

8 October 2021

Conflict-related civilian casualties in Ukraine¹

September 2021

From 1 to 30 September 2021, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded nine civilian casualties (all injured): seven men and two women. All of them were caused by active hostilities (shelling): eight in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and one in Government-controlled part of Luhansk region.

August 2021

From 1 to 31 August 2021, OHCHR recorded 11 civilian casualties: three killed (two men and one woman) and eight injured (four men, three women and one boy). Active hostilities (shelling, SALW² fire and UAV³ strikes) resulted in nine civilian casualties (two killed and seven injured): one woman was killed and three men and one boy were injured in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'; one woman was injured in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'; one man was killed and one man was injured in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and one woman was injured in Government-controlled part of Luhansk region. Besides, one woman was injured by small arms fire in an escalation of force incident in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and one man was killed as a result of ERW handling⁴ in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'.

July 2021

From 1 to 31 July 2021, OHCHR recorded six conflict-related civilian casualties (all injured): three men and three women. Active hostilities (shelling and small arms fire) injured one man in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and one woman in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Luhansk people's republic'. One man was injured in a mine-related incident⁵, and two women and one man were injured as a result of ERW handling, all in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'.

June 2021

From 1 to 30 June 2021, OHCHR recorded six conflict-related civilian casualties (all injured): three men and three women. Active hostilities (shelling and small arms fire) injured one man in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region, and one woman in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic'. One woman was injured in a mine-related incident in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic', and two men were injured as a result of ERW handling in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region. One woman sustained bodily harm as a result of beating by a military in Government-controlled part of Donetsk region.

Total civilian casualties in 2021

From 1 January to 30 September 2021, OHCHR recorded in total 84 civilian casualties: 18 killed (13 men, one woman, three boys and one girl) and 66 injured (42 men, 18 women, five boys and one girl), a 33.9 per cent decrease compared with the same period of 2020, when 127 civilian casualties (21 killed and 106 injured) were recorded.

¹ OHCHR documents civilian casualties by consulting a broad range of sources and types of information, which are evaluated for credibility and reliability. This update is based on information that the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) collected through interviews with victims and their relatives; witnesses; analysis of corroborating material confidentially shared with HRMMU; official records; open-source documents, photo and video materials; forensic records and reports; criminal investigation materials; court documents; public reports of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine; reports by international and national non-governmental organisations; public reports by law enforcement and military actors; data from medical facilities and local authorities; and other relevant and credible material. In some instances, corroboration may take weeks or months before conclusions can be drawn. This may mean that conclusions on civilian casualties may be revised as more information becomes available and numbers may change as new information emerges over time.

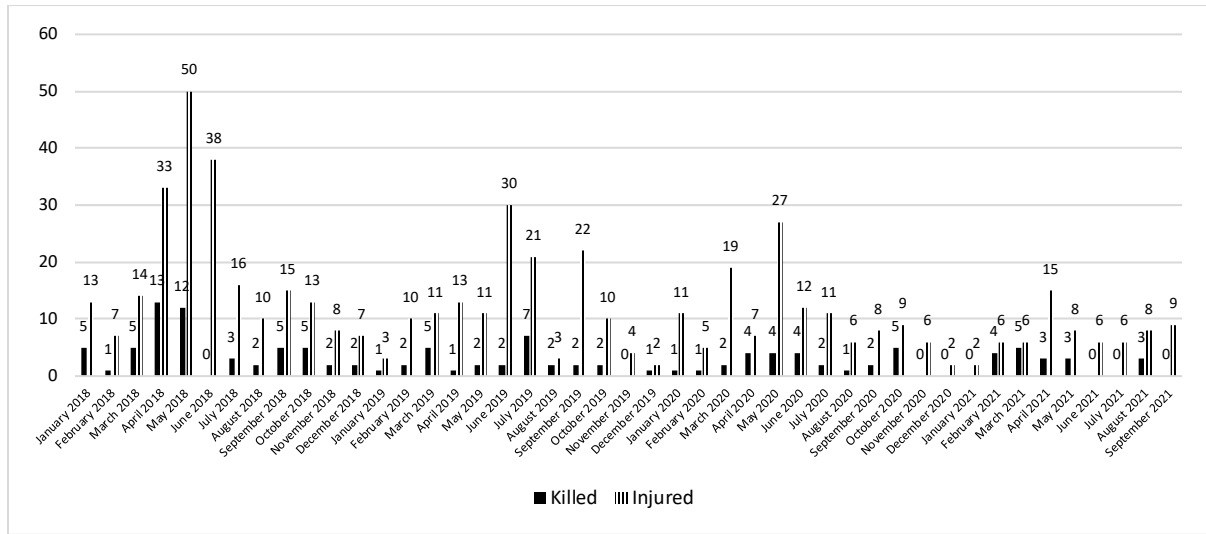
² Small arms and light weapons.

³ Unmanned aerial vehicles.

⁴ Victims of ERW handling manipulate with an ERW (explosive remnants of war) for a certain period of time and take additional efforts to make it detonate (for instance, by trying to dismantle it), or were near those, who manipulated an ERW.

⁵ Incidents in which civilians were killed or injured by mines (antipersonnel or anti-vehicle) or explosive devices triggered in the same way, such as booby traps, or by ERW that are inadvertently detonated by unsuspecting civilians.

