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НАЦІОНАЛЬНА АКАДЕМІЯ ВНУТРІШНІХ СПРАВ
Кафедра мовної підготовки



ПРАКТИКУМ З ІНОЗЕМНОЇ МОВИ «WAR CRIMES»



Київ – 2025

**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Department of Language Training

**FOREIGN
LANGUAGE PRACTICUM
«WAR CRIMES»**

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АВТОРСЬКИЙ КОЛЕКТИВ:

Ігор РОМАНОВ – кандидат педагогічних наук, доцент, професор кафедри мовної підготовки Національної академії внутрішніх справ;

Світлана ШУТЕНКО – завідувач кафедри мовної підготовки Національної академії внутрішніх справ, підполковник поліції;

Олена ВОЛІК – старший викладач кафедри мовної підготовки Національної академії внутрішніх справ

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Вадим БОГУЦЬКИЙ – кандидат філологічних наук, доцент, доцент кафедри ділової української та іноземних мов Навчально-наукового інституту права та психології Національної академії внутрішніх справ;

Наталія БУЯЛО – викладач кафедри фонетики і практики англійської мови Київського національного лінгвістичного університету

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Практикум охоплює проблемні аспекти кваліфікації воєнних злочинів в Україні та призначений для використання на заняттях із навчальної дисципліни «Іноземна мова професійного спрямування» зі здобувачами вищої освіти ступеня «бакалавр» та «магістр» за спеціальностями «Право» та «Правоохоронна діяльність» закладів вищої освіти сектору безпеки.

Видання містить 32 вправи різного рівня, які спрямовані на формування та розвиток лексичних, граматичних, мовленнєвих навичок, необхідних для фахової комунікації майбутніх правників та правоохоронців іноземною мовою.

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GROUP OF AUTHORS:

Ihor ROMANOV – Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor, Professor of the Language Training Department of the National Academy of Internal Affairs;

Svitlana SHUTENKO – Head of the Language Training Department of the National Academy of Internal Affairs, Lieutenant Colonel of the National Police of Ukraine;

Olena VOLIK – Senior Lecturer of the Language Training Department of the National Academy of Internal Affairs

REVIEWERS:

Denys TYKHOMYROV – Doctor of Law, Associate Professor, Professor of the Department of Theory, History and Philosophy of Law of the National Academy of Internal Affairs, Major of the National Police of Ukraine;

Vadym BOHUTSKYI – Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Business Ukrainian and Foreign Languages of the Educational and Scientific Institute of Law and Psychology of the National Academy of Internal Affairs;

Natalia BUYALO – Lecturer of the Phonetics and Practice of English Language Department of the Kyiv National Linguistic University

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The practicum covers problematic aspects of the qualification of war crimes in Ukraine and is intended for use in classes on the academic discipline "Foreign Language for Professional Purposes" with students at the Bachelor's and Master's levels majoring in "Law" and "Law Enforcement" at higher education institutions within the security sector.

The publication contains 32 exercises of varying levels aimed at developing and enhancing lexical, grammatical, and communicative skills necessary for professional communication in a foreign language for future lawyers and law enforcement officers.

WAR CRIMES: DEFINITION

War crime –grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions or other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflicts within the established framework of international law, as defined in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court [1].

War crime – a crime committed during a war that breaks the accepted international rules of war [2].

War crime – an act committed during a war that violates international law usually because it is cruel, unfair, etc. [3].

War crime – a crime committed in wartime in violation of the accepted rules and customs of war, such as genocide, ill-treatment of prisoners of war [4].

Воєнні злочини – серйозні порушення міжнародного гуманітарного права (права збройних конфліктів), за вчинення яких передбачено кримінальну відповідальність індивіда. Воєнні злочини належать до найтяжчих суспільно небезпечних дій проти загального міжнародного права [5].



