

# Forced to become combatants

Monitoring report



The situation around violations of the rights of Ukrainian citizens  
living in Russian-occupied territories during their illegal mobilization  
into the armed formations of the so-called DPR and LPR

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# INTRODUCTION

On 24 February 2022, the President of the Russian Federation announced the start of military action in Ukraine, calling the full-scale invasion by the Russian army a “special military operation.” Thus, a brutal and bloody war began in the centre of Europe, the real purpose of which is the complete destruction of Ukrainian statehood. From the first day of Russian aggression, the territory of Ukraine has been subjected to missile and air attacks. Russian shells are killing civilians and destroying infrastructure. Russians have been kidnapping and torturing civilians, raping and robbing in the occupied settlements on a massive scale. Forced Russification and aggressive Russian propaganda have become major elements in the policies of the occupation administrations.

Since mid-February, forced “mobilization” of the local population has been taking place in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (hereinafter referred to as the CADLO) Men are taken directly from the streets or places of work and sent to military enlistment offices, from where they are sent directly to the front lines without medical examination, military training, adequate equipment and sufficient supplies. Among them are teachers, miners, factory workers, locksmiths, guards, and plumbers. These “soldiers” are the worst armed and trained and are often thrown to the front line without bulletproof vests and first aid kits, wearing helmets from 1945.

A certain number of persons forcibly mobilized in the CADLO are captured in Ukraine, where, among other things, the prisoners testify about the circumstances of their joining illegal armed formations and military units of the Russian Federation.

The occupation authorities of the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic (hereinafter — DPR) and Luhansk People’s Republic (hereinafter — LPR) do not hide the facts of announcing general mobilization, criminalizing evasion

and limiting the departure of recruits from the occupied territories, which is actually a confirmation of the relevant international crime, since **it is a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to force citizens to serve in the armed forces of an occupying state.**

It is not known exactly how many men from the CADLO were forcibly mobilized for the war with Ukraine, but it is likely that their number can reach tens of thousands.

This monitoring report presents the situation around violations of the rights of Ukrainian citizens living in the occupied territories during their illegal mobilization to the armed formations of the so-called L/DPR in the context of international and national legislation, presents specific facts of forced sending to the frontline, improper equipment of the forcibly mobilized, negligent attitude of the Russian command, information on protests of both soldiers and their relatives.

In preparing this publication, the author aimed to raise awareness of the scale of war crimes committed by the Russian Federation, which include forced mobilization in the Russian-occupied territories of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, among relevant stakeholders such as state authorities, civil society, and the international community.

# METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted from October to November 2022. During this time, open sources of information were used, including national media, statements of officials and public witness accounts, websites of state authorities, international and Ukrainian legislation, videos of interrogations of Russian soldiers by Ukrainian law enforcement bodies, interviews of Ukrainian journalists with prisoners. Social networks, Telegram channels, information resources of the occupation authorities of the so-called L/DPR and the Russian Federation were monitored.

Five interviews were conducted with residents of the CADLO and internally displaced persons with relevant information on the topic of the publication.

During the research and preparation of the report, the information was used taking into account information security rules, therefore there is no information in the text of the report that can identify the relevant respondents. This is solely for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the research participants.

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# SUMMARY

- **Forcing citizens to serve in the armed forces of an occupying state in accordance with the norms of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is a war crime.**
- On 19 February 2022, general mobilization was announced on the territory of the so-called DPR and LPR. The respective decrees were signed by the “heads of the republics” which, among other things, stated that men aged 18–55 were not allowed to leave the region, and that the executive authorities were allowed to seize vehicles and property “necessary for the needs of defence” from citizens and businesses.
- Simultaneously with the announcement of mobilization, “official” written summonses started to be sent out in the occupied territories. Videos and photos of patrols that picked up men from the streets and immediately sent them first to distribution units in Russian-occupied cities and then to the front were circulated on social media.
- Among those mobilized were teachers, miners, factory workers, locksmiths, guards, plumbers, cultural workers, and students. The vast majority were people who did not have a pronounced civic position, and often described themselves as “apolitical.” They have, for one reason or another, chosen to live in the “republics” and have adapted to the new conditions of life.
- Before being sent to the front, the men did not undergo medical examinations, nor did they have proper military training and equipment. They were sent to the front in iron helmets, without bulletproof vests and

first-aid kits, armed with Mosin–Nagant sniper rifles of 1897 and DShK machine guns of 1939. On the battlefield, they are used as “cannon fodder” to attract the fire of Ukrainian artillery in order for Russian soldiers to identify enemy firing points.

- Formed units made up of men from the CADLO have extremely poor combat training, discipline and motivation. They are not given legal leave, and neither soldiers nor their families receive financial support. The Russian command treats the mobilized arrogantly and disrespectfully.
- Due to the dissatisfaction with the mass forced conscription of men to the war against Ukraine in the settlements of the so-called DPR and LPR, there were protests of wives and relatives of the mobilized; videos of women’s appeals were spreading on social networks, who told how their husbands were taken to the front right from their workplaces. It became a common practice to record video messages of mobilized men directly from military positions in order to convey information about their situation to the top leadership.
- Due to the lack of training and motivation, unsatisfactory weaponry and supplies, and inhumane attitudes of Russian commanders, losses among the personnel of mobilized men from the CADLO are enormous. This is the phenomenon and hypocrisy of the Russian propaganda slogans: those who are called to save and “liberate” are the first to be thrown to the slaughter at the fortified Ukrainian positions.



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# INTERNATIONAL LAW

**F**orced mobilisation in occupied territories is expressly prohibited by international humanitarian law.

Under article 51 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (IV Geneva Convention of 12.08.1949<sup>1</sup>), the Occupying Power may not compel protected persons to serve in its armed or auxiliary forces. Protected persons may not be compelled to undertake any work which would involve them in the obligation of taking part in military operations. In no case shall requisition of labour, which is possible under certain conditions, lead to a mobilization of workers in an organization of a military or semi-military character.

