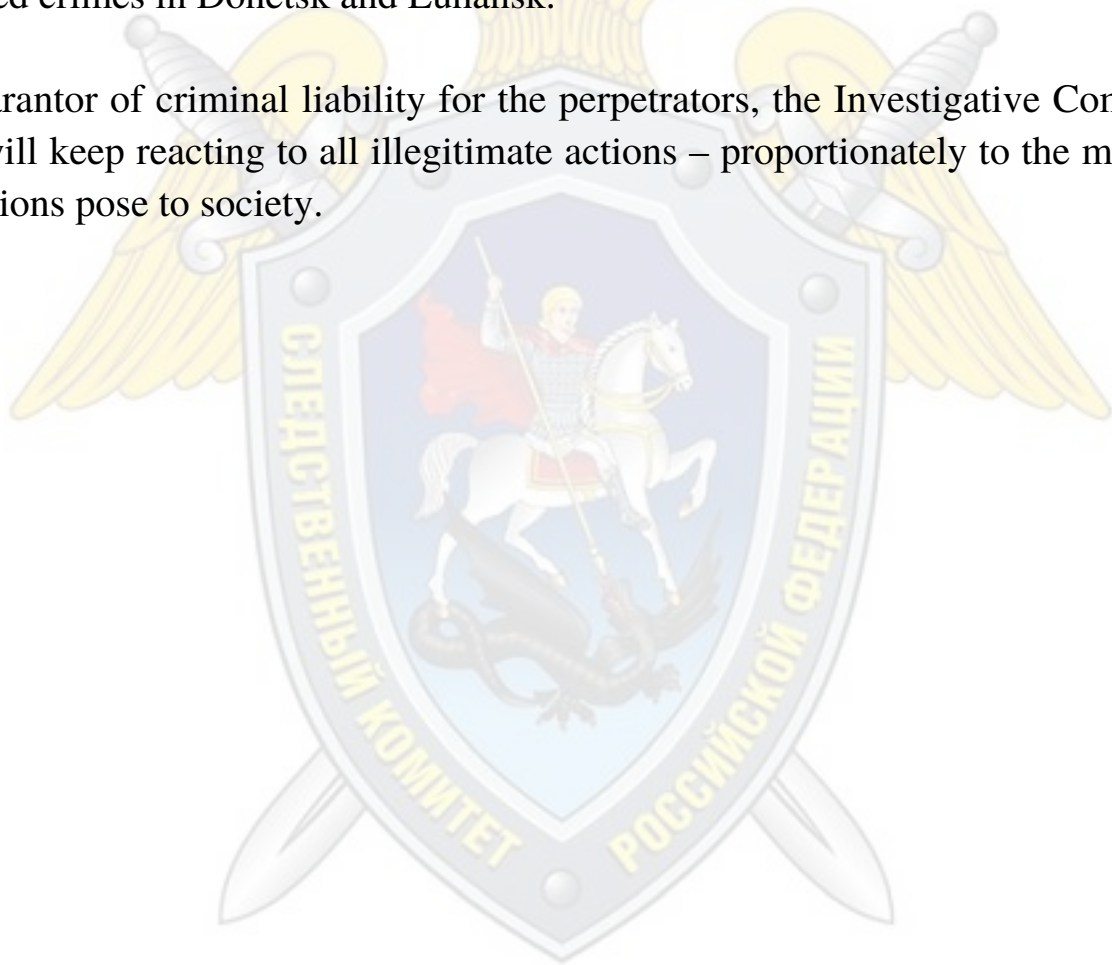
Earlier, court passed a sentence upon N.Savchenko who was condemned for killings of Russian journalists and the illegal crossing of the state border of the Russian Federation. Another convict, S.Litvinov, was found guilty of attacking a Russian national in Ukraine. Other individuals were convicted in absentia. We have record of 21 attacks on Russian diplomatic facilities in Kiev, Kharkov, Lvov. Besides, there were cases when Russian nationals were prevented from exercising their electoral rights on the territory of Ukraine. There are 25 individuals implicated in these crimes, among them former members of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada A.Lozerovoy and V.Parasyuk. Work is underway to identify others attackers involved in this case.

The evidence that we receive during the investigation is used to articulate Russia's position at various international judiciary bodies. The claim against Ukraine that Russia lodged at the ECHR is based on the copies of materials from criminal proceedings that the Investigative Committee of Russia submitted to the Court. Those are materials from cases regarding the genocide of the Russian-speaking population of Donbass, attacks on Russian diplomatic facilities, bombardments in the Rostov-on-Don region, murders and other acts of violence against journalists.

