

«FILTRATION» AS A SERIES OF WAR CRIMES OF RUSSIA:

from collecting personal data
to torturing



MEDIA
INITIATIVE
for Human Rights

2022



FILTRATION CAMPS MAP

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- 1 Anadol**
of Volnovakha district
 - 2 Amvrosiivka**
65 Karla Liebknehta St.
Filtration checkpoint of Uspenka
 - 3 Dokuchaievsk**
19 Nezalezhnosti St.
«Dokuchaievsk city department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 4 Donetsk**
56 Aksakova St.
«Leninskyi district department of Donetsk city administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 5 Novoazovsk**
69 Komunariv St.
«Novoazovsk district department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 6 Nikolske**
92 Lenina St.
«Volodarske district department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 7 Manhush**
63 Tytova St.
«Pershotravnevyi district department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 8 Starobesheve**
30 Pashi Anhelinoi Ave.
«Starobesheve district department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs»
 - 9 Bezimenne**
48 Radianska St.
Filtration checkpoint of Bezimenne
 - 10 Buhas**
35 Radianska St.
Village Administration
 - 11 11th km Snizhne – Marynivka Rd**
Filtration checkpoint of Stepanivka
 - 12 619th km Odesa – Melitopol – Novoazovsk Rd**
Filtration checkpoint of Manhush
 - 13 Olenivka**
Filtration Prison within former Yenakieve Maximum Security Penal Colony No. 52
 - 14 Olenivka**
Filtration Prison within former Volnovakha Penal Colony No. 120
 - 15 Donetsk**
4 Chervonoarmiiska St.
Pre-Trial Detention Center

DONETSK OBLAST

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- 16 Starobilsk**
20 Aidarska St.
Police department
 - 17 Chernykhine**
2 Studentskyi Aly.
Chernukhine Penal Colony No. 23
 - 18 Luhansk**
4 23rd St.
Pre-Trial Detention Center

LUHANSK OBLAST

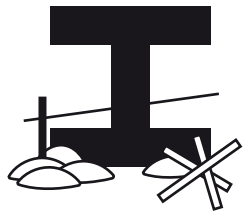
ON FEBRUARY 24,

without declaration of war the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Its troops quickly captured a significant territory of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Sumy regions.

Russia imposed an occupation administration, starting the so-called filtration of the population everywhere the Russian army managed to keep its positions. Every resident over fourteen is obliged to go through this process in the newly occupied territories of Ukraine. According to eyewitnesses, filtration has three levels.

FILTRATION, LEVEL 1: PRE-CHECK

It happens at checkpoints when one leaves a Russian-occupied settlement, in the cities and villages. They check documents and belongings, and they can search a house or a car. Next, they direct a person to the assembly points where filtration camps are based.



“ At the checkpoint of Manhush, they checked my daughter and me right away but took my husband and my son inside. They undressed them, checked for tattoos, marks from weapons, etc. When undressing my son, they noticed he was wearing the underwear top of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – a green military T-shirt. That’s all. They took him out under the muzzles of two guns.

Halyna (*her name was changed for security matters*) about the village of Manhush, Donetsk Oblast

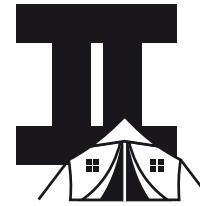
“ I was a representative of the authorities, so when the filtering began, representatives of the so-called security agencies of the occupiers came to me in Anadol. They wanted to learn more about the local authorities, links to the security service and the location of the Ukrainian military. They asked for the names of locals helping the Ukrainian army, those who had served in the Armed Forces of Ukraine or had connections with the Azov Battalion.

Oleksii, *representative of local authorities*, about the village of Anadol, Donetsk Oblast

“ At the Starobilsk police department, they threatened me and said they would put me in jail. They kept swiping at me, punched me in the face, hit my back and all over the body. At some point they said that they would take me for filtration. They tried to reveal my belonging to the Ukrainian military.

Yurii Berezovskyi, *activist*, about the city of Starobilsk, Luhansk Oblast

FILTRATION, LEVEL 2: CAMPS



Although filtering measures take place throughout the entire captured territory of Ukraine, filtering camps are mostly located in the occupied territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. The second level is the main type of filtration after which the person is released or detained for further verification. People wait in lines for filtering for many days and weeks. During the inspection, they are subjected to psychological and physical pressure, cases of shootings were reported.

“ It is the most humiliating thing I’ve ever experienced. They stripped us. Some had to stay in underpants and the others had to get completely naked. They took men aside and kept them much longer. They checked backpacks and turned everything inside out. They checked phones and read correspondence. They threatened women who had relatives or friends in the military or law enforcement. They said that they would find them and send men’s heads in boxes.

Kateryna, about the village of Bezimenne, Donetsk Oblast

“ My husband went before me. They checked his documents, took away his passport, told him to step aside, called someone on the phone and passed his personal data by phone. After the talk, they decided to take him in for questioning. At 00:30 AM a military man came into the room, called my husband’s last name and ordered him to come out. That was the last time I saw him. His mother tried to find out where they took him. They said no one would tell us and that he should have been shot right away. Before taking him away, they warned him to prepare for torture.

Victoria from Mariupol, about the village of Bezimenne, Donetsk Oblast

“ A man in civilian clothes managed the process. He asked whether there were witnesses to atrocities or murders committed by the Ukrainian military. No one told him anything. They gave us a questionnaire, which we had to fill out: numbers of passports, full names, connections with the Azov Battalion members or the security service, whether you participated in military operations or your relatives did, etc. After that, they took away the passports. Also, they collected fingerprints and handprints, and took pictures.