Under the Regulations respecting the laws and customs of war on land, which are annexed to the Annex IV of the 1907 Hague Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land<sup>2</sup>, a belligerent party is also prohibited from compelling nationals of the opposing party to take part in hostilities directed against their own State, even if they were in the service of such belligerent party before the outbreak of war. This is a **war crime** under Article 8 (Part 2, paragraphs (a)(v) and (b)(xv)) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

1 [https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995\\_154](https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_154)

2 [https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995\\_222](https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/995_222)

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# NATIONAL LEGISLATION

According to Ukrainian legislation, forced mobilization in the CADLO refers to a violation of Part 1 of Article 438 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, “Violation of laws and customs of war.”

At the same time, representatives of the so-called DPR and LPR, who fought in the Russian army and were captured by Ukraine, can be tried in Ukraine for high treason (Article 111 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine). Their actions cannot be considered separately, without taking into account the fact of forced mobilization. That is, it should be established whether the conscript voluntarily joined the armed forces of the occupier.

If it is established that men from the occupied territories were forcibly mobilized, the human rights defenders believe<sup>3</sup> that such actions cannot be qualified under the article “High Treason,” since there is no essential element of the crime — direct intent. In the case of committing high treason, the perpetrator must be aware that he/she is joining the enemy under martial law or during an armed conflict and must want to do so. The fact of forced mobilization makes direct intent impossible.

Ukrainian government officials, in particular Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov, have repeatedly urged residents of the occupied territories to avoid forced mobilization and, if this is not possible, to try to join the Ukrainian army as quickly as possible. According to Reznikov<sup>4</sup>, **such persons are**

3 <https://bit.ly/3HcMfdq>

4 <https://bit.ly/3VUua8o>

**considered citizens of Ukraine and if they have not committed a crime, they face no threat.** If they have committed a crime, the state will take into account “genuine repentance,” and an independent review of the case will be held, not a “show trial.”

The Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine urged to avoid joining the Russian army and distributed instructions with an algorithm of actions if forced mobilization did take place<sup>5</sup>. The statement noted that residents of the temporarily occupied territories who **voluntarily** join the Russian Armed Forces violate Ukrainian legislation and will be severely punished in accordance with the letter of the law. At the same time, even with forced mobilization, conscripts become accomplices to war crimes that have no statute of limitations if they carry out the criminal orders of the occupying army.

The approach voiced by the representatives of the state authorities of Ukraine meets both the standards of international humanitarian law and practical expediency: such measures encourage surrender and, accordingly, save the lives of both forcibly mobilized Ukrainian citizens and Ukrainian military by reducing the enemy’s forces.

At the same time, judicial practice shows that despite the fact of forced mobilization, captured residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts become accused of treason.

In May, the Vinnytsia city court in Vinnytsia oblast convicted Oleksii Trusov, Mykyta Baienko, Andrii Khliebnykov of treason. The men were sentenced to 15 years in prison each, despite testifying that they were mobilized by force, did not participate in active hostilities and did not commit other crimes<sup>6</sup>.

In the Shevchenkivskyi District Court of Kyiv, during the trial of Ruslan Mykhalov, who, according to him, was forcibly mobilized at a public transport stop, did not participate in hostilities and of his own free will escaped and surrendered to the AFU, the prosecution asked for 12 years in prison<sup>7</sup>. This practice does not comply with international law or the statements of the authorities.

5 <https://bit.ly/3VRBXUb>

6 <https://bit.ly/3UA1dgX>

7 <https://bit.ly/3XY1WeA>

In July, the Coalition of human rights organizations “Ukraine. Five in the Morning” appealed<sup>8</sup> to the then Prosecutor General of Ukraine Iryna Venediktova. In their statement, the human rights defenders insisted that proper pre-trial and judicial investigation of criminal proceedings against Ukrainian citizens who were forcibly mobilized in the occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts after February 19, 2022, should be conducted. The Coalition also drew attention to the fact that responsibility should be distinguished between those who sided with the occupation authorities deliberately and those who were forcibly mobilized.

The report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of June 29, 2022<sup>9</sup> expresses concern about the persecution of conscripts by Ukrainian state authorities without taking into account the applicable immunity of a combatant.

Thus, there are cases when, despite the statements of the state bodies of Ukraine on the non-prosecution of residents of the CADLO, who were forcibly mobilized to the Russian Armed Forces and who did not commit war crimes, after being captured by Ukrainian authorities, they become accused of committing high treason.

Human rights activists believe that the formulation and distribution of a single position in such cases should be a priority in order to maximize the protection of Ukrainian citizens in the occupied territories and to facilitate the surrender of Ukrainian men who are forcibly held in the enemy’s ranks<sup>10</sup>.

8 <https://bit.ly/3Y0LXfW>

9 <https://bit.ly/3h2DA2O>

10 <https://bit.ly/3HcMfdq>

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# FORCED DELIVERY TO THE FRONT LINES OF MEN FROM RUSSIAN- OCCUPIED TERRITORIES OF UKRAINE

**O**n February 19, 2022, general mobilization was announced in the territory of the so-called DPR and LPR. The respective decrees were signed by the “heads of the republics,” which, among other things, stated that men aged 18–55 were not allowed to leave the region, and the executive authorities were allowed to seize vehicles and property “necessary for the needs of defence” from citizens and enterprises.

All men were subject to mobilization, regardless of combat experience or military specialization. If a local resident was not on the military register and did not receive a summons, but fell within the age criteria, he still had to come to the military enlistment office.

According to the “laws” of the so-called DPR and LPR on mobilization training and mobilization in the DPR/LPR, the heads of enterprises, institutions, and organizations of all forms of ownership must assist the military commissariat and ensure the notification and attendance of citizens subject to conscription working in these enterprises at collection points or military units. In addition, the officials of the enterprises are personally responsible for the fulfilment of their obligations in the area of mobilization.