With the help of the Investigative Committee, Russian lawyers processed more than 39,000 files, prepared and submitted approximately 7,500 complaints to the ECHR on behalf of those who suffered from the acts of Ukrainian authorities. Under those complaints, the total amount of damage to be repaired stands at more than 350,000,000 EUR.

All the illicit actions will not go unpunished. Sooner or later the guilty will be held accountable for their crimes. If Ukrainian authorities and law enforcement think it is acceptable to criminalize the minds of their people, the Investigative Committee of Russia will not tolerate this lawlessness. We will continue keeping record of all evidence to prove the guilt of people involved in crimes against peace and security of mankind and against Russian citizens. The Investigative Committee is taking every measure to implement the principle of inevitability of punishment for those who committed crimes in Donetsk and Luhansk.

As a guarantor of criminal liability for the perpetrators, the Investigative Committee of Russia will keep reacting to all illegitimate actions – proportionately to the menace that those actions pose to society.



Thousands of civilians were killed and wounded as a result of the massive shelling of Donbass settlements carried out by the Kiev regime as part of a brutal punitive operation ongoing since 2014.

The Ukrainian military and neo-Nazi formations used lethal weapons of indiscriminate action prohibited by the international humanitarian law, designed to kill people and destroy infrastructure as effectively as possible.

People died not only from the shells fired by the Ukrainian army, but also from hunger, lack of water and medicines.

The inhumane water, economic and transport blockade of Donbass imposed by Kiev has put the region on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. More than 600 thousand elderly people were left without pensions and other social benefits.

Here is just a glimpse of evidence of the crimes committed by the Ukrainian authorities against the civilian population of Donbass.



Pervomaisc/Sokologorovka, Summer of 2014 victims of Ukrainian shellings among civilians















Perished Children of Donbass



Пономарев Юрий Романович
08.11.2000–23.04.2015



Евсюкова Марина Вадимовна
25.07.2007–25.08.2014



Александров Егор Артемович
25.08.2013–24.06.2014



Ермилов Иван Владимирович
01.07.2009–02.07.2014



Духненко Владислава Захаровна
13.03.2007–06.08.2014



Глущенко Денис Максимович
28.07.1998–21.07.2014



Лукашук Даниил Николаевич
24.07.2000–07.08.2014



Ковтун Анастасия Юрьевна
07.06.2001–13.10.2018



Леднева Марина Андреевна
23.06.2008–07.08.2014



Пономаренко Юрий Юрьевич
14.11.2001–23.04.2015



Поляков Иван Анатольевич
07.10.2010–31.10.2014



Сидорюк Кирилл Владимирович
21.06.2001–29.08.2014



Сандуляк Даниил Юрьевич
02.03.2000–06.09.2014

The Ukrainian army carried out attacks on hospitals, morgues, schools and kindergartens turned into bomb shelters with profound cynicism.

Due to these atrocities, mass graves of civilians who became victims of the military-political leadership of Ukraine and their Western curators were spontaneously appearing.

As of December 2021, more than 16 spontaneous mass and individual burials have been discovered. In total, 295 human remains were recovered, examined and processed during the period from August to November 2021. The initial forensic examination of the remains found in all burials in the territories of the DPR and LPR indicate that most of the deceased are women and the elderly.



Criminal Case Initiated on Discovery of Mass Graves of Civilians in Donbass

Disregarding international agreements and acts, since April 2014 representatives of the Ukrainian military forces have been constantly targeting settlements in Donbass using lethal weapons of indiscriminate action designed to eliminate people and infrastructure. As a result, not only residential buildings and essential facilities have been destroyed, but thousands of civilians of Russian-speaking groups that do not participate in the military conflict have been killed or injured.

The intent to eliminate Donbass residents is obvious – Russian investigators recorded hundreds of incidents qualified as the use of prohibited means and methods of warfare. During the investigation of these crimes, the investigators obtained information about spontaneous unmarked mass graves that were arranged outside specially designated places out of necessity due to the ongoing hostilities.

Thus, in August – October 2021, 5 spontaneous mass graves were found near the town of Snezhnoye, settlement of Slavyanoserbsk, near the Sokologorovka residential area in the city of Pervomaisk, village of Vidnoye-1 village near Luhansk and on the outskirts of Verkhneshevyrevka village of Krasnodonsky District. The remains of at least 295 civilians who died as a result of indiscriminate shelling by Ukrainian armed formations in 2014 were exhumed from these graves. It is already clear there are bodies of women of different ages among the remains.

The Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation initiated a criminal case on this fact under Part 1 of Article 356 of the Criminal Code – ill-treatment of civilians, use of means and methods prohibited by an international treaty in an armed conflict.

The Investigative Committee continues to take all possible measures to uphold the principle of the inevitability of punishment for those responsible for committing crimes in Donetsk and Luhansk areas.

Mass burials discovered in Sokologorovka, 2020-2021















TACTICAL MISSILE SYSTEMS USED BY THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES IN DONBASS IN 2014-2015

The Armed Forces of Ukraine has repeatedly used tactical missile systems "Tochka" and "Tochka-U" in Donbass. On September 1, 2014, parts (usually the fuel tanks) from eight "Tochka" missiles of various modifications were found on the territory of the Luhansk People's Republic. Information below shows the places of recovery, the dates the missiles were fired, and the identification markings recovered.

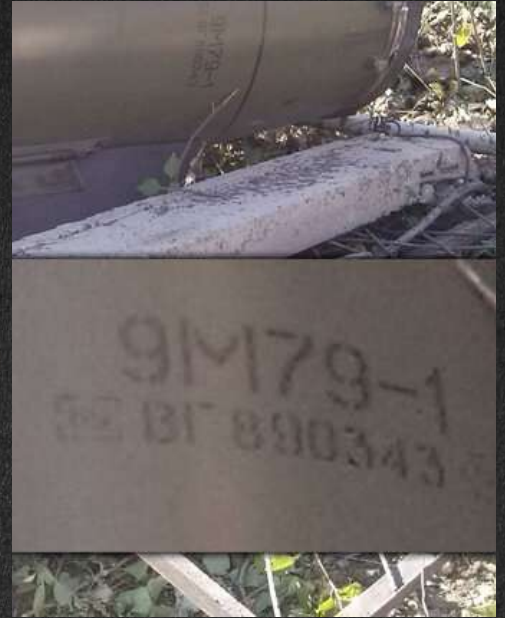
1) Alchevsk, February 2, 2015	9M79-1 Ш91565
2) Luhansk Airport, August 2014	9M79-1 БГ890349
3) Luhansk Airport (substation), August 2014	9M79-1 БГ910830
4) Luhansk, August 15, 2014	9M79M Ш89455
5) Novosvetlovka, August 2014	9M79-1 Ш89816
6) Rovenki, August 22, 2014	9M79-1 БГ910820
7) Ternovoe (Krasnodon), date unknown,	9M79-1 БГ910827
8) Yubileini, Luhansk district, August 2014	9M79-1 БГ890343

On August 22, 2014, at approximately 8:30 pm, the Armed Forces of Ukraine launched a missile attack on the city of Rovenka. As a result of the shelling, Alexander Sergeevich Sorokin, born in 2008, Alexander Ivanovich Khotynsky, Natalia Vladimirovna Khotynskaya, Alexey Petrovich Polyakov were killed from shrapnel wounds. The houses located on the Lomonosov, Oleg Koshevoy and Tchaikovsky streets received damage to the roof, facade and their adjacent territories. In the courtyard of the house No. 8 on Oleg Koshevoy street the fuel tank body of a "Tochka-U" missile (marked 9M79-1 БГ910820) was recovered.

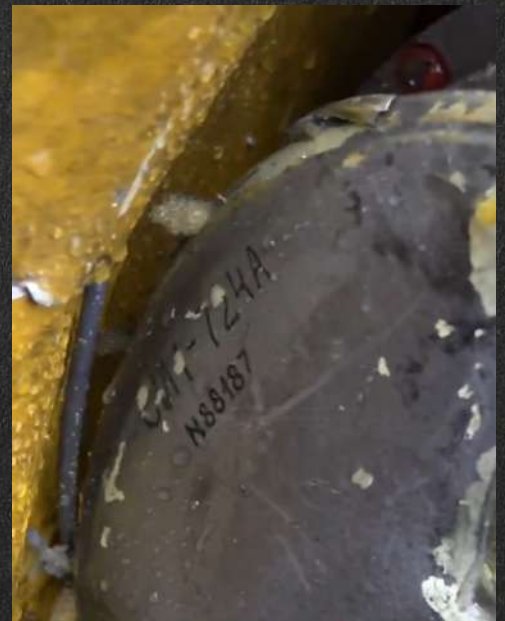
On August 15, 2014, parts of a marked missile were found in the area of the 3rd City hospital of Luhansk. Shortly after, the body of a "Tochka-U" fuel tank (marked 9M79M Ш89455) was discovered.