Дані офісу Генерального прокурора [25]

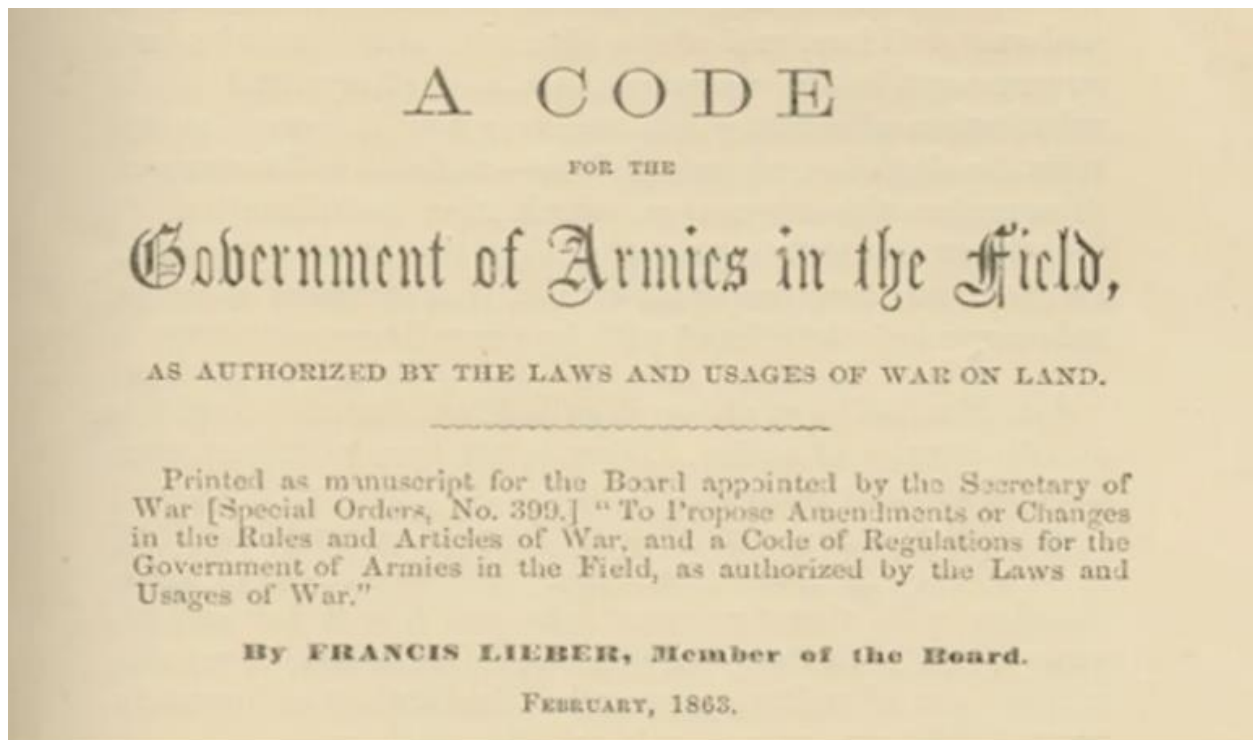
Task 1. Read and translate the text. Explain the meaning of the highlighted words. Write 5 sentences using these words.

Vocabulary (from the text below)	
to evolve	розвиватися
constant	постійний
to define	визначати
breach	порушення
to prohibit	забороняти
wanton	довільний; безглуздий
to invade	вторгатися; захоплювати
to maim	калічити
atrocities	звірства
the Allies	союзники
Axis	країни Осі (Німеччина, Італія, Японія)
conventional	звичний; загальноприйнятий
ill-treatment	погане ставлення
persecution	переслідування
wounded	поранений
prisoner of war	військовополонений
supplement	доповнення
International Criminal Court	Міжнародний кримінальний суд

Definition and development

The term war crime has been difficult to define with precision, and its usage has evolved constantly, particularly since the end of World War I. The first systematic attempt to define a broad range of war crimes was the *Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States in the Field* – also known as the “Lieber Code” after its main author, Francis Lieber – which was issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln during the American Civil War and distributed among Union military personnel

in 1863. For example, the Lieber Code held that it was a “serious **breach of the law** of war to force the subjects of the enemy into service for the victorious government” and prohibited “wanton **violence** committed against persons in the invaded country,” including rape, maiming, and **murder**, all of which carried the **death penalty**. More recently, definitions of war crimes have been codified in international statutes, such as those creating the International Criminal Court and the war crimes tribunals in Yugoslavia and Rwanda, for use in international war crimes tribunals [10].