On February 23, the so-called LPR Prosecutor General Serhii Horenko<sup>11</sup> stated that violations of the provisions of the “LPR law” “On Martial Law” and other laws and regulations of the “republic” on martial law, in particular evasion of mobilization, **entail administrative and criminal responsibility.**

*“I am a native of Alchevsk in Luhansk oblast and live permanently in Kharkiv. It so happened that in February I came to visit my parents for a while but fell ill with coronavirus, so I had to stay longer. When mobilization was announced, I could not return. I was able to cross the border with Russia only in July, having agreed with the carrier and paid a certain amount of money. Returning to Ukraine through Lithuania and Poland, I was interrogated by the SSU about the circumstances of my stay in the territory of the so-called LPR<sup>12</sup>.”*

Simultaneously with the announcement of mobilization in the occupied territories, “official” written summonses started to be sent out. It became extremely difficult to leave the occupied territories. There were cases when men of military age were detained while trying to cross the checkpoints and sent to military enlistment offices, and later to the front. Videos and photos of the forced mobilization of the male population of the CADLO were circulated in social networks.

11 On September 16, 2022, he died during an explosion in the building of the so-called “LPR Prosecutor General’s Office” in Luhansk.

12 Interview with AL-05

In the first weeks, people were gathered according to the lists of public utilities, mines, metallurgical plants and other “state” structures, that is, all those who were somehow registered in the self-proclaimed republics. Mostly it was said that mobilization would be for 90 days and the main functions of conscripts would be to guard facilities, to be on duty at checkpoints, that is, to serve not on the front line. Sometimes they were sent to war under the guise of annual military training. Often the forcibly mobilized were not explained anything at all.

*“I am a Russian language teacher, I used to teach Ukrainian. I did not serve in the army. At work, the director told me to report to the military enlistment office as part of the mobilization. Whoever evades will be held responsible under DPR legislation. I had to go<sup>13</sup>.”*

*“I worked as a driver at the Komsomolets of Donbas mine. I was summoned to the military enlistment office, they said it would last 3–5 days. But in fact, when I arrived, they immediately give me a uniform and sent to the front<sup>14</sup>.”*

*“An acquaintance of mine, an Alchevsk Metallurgical Complex worker, was taken to the front at the end of February. We did not hear from him for more than six months. We did not even know if he was alive. He came back in September, thin, emaciated, his eyes were hurt because of shell-shock. In a depressed emotional state. I know that he had to go to the doctors to decide whether to send him back to the front<sup>15</sup>.”*

13 <https://t.me/uniannet/33978>

14 <https://t.me/uniannet/33978>

15 Interview with AL-04

Later, amid an acute shortage of human resources, military patrols began to carry out systematic raids on the streets and places where “conscripts” were likely to live. **They were searched for men at home or at work, on the street, took them out of public transport, tried to lure them to military enlistment offices by deception, threatened with fines and dismissals.** They sent SMS with a call to come to the “commissariats,” otherwise the men would face “criminal liability.”

*“I went to the store. On the way, I was met by a white car, from which 3 “people’s police” officers and 2 commandants got out and took me to the House of Culture. After registration, they took me to Ilovaisk. I said I was going to buy some food and escaped by bus home to Khartsyzk. A few days later, I went to the shop again, but a car stopped me one more time and under escort I was taken to the House of Culture, from where I was sent to the 21st mine of Horlivka. There were already 200–250 people there, and more were arriving every day. From there we were sent to Mariupol<sup>16</sup>.”*

*“I was taking a bus from work. At the Zhdanov crossroads, the bus was stopped by people with “commandant’s office” armbands. They took the men away and said that they were taking us to the military enlistment office, but we came to the Franko House of Culture. From there – to the Makiivka meat processing plant, where they gave us uniforms My sister brought me medical documents stating that I have heart problems, but they still did not let me go<sup>17</sup>.”*

*“I was walking home. Two people walked behind me, poked me in the back with a gun, took me to the executive committee, handed me a summons. Then they put me in a minibus and took me to Alchevsk, then to Stakhanov; the next day men were distributed to companies and battalions, 4 days later I was taken somewhere at night...<sup>18</sup>”*

16 <https://bit.ly/3Vzanvn>

17 <https://bit.ly/3Wb0XWX>

18 <https://bit.ly/3P0xMDr>



The occupation administrations of the so-called DPR and LPR in the territory of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have launched a large-scale propaganda campaign to recruit local residents for military service. Local media have increased advertisements for military service under contract, and the number of propaganda groups to work in enemy formations and units and in civilian educational institutions and enterprises has increased. Billboards urging people to take up arms began to appear on the streets of the temporarily occupied towns.



*A billboard placed in the occupied Alchevsk, Luhansk oblast (Photo: Telegram/ИЩИ СВОИХ)*

When it became clear that all men were being conscripted en masse and forcibly, except for those who had been issued a reservation either at an enterprise or for money, many began to hide, quit their jobs, and stay at home. It has become easier for men over 55 to find a job, and some traditionally male jobs have been filled by women.

*"I am a resident of Alchevsk. Until January 2022, I worked in Russia, in February I had to come home on business. On the 22nd, I was handed a summons on the street and ordered to report to the military enlistment office. Of course, I did not go anywhere, and from that day I was forced to hide in the private house of my grandmother<sup>19</sup>."*

19 Interview with AL-01

**On August 1, a new wave of forced mobilization began on the territory of the CADLO in order to staff the mobilization reserve units.** In Luhansk, a meeting of representatives of the occupation administration with enterprises was held, where it was reported that 8,000 more men under the age of 60 had to be mobilized in the near future to replenish losses and restore the combat readiness of units. Enterprises began to hide their qualified employees, without whom they cannot work, mothers hid their children and husbands<sup>20</sup>.

In Perevalsk, Luhansk oblast, a woman lay down under the wheels of a bus to prevent her forcibly mobilized husband from being taken away. Despite this, her husband, who is a father of many children, was taken away in an unknown direction. She later wrote on social media that her husband was threatened with machine guns as he held his one-year-old baby in his arms<sup>21</sup>.



The formation of new motorized rifle battalions began within the structural units of the 2nd Army Corps. In Luhansk, two buses of men, most of whom were loaders, were taken from the market in 40 minutes. The number of patrols on the streets of Khrustalnyi increased, taking men to the military enlistment office without explanations. The raids on enterprises and commercial establishments, where men fit for military service worked, continued<sup>22</sup>.