On February 2, 2015, a "Tochka-U" missile was shot down near the city of Alchevsk. The fuel tank body of the "Tochka-U" missile (marked 9M79-1 Ш91565) was later recovered.

Alchevsk, August 2014



Yubileini, February 2, 2015



Survivors' Stories

"IT IS VERY HARD TO COME INTO THIS YARD": A DRONE KILLS A FOUR YEAR OLD DURING THE SHELLING OF THE DONETSK REGION

On April 3, 2021, the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) violated the armistice and opened fire on the outskirts of the Donetsk Region. They shelled residential areas with heavy weapons and drones.

One drone dropped an explosive device into the yard of a house in the village of Alexandrovskoye, killing a 4-year-old boy and injuring his 66-year-old grandmother. Vladik Dmitriyev was playing in the yard at about 3 pm when, according to the DPR People's Militia, the AFU launched an attack.

Vladik's grandmother Natalya Terentyeva was with her grandson in the yard during the explosion. He died before her eyes while she received fragment wounds.

Ms. Terentyeva recalls the horrible scene she saw after the explosion: the blast wave tore off the child's limbs. "I don't remember anything else, only that. You have to experience it to understand it. It is very hard to come into this yard knowing that your grandson died there".

Vladik was buried on April 5. Dozens of people from nearby houses came to his funeral. On April 3, representatives of the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination of the Ceasefire and Stabilisation of the Delimitation Line announced that the AFU had intensified the shelling of the Donetsk region. This was the second civilian death from AFU shelling in a few weeks, at that time.

Survivors' Stories

"A SHELL EXPLODED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME": 70-YEAR-OLD DONETSK RESIDENT NOW LIVES WITH UKRAINIAN SHELL FRAGMENT IN HER EYE

July 24, 2014, saw a lot of military action around Donetsk, as both the city and surrounding areas came under massive shell fire from Ukrainian armed forces. Many innocent civilians were wounded or killed in the attack.

Among the survivors is Lyudmila Kasatkina, 70, who is now scarred for life. In an interview with Russia Today, Ms. Kasatkina recalled the events of the summer of 2014.

It was a difficult time. Donetsk residents had to be on constant lookout for attacks while going about their daily routines, as they could come any moment. Ms. Kasatkina is retired and lives in a house in Donetsk's Petrovsky District. She took cover from the shelling in the basement, sometimes even spending the night there.

On the morning of June 24, 2014, she recalls that she was doing some work in the garden when she first heard the shells exploding. The sound got louder and louder, so Lyudmila hurried to reach basement, but she didn't make it.

"I was almost at the door when a shell exploded just about a dozen meters from me, and I got hit by the wave of debris. I ran into the house and looked in the mirror. It was horrible. My face was covered in blood".

Lyudmila didn't give in to panic. She washed her wounds and hid in the basement until the next morning. Her injuries became worse, however. The inflammation was spreading, and her right eye began to hurt. She waited one more day before seeking medical help.

As the fragment was lodged in her skull, the condition was inoperable because surgery would present too great a risk for a senior. Since then, Ms. Kasatkina has been forced to constantly seek medical support and has lost sight in her right eye.

Survivors' Stories

"THERE WAS A LOUD EXPLOSION AND THE LINE WENT DEAD" – ANZHELA BAGDASARYAN WAS KILLED AFTER STANDING IN LINE TO RECEIVE HUMANITARIAN AID IN DONETSK

On January 30, 2015, Ukrainian government troops shelled several areas of Donetsk, bringing tragedy to the city's Kuybyshevsky District, where dozens of civilians were standing in line to receive humanitarian aid. Several people were killed, including one child.

Early that morning, Anzhela Bagdasaryan, a 32-year-old Donetsk resident, had gone to the community center where a private charity was distributing the aid. At noon she called her father to say she was still waiting in line. About 30 minutes later, the sound of exploding shells echoed in the streets, as the city was rocked by an artillery attack.

"I dialled my daughter's number again to make sure she was okay. I heard a loud explosion and Anzhela was screaming. After that the line went dead. I tried to call her again and again, but she didn't answer," recalls Anzhela's father, Vartan Bagdasaryan.

After a few more futile attempts to reach his daughter by phone, he went to the community centre himself. As he approached the building, he saw a lot of ambulances. The area was surrounded by troops and police, and there were a lot of dead bodies strewn on the ground. "I started looking for Anzhela and hoped to the last that she was still alive," says Vartan.