Total civilian casualties from 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2021, per month

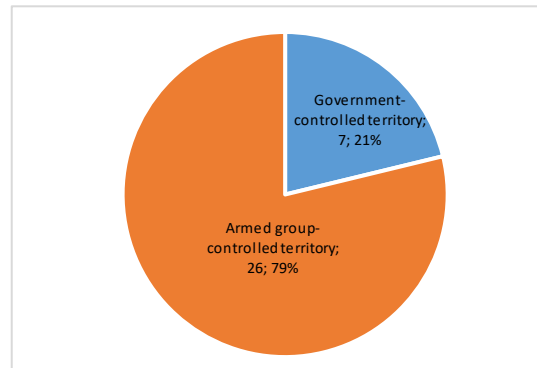


Civilian casualties resulting from active hostilities in 2021

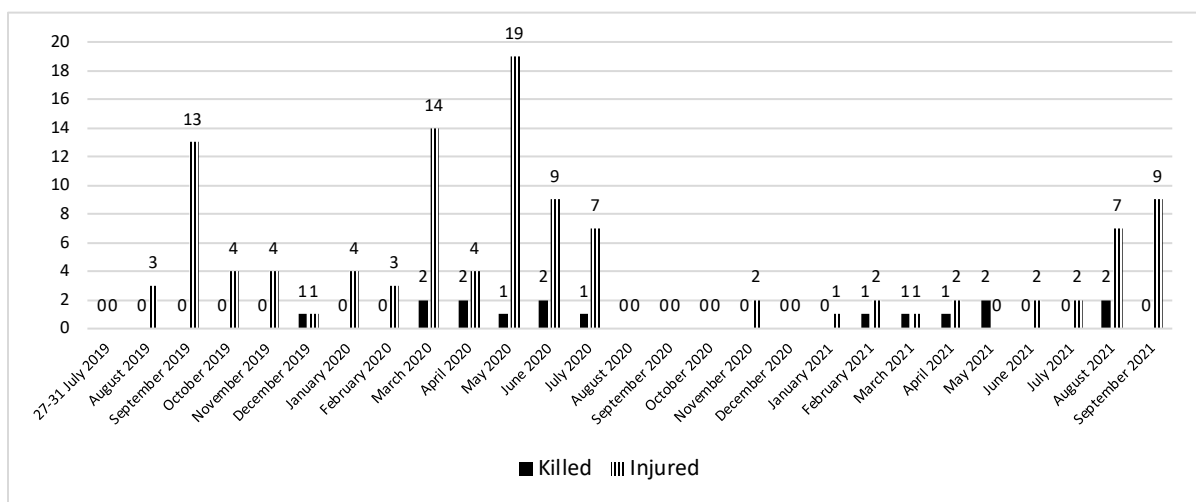
From 1 January to 30 September 2021, OHCHR recorded 33 civilian casualties caused by active hostilities: seven killed and 26 injured, a 51.5 per cent decrease compared with the same period of 2020 (eight killed and 60 injured).

During the 12 months after 27 July 2020⁶, the number of civilian casualties caused by active hostilities (16: five killed and 11 injured) was 82.8 per cent lower compared with the 12 months before (93: nine killed and 84 injured). In August and September 2021, the numbers of civilian casualties caused by active hostilities returned to the levels observed before 27 July 2020.

Civilian casualties caused by active hostilities, from 1 January to 30 September 2021, per territory of control



Civilian casualties caused by active hostilities, from 27 July 2019 to 30 September 2021, per month



⁶ Following the agreement reached by the Trilateral Contact Group in Minsk on 22 July 2020, the Joint Forces Operation of Ukraine and armed groups of self-proclaimed 'republics' issued and enacted orders on measures to strengthen the ceasefire from midnight on 27 July 2020. The package of additional measures aimed to make the ceasefire comprehensive, sustainable and unlimited.

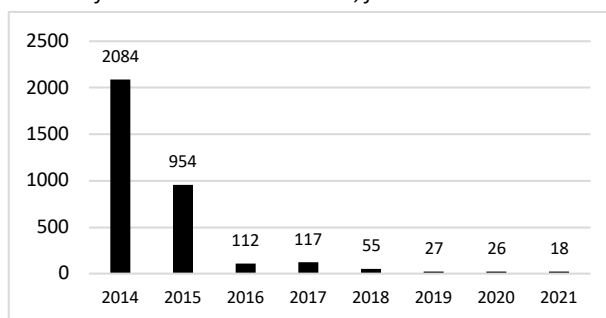
Civilian casualties resulting from mine-related incidents and ERW handling in 2021

From 1 January to 30 September 2021, civilian casualties resulting from mine-related incidents and ERW handling comprised 49: 11 killed (seven men, three boys and one girl) and 38 injured (23 men, three women, four boys and one girl), accounting for 58.3 per cent of all civilian casualties recorded during that period⁷. This is a 14.0 per cent decrease compared with the same period of 2020, when 57 such casualties were recorded (11 killed and 46 injured). Sixty-nine percent (seven killed and 27 injured) were recorded in territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'republics' and 31 per cent (four killed and 11 injured) in Government-controlled territory.

Total conflict-related civilian casualties in 2014-2021

During the entire conflict period, from 14 April 2014 to 30 September 2021, OHCHR recorded a total of 3,095 conflict-related civilian deaths (1,841 men, 1,065 women, 102 boys, 50 girls, and 37 adults whose sex is unknown). Taking into account the 298 deaths on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 on 17 July 2014, the total death toll of the conflict on civilians has reached at least 3,393. The number of injured civilians is estimated to exceed 7,000.

Total conflict-related civilian deaths, from 2014 to 2021



⁷ To compare: civilian casualties caused by mines and ERW handling comprised 51 per cent of the total in 2020, 35 in 2019, 43 in 2018, 41 in 2017 and 41 per cent in 2016.