20 <https://bit.ly/3QTilra>

21 <https://t.me/uniannet/72700>

22 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/1059>

District military commissariats of the temporarily occupied Horlivka, Donetsk oblast, were tasked with “mobilizing” 6,000 local residents. The city was searched for men of military age, and raids continued at the Central Market, in public places including shops, shopping centres, gas stations, etc.

*When the mobilization intensified, I would stay at home for weeks, then walk to work through the yards, then sit at home again. Later people started to talk that they catch more men on foot than by car, so my wife started to take me to work or drive instead of me, and then I started driving myself. Once, we crossed paths with the “commandant’s office” at the market, but it was okay, apparently, they were busy with other things, so they passed by. The second time, at the entrance to the Lyman market, we saw a bus and people in masks with machine guns. At first, we wanted to enter the market, as we needed to, but quickly changed our minds and drove past, waited until they left, and then entered the market.*

*Now [in October – November] there is no mobilization. From the moment it was announced in Russia, they stopped mobilizing here. There were rumours that someone was taken away, but I was confidently moving around the city, shopping. They say that somehow more people are mobilized in those towns and villages of Luhansk oblast that were captured this year<sup>23</sup>.”*

For seven months, before the announcement of mobilization in the Russian Federation, in the so-called DPR and LPR men were simply taken from the streets and forcibly sent to the front. At the same time, Russia tried to motivate men to sign military contracts with money, stimulate them with payments or agitate for ideological purposes through propaganda channels. This once again proves the fact that Russians treat the residents of the CADLO as inferior people.

23 Interview with AL-03

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# MOBILIZATION OF PERSONS WHO WERE FORMALLY DEFERRED OR EXEMPTED FROM CONSCRIPTION

As part of the forced mobilization on the territory of the CADLO, military patrols and representatives of the “commandant’s offices” took away everyone who came to their attention: people with diseases, parents with many children, men who supported people with disabilities, students, etc. The consequences of such mobilization affected many families, including those with pro-Ukrainian and anti-war views. Information on the number of people from the CADLO involved in the war is extremely difficult to verify. Not to mention the data on the dead and wounded.

On March 19, the decrees on mobilization in the so-called L/DPR were amended, according to which men under the age of 65 “who are not employees of the internal affairs bodies, civil servants and employees of the DPR Ministry of Internal Affairs who wish to perform military service during the

mobilization period in a special formation of the DPR Ministry of Internal Affairs” can now be sent to war with Ukraine<sup>24</sup>.

## PERSONS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESSES / RELEVANT SOCIAL STATUS

Forced mobilization in the so-called DPR and LPR took place **without medical examination, without taking into account the presence of a “white ticket” or chronic diseases**. Mobilized men with a “white ticket” were told that the state of their health did not matter, that they would protect strategic facilities for show. In fact, such promises did not match reality.

*“I am 54 years old, I work in security at the Donbas Medicines company. I received a call from work telling me to come to the military enlistment office, but the next day was my work shift, so I didn’t go. While at work, they called me again in the afternoon and told me to come in, otherwise they would either fire me or refer the case to the prosecutor’s office. I arrived at the enlistment office and during the enlistment process I told them I had bad legs. To which I was told “we will figure it out” and sent to the assembly hall to wait for the buses. They brought us to Kholodna Balka (a village in Makiivka), gave us uniforms. That day we spent the night on the street. Then they took us to Donetsk, where we spent 5 days. Later we came to Ilovaisk, and from there we moved to Kherson oblast. Once we were there, we spent 5–6 days sleeping outside under the fence in sub-zero weather. At first, I was appointed as a company foreman, but because my sore legs began to hurt from the cold, my position was replaced with a paramedic, although I have never had anything to do with medicine.” (Makiivka)<sup>25</sup>*

24 <https://bit.ly/3F4Qi9h>

25 <https://bit.ly/3usFc94>

*“I worked at school as the head of the IT club. In mid-February, educational institutions received mobilization orders. We were told that we would stand at the checkpoints for a week while the DPR military were resting. Since February 19, we stood guard at the Maiorske checkpoint. I was given a submachine gun, which I had never held in my life. I had never served before, and I have a whole host of illnesses – asthma, heart disease, and allergies. On March 1, we came under mortar fire, hid in a dugout. Later, Ukrainian paratroopers came, and we surrendered”<sup>26</sup>.*”

One of the mobilized men, who was taken prisoner by the Ukrainians, said that he is a person with a disability of the third group, he partially lost his eyesight in childhood. In February, representatives of the commandant’s office came to his work at the mine and issued a summons. When he went to the military enlistment office, they put him on a bus, clothed him, gave him only a helmet and sent him to fight. According to the prisoner, in Novoazovsk he saw people with cerebral palsy, without arms. Another prisoner said that he did not undergo any medical examination before being sent to war, although the man had a severe skull injury<sup>27</sup>.

Among the papers of the destroyed unit of the so-called DPR army was found a document of a person who is not subject to military conscription for health reasons. It was a medical certificate belonging to Oleksandr Savenko, who had a disability of the second group since childhood<sup>28</sup>.

Закон Республики ДНР от 14.02.2015 № 10/2015-ЮР «Об условиях и характере груза инвалида является обязательным для исполнения в отношении граждан Республики ДНР, проживающих на территории Республики ДНР, учреждений и организаций»

МИНИСТЕРСТВО ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ ДОНЕЦКА  
РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКОЕ МЕДИКО-СОЦИАЛЬНОЕ ЭКСПЕРТНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ  
РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКОЕ МЕДИКО-СОЦИАЛЬНОЕ ЭКСПЕРТНОЕ УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ ДНР  
код 51003402 (местонахождение ИЭК)

2. РЕСПУБЛИКАНСКАЯ МЕДИКО-СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ ЭКСПЕРТНАЯ КОМИССИЯ № 3 (профиль МСЭК)  
83099, г. Донецк, пр. Ильича, 14

СПРАВКА  
№ 086030  
на № 16 ААА (подается инвалиду)