Denys Barabash, *student*, about the village of Starobesheve, Donetsk Oblast

“ We were brought to the village of Bezimenne to the filtration camp; there were military women from the Russian Federation. I had a locket with a trident, and they demanded that I name the person who gave it to me. I said that I could not recall it. They scanned our phones, copied down all contacts, restored all pictures, and collected handprints.

Hanna Zaitseva about the village of Bezimenne, Donetsk Oblast

“ will never forget two «DPR» soldiers’ conversation. «What did you do to those who had passed the filtration?» — «I shot ten and then stopped counting, it’s boring.» I entered the room, and I saw five soldiers with weapons there. I was on my own, and I was petrified. My knees started buckling when the soldier laying down on the mattress said, «Do you dislike her? There will be more women ahead, we’ll find something.» They pushed me out. And they asked my father, «Shouldn’t we cut your ear off?» They pushed him and then hit his head with something heavy. As a result, he lost sight in one eye, and another one sees as if through a plastic bag.
(from the interview for currenttime.tv)

Mariya Vdovychenko about the village of Manhush, Donetsk Oblast

FILTRATION, LEVEL 3: PRE-TRIAL DETENTION CENTERS AND COLONIES

It is the meanest and bloodiest level of checking. They send those who have not passed the first or the second level of checking to detention centers or prisons in the occupied territories of Ukraine. During the third level of filtration, they torture captured ones hard, do not give them enough food and water, keep them in inhumane, unsanitary conditions, do not provide any medical care, and murder inmates.

“ It’s rare for them to bring you to the temporary detention center of Donetsk and not to torture. I saw what they had been doing to the Ukrainian military: they tortured them with electric shock. There is no question of any Geneva Convention. Later they transferred me to Olenivka. The conditions were extremely terrible there. There were 40 of us per cell, 30 people were sleeping and 10 were standing, and we took turns like that. We were given five liters of water — and had to share it. There were no sanitary conditions at all. In addition, they were constantly beating everyone.

Oleksii about the village of Olenivka, Donetsk Oblast

“ They take those who did not pass the filtration to the premises of former Penal Colony No. 52 in the village of Olenivka, Donetsk Oblast. The prison premises are overcrowded. According to witnesses, the planned limit for this colony is 850 people, but they keep at least 3,000 people there today. It is where they hold former law enforcement officers, pro-Ukrainian activists and journalists. And now it was reported about the second filtration prison in Olenivka — within former Volnovakha Penal Colony No. 120.

Petro Andriushchenko,
Adviser to the Mayor of Mariupol

“ At the Russian border they threatened me, said that I would go to Lubyanka (MIPL: the headquarters of the FSB, located on Lubyanka Square in Moscow), they gathered in threes, fours, and fives — stood and pressured me. Then they threw me into the basement of the Chortkiv police station. There were three other men in the cell. All of them were from Starobilsk. The FSB accused them of creating an SRG, and behaved horribly towards them. They were beaten and threatened to have sticks shoved up their asses. The FSB people put the Z letter as my new profile picture on Instagram, Facebook, Telegram, and Viber. They corresponded on my behalf with people. They texted my brother, «To me, you are not my brother», and texted my friends that they were not my friends anymore. Also, they wrote all sorts of nonsense, like, «I hear ZoV (MIPL: the Russian for the call).» Then they took me to a polygraph. They attached wires to my fingers, and to where the arteries pass — near the heart, on the stomach, where the diaphragm is. They asked me whether I had worked for the intelligence agencies, whether I had their contacts, and whether I had deliberately tried to hide my contacts with the military. I almost lost consciousness.

Yurii Berezovskii about the village of Chortkove, the Rostov region, the Russian Federation

“ They brought me to the village of Nikolske, 20 km of Rozivka, they have a commandant’s office there, that’s where Mariupol residents endure a «filtration» process. They showed me Serhii twice. The first time was before the interrogation, he was handcuffed and beaten. And then after the interrogation, he was already without handcuffs, sitting in a chair. I realized he could no longer stand up. By a single look at his face one could clearly tell the way he was being interrogated.

Iryna Dubchenko, about the village of Rozivka, Polohy district, Zaporizhzhia Oblast

“ In the Olenivka colony, four people, also prisoners, walk around with a large pan and distribute thin porridge. There are 30 plates and about 15 spoons for 150 people in the barracks. The feeling of hunger was always there, even when I ate. You stand there, hungry, waiting for your turn to eat, and feel hungry again.

Ihor Talalay, *volunteer*, about the village of Manhush, Donetsk Oblast

THE MEDIA INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DISCOVERED LOCATIONS OF 18 FILTRATION CAMPS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY OF UKRAINE.

However, this list is not exhaustive as filtering processes happen in all settlements occupied by Russia, without exception, and at checkpoints. According to the information of the Chief Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, people from the occupied city of Rubizhne, Luhansk Oblast, were taken

for filtration to Starobilsk, Luhansk, and Sorokyne, while people from occupied Popasnaya — to Pervomaik and Kadiivka, Luhansk Oblast. There is also information that they had set a filtration camp up in the village of Velyka Lepetykha, Kherson Oblast.

MIHR emphasizes that filtering measures against Ukrainians are taking place in Russia too.



Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) – Ukrainian non-governmental organization founded in September 2016. We combine journalism and protection of human rights, uncovering Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

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