He found his daughter's dead body lying right at the entrance to the hotel. Anzhela had obviously not made it to the shelter. A shell fragment had struck her in the head, killing the young woman instantly.

Survivors' Stories

"PIECES OF GLASS FLEW STRAIGHT AT ME": 7 YEARS AFTER BEING WOUNDED BY ARTILLERY FIRE IN DONETSK, GALINA KUCHMA STILL HASN'T RECOVERED

On October 20, 2014, Ukrainian forces opened fire on Donetsk and its surrounding areas with howitzers and heavy artillery. Many residential houses were damaged and destroyed, and people had to hide for several hours in bomb shelters. Those not lucky enough to reach them in time suffered serious injuries.

One such victim was 46-year-old Galina Kuchma. The Donetsk resident told Russia Today that she was still at home when the shelling began at around 3pm. She was unable to make it to the bomb shelter, but she mustered the courage to go into the kitchen an hour after the attack began.

It was at that moment that a shell exploded just outside her house. "The blast wave shattered the windows. Pieces of glass flew straight at me and into my left arm. My arm was bleeding. It went numb, and I couldn't move my fingers," Ms. Kuchma recalls. The injured woman cried for help, and her neighbours soon rushed in. They helped Ms. Kuchma pull shards of glass out of her arm and took her to the hospital.

Galina's left arm sustained an open fracture with dislocation. The doctors stitched up her arm and put it in a cast. She received outpatient treatment for a month and a half and underwent rehabilitation for another month. Even today, seven years later, Ms. Kuchma has still not fully recovered the use of her left arm.

Survivors' Stories

"REPORT UNDER FIRE":

FREELANCE JOURNALIST ALEXANDER GAYUK WAS HIT BY SHRAPNEL WHILE COVERING KIEV'S SHELLING OF DONETSK

On June 14, 2015, the Ukrainian military was still shelling settlements in Donetsk Region. Residential buildings in several of the city's districts took direct hits. A total of eight people were injured that day, among them a young reporter named Alexander Gayuk.

The 33-year-old journalist had gone to Donetsk's Kuybyshevsky District to film a report about how residents of the Oktyabrsky neighbourhood were living under constant fire. And, as chance would have it, another artillery attack commenced immediately after he arrived there.

The first shell hit the roof of a five-storey residential building. As Alexander was rushing towards an adjacent building to look for a place to hide, another shell exploded right behind him.

"The shell hit a tree and its shrapnel injured my right knee. I fell down. It was not until the shelling stopped that I got up with great difficulty and saw blood streaming down my leg. I probed my leg with my fingers to see if the bone was intact. Then I tightened my belt around the leg to stop the bleeding, flagged down a car, and asked to be taken to hospital," Alexander recounts.

The young man underwent an emergency operation at the local hospital, but the knee still troubles him, and he says he suffers from severe knee pain to this day.

Survivors' Stories

"SMOKE AND BLOOD EVERYWHERE":

ANASTASIA RUBAN TALKS ABOUT THE DAY UKRAINIAN FORCES SHELLLED A BEACH IN HER HOMETOWN

On August 13, 2014, the small town of Zugres in Donbass was targeted by the Ukrainian Air Force, and a public beach where many families were enjoying their day fell under artillery fire there as well. More than 20 people were killed and dozens were injured that day. Among the victims was local resident Anastasia Ruban. In an interview with RT, she recalls the details of that tragic day.

Twenty-four-year-old Anastasia Ruban was on the beach with her two-year-old son Maksim and her friend Denis Deryuzhkin when the Ukrainian forces opened fire with a Smerch heavy multiple rocket launcher. One of the shells landed right next to them.

"Denis managed to shield me and Maksim with his own body," Anastasia says. "When things calmed down, I got up, grabbed my son, and ran as far away from the beach as possible, to hide. Denis was lying there on the beach, all covered in blood."

Hiding her son in a nearby bush, the girl hurried back and saw that her friend had been wounded in the head, and his whole body was cut up by shrapnel. She herself had been wounded in the thigh and arm. The blood loss was too great, her head became cloudy, and Anastasia lost consciousness.

She was brought to her senses by People's Militia officers who had arrived at the scene to evacuate the wounded. When Anastasia regained consciousness, she looked around for her son, but he was nowhere to be found.

As it turned out, a family friend found her child on the beach after the shelling had stopped and took him home. Denis Deryuzhkin also survived, although doctors had to fight for his life in the operating room for several hours.

Anastasia is still haunted by the injuries she received that day.