4. Фамилия, имя, отчество инвалида: Савенко Александр Владимирович

5. Дата рождения: 04.04.1978 (число) (месяц) (год)

6. Дата освидетельствования: 09.06.2019 (число) (месяц) (год)

7. Освидетельствование: инвалид (степень) (группа)

8. Группа инвалидности: II группа

9. Причина инвалидности: инвалидность с детства

10. Инвалидность установлена до: несколько года

11. Дата очередного освидетельствования: не назначается (число, месяц, год)

12. Срок зачета с: \_\_\_\_\_

26 <https://bit.ly/3Be3wzf>

27 <https://bit.ly/3h4YUof>

28 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/302>

According to the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine (hereinafter — HUR MO), since April 20, **medical examinations of mobilized personnel in the CADLO “due to the lack of specialists,” but in fact in order to fulfil the established plans for the supply of “manpower,” were suspended**<sup>29</sup>. Potential “conscripts” were not able to obtain documents confirming any health problems. Those with obvious problems (mutilation, disability, severe acute illnesses) or who have managed to obtain the necessary documents are still mobilized but are assigned to logistics units. The only alternative to forced mobilization is to pay a bribe at set prices (depending on age, speciality, and health). In particular, in occupied Horlivka, the size of a bribe to evade service is from 5 thousand rubles, if paid directly at the place of detention. When delivered to the district departments of the so-called Ministry of Internal Affairs, people have to pay from 75 thousand rubles.

**People with dependent relatives who are persons with disabilities are subject to forced mobilization in the CADLO.** This fact should have excluded them from service, but the stories of prisoners, eyewitnesses, monitoring of social networks show that the social status of conscripts during mobilization is not taken into account.

*“I work at a factory in Makiivka. The company received lists of those who should be mobilized. The director was against it because “who will work?”, but we were gradually taken away anyway. I was sure that I was not subject to conscription, because I have parents with disabilities. But on February 24th, they told me “You have two hours to get ready and go to the military enlistment office.” I was enlisted. All of us were loaded into buses and taken to Kholodna Balka. There we were dressed in uniform and assigned to companies-battalions. I was appointed a grenade launcher operator. We stayed in the settlement for two days. There were lots of different people: those with cerebral palsy, individuals with Ilizarov apparatus, epileptics. In general, everybody was taken. I tried to explain that my parents have disabilities. When they took me to Donetsk, they told me if there was such a case,*

29 <https://bit.ly/3BdQe5l>

*they would let me go. The tension went down a little. But the next day the buses arrived and sent us to Ilovaisk, from there by train – to Dzhankoi and further to Kherson oblast<sup>30</sup>.”*

## CULTURAL WORKERS

The fact that **musicians of the Donetsk Academic Philharmonic** were mobilized to the so-called DPR army in occupied Donetsk was first made public by journalist Denys Kazanskyi<sup>31</sup>. He wrote that musicians without any training were sent to Mariupol, where they were used as a decoy to identify firing points of the city’s defenders.

Later, on August 3, a report of “Novaya Gazeta. Europe<sup>32</sup>,” which, among other things, contained excerpts from the interview and diary of Matvii<sup>33</sup>, one of the artists who was subjected to forced mobilization and was forced to spend more than three weeks on the front line in Mariupol.

On 23 February, the musicians were summoned to a military training camp, which was to last three days. Some were threatened in telephone conversations with criminal liability for failing to show up, but the cultural workers were still considered volunteers by the recruitment offices. Neither the presence of young children, nor health problems or lack of military experience did not save them from conscription.

On the same day, the mobilized were brought to the distribution unit in Makiivka, where for the next two days the men spent the night on the street, despite the zero temperature. At the unit, the philharmonic staff met with other **mobilized** men from the **opera and the Song and Dance Ensemble “Donbas” as well as several members of the local circus. These were mainly musicians, but also technicians, dancers, and singers.** There were around eighty people in all. The group of mobilized men from the philharmonic, opera, and ensemble became known as the “Culture” unit.

30 <https://bit.ly/3P12hcu>

31 <https://t.me/kazansky2017/2490>

32 <https://bit.ly/3VV9WuY>

33 Name changed for security reasons



The men spent more than a month in Makiivka, working as loaders and not receiving any military training. In the evening of March 27, they were given Soviet helmets and assault rifles, and in the morning they were driven to Mariupol in Ural trucks. They were taught to reload the machine guns on the way. The mobilized thought that the most they would do was stand at checkpoints, but from the first hour they found themselves at the forefront in the heart of the city. From then on, Matvii kept a diary, in which he secretly described his movements, how he came under fire, the tasks he was given, and his everyday life. There were other mobilized in Mariupol; all of them were divided into groups of 10–12 people, each group included several cultural workers.

Matvii's group was led into a building, placed in front of the windows, and ordered to aim their machine guns at the windows of a brick nine-story building, where, according to the commander of the so-called "people's police of the DPR," Ukrainian snipers were located. According to Matvii, he could not shoot at living people, so he started aiming above the windows, and then always aimed so as not to hit exactly. In April, Matvii was sent to the front line several times in different districts of Mariupol.

According to relatives of other mobilized musicians, the provision was terrible. In Mariupol, they were fed only a few times, the rest of the time they had to find food themselves. Leftovers were found in flats, warehouses and former headquarters of Ukrainians. There was a lack of water, medicines, it was constantly cold, which made almost all the personnel sick.

**Twenty-four musicians of the Luhansk Academic Philharmonic**, who were mobilized on February 23 and were told that they would "guard social facilities in the liberated cities," were also sent to Mariupol. According to one of these musicians, the fact that the TV shows that the army and contract soldiers go before the mobilized into battle is a complete lie:

*"In fact, the mobilized were thrown into battle on the front line. We were made into an assault brigade and sent to clear city blocks from high-rise buildings. There were enemies in them, we had to knock them out and hold the positions."*

In June, about a dozen of about 80 members of "Culture" unit remained at the front. Most of them were injured, contused or contracted infectious diseases and were hospitalized, several died.

The first casualty of the “Culture” unit became publicly known on 12 April. He was Mykola Zviahintsev, a well-known jazz performer and member of the brass band and the *Septet Jazz* ensemble. The man’s death drew a wide response; both Russian and Ukrainian media wrote about it.

In total, “Novaya Gazeta. Europe” knows about five dead Donetsk cultural workers, who were sent to the unit in Makiivka on February 23. Among the employees of the ensemble “Donbas” two musicians died in April. It is also known about the deaths of two more musicians of Donetsk Academic Philharmonic, but not from “Culture” unit; they were sent to the front earlier.

It takes at least 16 years to train an artist with higher education, so cultural workers are irreplaceable in their jobs and at the same time totally helpless in combat. Both the mobilized and their relatives believe that musicians were used as cannon fodder for identifying enemy firing points.

## EMPLOYEES OF STRATEGIC ENTERPRISES

Since the beginning of the war, qualified workers at certain enterprises, which are city-forming and important in the region, have been guaranteed a reservation on mobilization. These are, for example, Alchevsk Metallurgical Complex and Yenakiieve Iron and Steel Works, some mines. **But over time, employees of “strategic enterprises” were forcibly mobilized for the war against Ukraine, regardless of their competence and indispensability.**

In April, Alchevsk Metallurgical Complex received a new order to mobilize 1700 people, which was the fourth and largest wave of mobilization at the plant. Earlier there were orders for 1000, 500, 400 people<sup>34</sup>. Even those workers of the metallurgical plant who had reservation were forcibly taken away. Instead, Russian citizens work on a rotational basis at the plant<sup>35</sup>.

*“I work at AMC [Alchevsk Metallurgical Complex]. At the beginning of the war, I was issued a so-called “reservation” stating that I am not subject to mobilization. But lately, this piece of paper does not save me any more: they started to mobilize everyone, a kind of “Russian roulette.” Of course, I try to reduce the risks: I move everywhere only by car, only my wife goes shopping.”<sup>36</sup>*

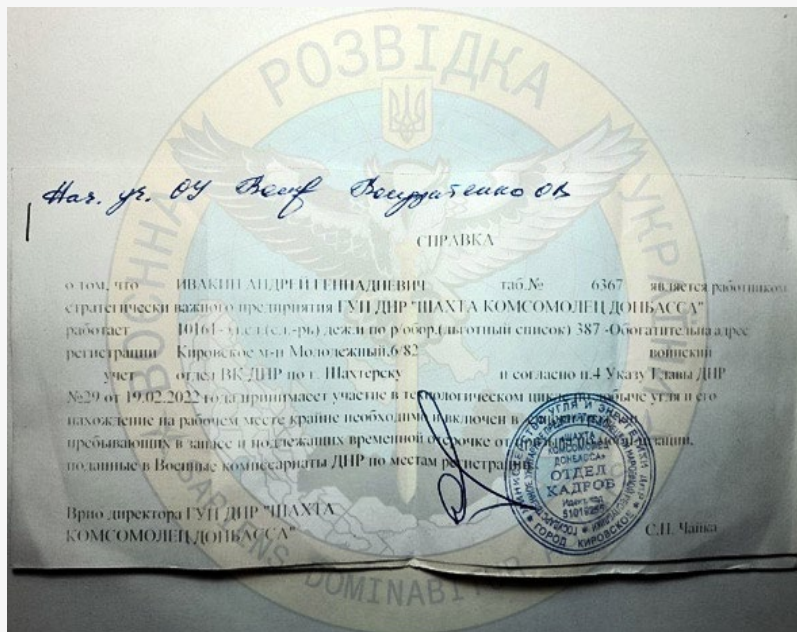
34 <https://bit.ly/3Uy1kcS>

35 <https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/5566>

36 Interview with AL-02

At Dovzhanska-Kapitalna mine, located in Dovzhansk (formerly Sverdlovsk), Luhansk oblast, more than 400 people were forcibly mobilized and pensioners and women were recruited to replace them. In Yenakiieve, the local “authorities” cancelled the previously issued documents on postponement/exemption from mobilization, in connection with which the task was set to mobilize from 200 to 500 employees of the metallurgical plant<sup>37</sup>. In addition, according to the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine, the “reservation” was cancelled for the employees who serve the district power grids.

Among the papers of the destroyed unit of the so-called DPR army, a document of a person who had a temporary deferral from mobilization was found. It was a certificate issued to Andrii Ivakin, an employee of the *Komsomolets of Donbas* mine, stating that he worked at a “strategically important enterprise”<sup>38</sup>.



Mass mobilization in the so-called DPR caused an acute shortage of employees at most facilities. In particular, the management of the Donetsk railway appealed to the occupation administrations with a request to demobilize their employees to carry out urgent measures to repair and maintain the railway infrastructure<sup>39</sup>.

37 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/1342>  
<https://t.me/DIUkraine/1366>

38 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/302>

39 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/510>

## MINORS AND STUDENTS

In April 2022, Liudmyla Denysova, who at that time served as the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner for Human Rights, reported the facts of mobilization of **underage members of “patriotic clubs” from the age of 16** to the illegal armed groups of the so-called DPR and LPR. Among the teenagers there have already been killed, in particular Ivan Shyfman, a member of the so-called military-patriotic sports club “Heirs of Victory” of the Territorial Headquarters of Komsomolske, the public organization “Military-patriotic movement *Young Guard – Yunarmia*.”

According to the Ukrainian intelligence, at the beginning of the war, students from the so-called LPR were actively recruited to the occupation army<sup>40</sup>. In particular, all **students of Luhansk Railway Technical College** were officially summoned to the educational institution for registration. Those who have already turned 18 years old were personally called by the director of the college. The situation was similar at **Luhansk Medical University** — the institution announced the mandatory arrival and registration of senior students.

**On March 31, Ukraine Crisis Media Centre hosted a press conference of nine captured students from Donetsk** who were forcibly drafted to fight in the war with Ukraine<sup>41</sup>. The prisoners said that they had been told to report on 24 February for a training camp, which was supposed to last two to three days. As they understood then, they were taken to pass the “course of a young fighter.” The recruits did not undergo medical examination, even those with heart problems were sent to the war. According to the detainees, they were informed that they could be imprisoned for 7 years for evasion, and if their parents hide their whereabouts, they also face criminal liability. For these reasons, in order not to “ruin neither their own lives nor the lives of their parents,” they did not hide and did not refuse to undergo military training, because they did not know that they would be sent to war.

They received uniforms and equipment on the territory of Donetsk meat processing plant. On March 3, they were taken by train through the Ilovaik railway station to Bilhorod, where they were accommodated in a sports complex on the outskirts of the city; and on March 5 the students were sent to the village of Vesele in the Kharkiv oblast to set up footholds for further protection and defence.

40 <https://bit.ly/3BdMNMp>

41 <https://bit.ly/3HbxOGy>

According to the prisoners, in the village they were settled in a school where there was neither light nor water. They had to search for water on their own and ask for help from local residents. They were fed twice a day, they ate expired bread, the expiry date of which was March 11, but they received it on March 20.

As for weapons, the detainees were given old Soviet weapons, which were rusty and decommissioned.

*“The helmets were given from the times of the Second World War, the belts were Soviet. A comrade took a spring out of a machine gun, and it fell apart in his hands,” said one of the prisoners.*



On May 20, the so-called DPR expanded the list of categories of citizens entitled to deferment from conscription and mobilization. In particular, full-time students were exempted from conscription.

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# INADEQUATE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FOR MOBILIZED PERSONS. RUSSIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS RESIDENTS OF THE SO-CALLED DPR AND LPR

Since the beginning of the war, the military equipment of the forcibly mobilized men from the so-called DPR and LPR has been extremely unsatisfactory. While in captivity, during interviews they complained about the lack of drinking water and dry rations, which they had to share among themselves and stretch for an indefinite number of days. Conditions were inadequate, both at the distribution bases and directly at the military positions:

*“My fiancé went to the military enlistment office on February 26, 2022. On the first day, they were given uniforms, shoes and taken to a school in Ilovaisk. They spent half a day just standing outside in the cold, sleeping on the floor. For the first few days they were given no food, then a couple of meals a day. There was no hot water, not always cold water, there were too many people, no toilet, just a pit in the street. Many boys and men felt sick, they were taken away by ambulance, because they did not even undergo a medical examination before mobilization. One young man said he had asthma, but they took him anyway, and one day he fainted because of the conditions. They take people with asthma, heart disease, poor eyesight, and other diseases<sup>42</sup>.”*

*“They treated us terribly. Rations were issued for 100 people, and there were 300 of us, so we were saving them. When we came to Kherson oblast from Dzhankoi, we slept under a concrete fence for 8 days. Well, we tried to get warm the whole time, chopping wood, making a fire, and sewing tent cloaks for some kind of protection from cold. We managed to sleep for 1.5–2 hours. When the Russians arrived, they thought we were prisoners, our faces were sooty, we were exhausted. Though our commander, a Russian, lived nearby in a two-storey house<sup>43</sup>.”*

The vast majority of the captured residents of the self-proclaimed republics said that **they had not received any military training** before being taken to combat positions. In some cases, there was a short training in shooting at the range, while many of them had never held a gun in their hands. A series of regiments were formed from the mobilized men in iron helmets, without bulletproof vests, artillery, and means of communication, armed with “sniper” Mosin–Nagant rifles of 1897 and DShK machine guns of 1939.

42 <https://bit.ly/3upOAtZ>

43 <https://bit.ly/3P12hcu>

*"They did not give us any bulletproof vests. They gave only a helmet and a cross. We had to buy bulletproof vests from Russians for 10,000 rubles<sup>44</sup>."*

*"We were in Makiivka for a week. We were divided into companies, and before leaving we were given weapons with empty magazines. That was the first time I saw a machine gun. There was no training at all, in the morning and in the evening, we were lined up and that was it<sup>45</sup>."*

Mobilized residents of the so-called DPR recorded a video showing how they are provided with military equipment. Soldiers are issued uniforms several sizes too big, given boots of different sizes or not issued at all, so some are forced to either buy them themselves or go to war in sneakers. The issued duffel bags are falling apart from old age<sup>46</sup>.



According to the mobilized residents of the CADLO who were captured in Ukraine, their situation at the front was worse than slavery. The attitude of the Russians was arrogant and dismissive, the Russian military forced them to dig trenches and bullied them endlessly.

44 <https://bit.ly/3gVRx2A>

45 <https://bit.ly/3Wb0XWX>

46 <https://t.me/kazansky2017/3633>



*“The Russian commander did not like that everyone went to dinner. He pushed one guy and started shooting near his head. And he found another guy who had been drinking or something, so he took two people, told them to bury him, and shot in the air at the same time. He undressed him, buried him up to the neck in a trench... It was clear that our lives were worthless to them<sup>47</sup>.”*

*“The commanders’ attitude to the guys was brutal: many sick men had to load vehicles at night. Once, my boyfriend did not hang up after we talked, and I heard a conversation on behalf of some commander. He was talking to them as if they were prisoners or prisoners of war. It was scary to hear and understand that this was happening in your homeland<sup>48</sup>.”*

**Formed units of men from the CADLO have extremely low combat training, discipline and depressed emotional state.** They are not given legal leave, neither soldiers nor their family members receive financial support. According to the mobilized soldiers, the Russian command uses them as a lure, i.e. as the advanced echelon of combat reconnaissance **to determine Ukrainian military positions.**

Due to lack of training and motivation, unsatisfactory weapons and supplies, inhuman attitude of Russian commanders, losses among the personnel of mobilized men from the CADLO are huge. This is the phenomenon and hypocrisy of Russian propaganda slogans. **Those who are called to save and “liberate” are the first to be thrown to the slaughter at the fortified Ukrainian positions.**

If the Russian command is somehow trying to minimize its losses in order not to cause open public discontent in Russia, and at the same time not to pay 7 million rubles as compensation for the dead Russian soldiers, then no one counts the losses of the so-called DPR and LPR, no one tries to save the lives of their soldiers. The self-proclaimed republics are a non-existent grey zone where people are deprived of their rights, and therefore there is no need to report on thousands of deaths. Of course, no compensation for the death of a soldier is provided there. The maximum that relatives can expect is a lump sum of 10 thousand rubles.

47 <https://bit.ly/3FvAVYY>

48 <https://bit.ly/3upOAtZ>

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# PROTEST ACTIONS

A large number of those mobilized from the CADLO do not return to their families alive, because they die on the battlefield or are captured by Ukrainian forces. Of course, this causes great indignation and tension among the relatives of the men forcibly sent to war. **In social networks, appeals of women full of despair began to appear, who told how the “mobilization” actually took place.** A resident of Sorokyne (formerly Krasnodon) of the so-called LPR noted that miners are taken to the war directly from the mines and sent to the frontline without prior training. When the wives of mobilized men came to a spontaneous meeting at the local military enlistment office, the employees of the institution began to insult and intimidate them<sup>49</sup>.

**On May 16–17, protests of wives and relatives of the CADLO residents sent to the front were held in Luhansk.** The protesters demanded the return of the mobilized home. The total number of participants was about 700 people<sup>50</sup>. In the town of Rovenky, which is under the control of the so-called LPR, the wives of mobilized men, came to a spontaneous rally at the local military commissariat. They said that the Russian military retreated from Kharkiv oblast and left their husbands without cover. They demanded to make the situation public and tried to get a meeting with the head of the so-called LPR Leonid Pasichnyk<sup>51</sup>.

49 <https://t.me/kazansky2017/2756>

50 <https://t.me/DIUkraine/509>

51 <https://bit.ly/3PHOHdL>

Another manifestation of public dissatisfaction with the mass forced conscription of men to the war against Ukraine was a video message of wives of mobilized soldiers from the so-called DPR in mid-June<sup>52</sup>. They said that for almost four months they did not know about the whereabouts of their husbands, who on February 24, as part of the mobilization campaign, were included in the personnel of the military unit № 08801 of Komsomolske, Donetsk oblast (now Kalmiuske), and now serve in the second battalion of the 121st regiment. According to the women, on 6 June, the mobilized men were supposed to be returned to the unit, but only one company returned to the place of permanent deployment; the whereabouts of the remaining two hundred men are unknown. The relatives of the soldiers appealed to all possible authorities without any results.

According to the women, the soldiers did not have any vacations or appropriate payments for the entire four months. In addition, during the mobilization, there was no medical examination, which is why, in particular, persons with disabilities were mobilized.



**It has become a common practice to record video messages of mobilized men directly from military positions in order to convey information about their situation to the higher authorities.**

At the beginning of June, representatives of the so-called “people’s police of the DPR” appealed to the President of the Russian Federation through a video message published in social networks with a request to deal with the situation with the stay of the 1st company of the 5th rifle battalion of the 113th

52 <https://bit.ly/3ut82pW>

regiment at the frontline positions in Kherson oblast for 3 months<sup>53</sup>. According to the speaker, their company did not have proper material, medical, and food support; the mobilization procedure was carried out without medical examination, which is why people with chronic diseases, including mental illnesses, guardians, parents with many children were mobilized. It follows from the appeal that the higher headquarters ignores all the stated problems. It was also noted that according to the statement of the head of the so-called DPR, the units of the mobilization reserve are not involved in the front line, but in practice this is not true.



In June, members of the 4th rifle battalion of the 109th rifle regiment, formed from residents of the so-called DPR, asked the Russian president and the so-called “head of the DPR” to provide clarifications and respond to a number of issues related to their service<sup>54</sup>.

According to them:

- persons who are unfit for military service due to health reasons, as well as full-time students, have been illegally mobilized;
- the unit was formed from soldiers who had not undergone compulsory military training. The battalion is not staffed by commanders and officers who have combat experience and an understanding of what happens on the battlefield;

53 <https://bit.ly/3HI74vw>

54 <https://t.me/uniannet/62202>

- none of the mobilized men were familiarized with the orders for their enlistment in the battalion. After 4 months, there are no records of the soldiers' military service;
- in 120 days of mobilization, no one has ever been on legal leave. Neither soldiers nor their families are paid;
- soldiers in the first line of defence, in the active combat zone, do not have protective equipment, bulletproof vests and helmets. In May, they were issued old bulletproof vests, partly without armour plates, with visible mechanical damage, the use of which is prohibited by the instructions on the vest itself. There are no means of communication and night vision devices;
- there is a lack of medical care and no treatment for persons with chronic illnesses;
- the top leadership totally ignores the existing problems;
- due to the increasing frequency of artillery shelling and air raids by the AFU, without the support of the Russian army, the personnel is demoralized and morale is broken;
- soldiers of the 4th rifle battalion of the 109th rifle regiment demand rotation from the combat zone, return to the permanent deployment point, send personnel to the 3rd line of defence to protect strategic facilities on the territory of the so-called DPR, and provide holidays for the entire period of service.



In July, the personnel of the 109th regiment, 2nd battalion, 2nd company, addressed the head of the so-called DPR Denys Pushylin and the command of military unit № 08803 with a request to respond to the existing problems of mobilized citizens of the so-called DPR, which were identical to the problems stated in previous appeals<sup>55</sup>. These included complaints about the lack of medical commissions, necessary military training, leave, payments, etc.



After the occupants seized Luhansk oblast, a video appeared in which a group of mobilized from the so-called LPR declared their refusal to go to war for the so-called DPR. They argued that they had allegedly “fulfilled their duty to protect the LPR.” Moreover, they received a message from the “head” of the pseudo-republic that July 3 was allegedly the “Victory Day.” The men also complained that they were threatened with reprisals for refusing to fight for the DPR<sup>56</sup>.

Neither the requests of the relatives of the mobilized, nor the appeals of the soldiers, had any effect. All attempts to reach the top leadership to help solve the existing problems were in vain. The occupation authorities in the DPR and Russian commanders are only interested in the disenfranchised mobilized men as a manpower, which they do not spare to lose on the battlefield.

55 [https://t.me/rf200\\_nooow/8274](https://t.me/rf200_nooow/8274)

56 <https://t.me/kazansky2017/3668>