Lieber Code [7]

The next major attempt to prosecute war criminals occurred in Europe and Asia after World War II. Throughout the war, the Allies had cited **atrocities** committed by the Nazi regime and announced their intention to punish those **guilty** of war crimes.

At the war's conclusion, representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and the provisional government of France signed the London Agreement, which provided for an international military tribunal to try major Axis war criminals whose offenses did not take place in specific geographic locations. This agreement was supported by 19 other governments and included the Nuremberg Charter, which established the Nuremberg tribunal and categorized the offenses within its jurisdiction. The charter listed three categories of crime: (1) crimes against peace,

which involved the preparation and initiation of a war of aggression, (2) war crimes (or “conventional war crimes”), which included murder, ill treatment, and deportation, and (3) crimes against humanity, which included **political**, **racial**, and **religious persecution** of civilians. This last category included what is commonly called **genocide** [10].



Photograph of Rudolf Hess taken during the Nuremberg Trials.

Photograph: World History Archive/Alamy [8]

After the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials, numerous international **treaties** and conventions attempted to devise a comprehensive and enforceable definition of war crimes. The four separate Geneva conventions, **adopted** in 1949, in theory made prosecutable certain acts committed in violation of the laws of war.

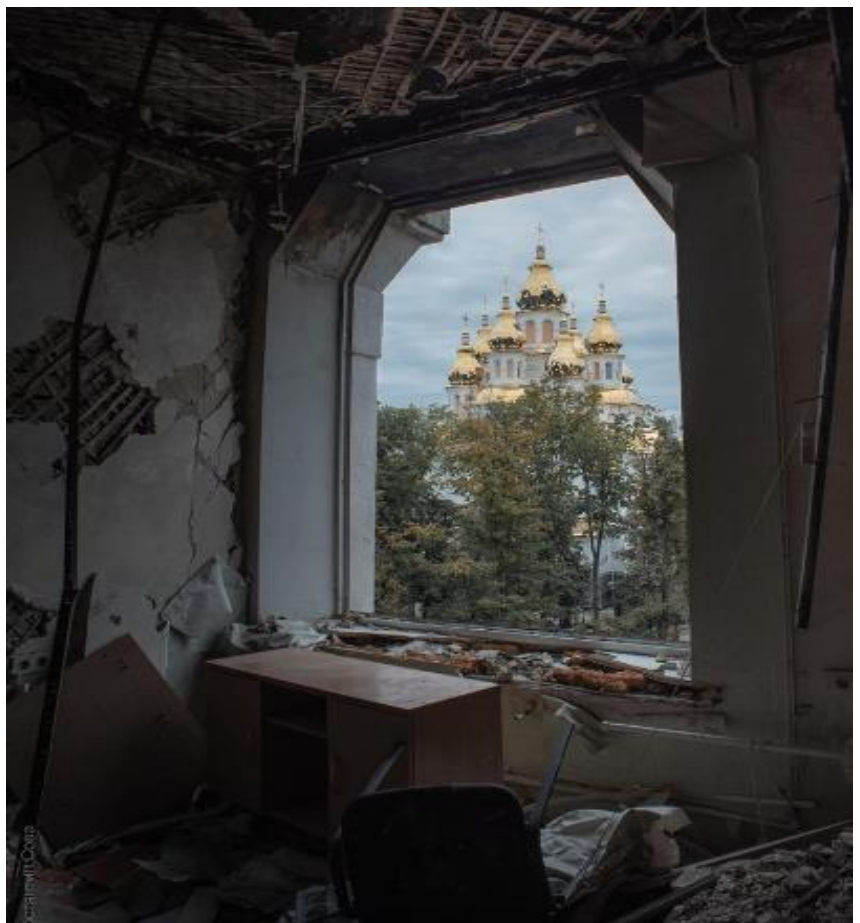
The conventions provided for the protection of wounded, sick, and shipwrecked military personnel, **prisoners of war**, and civilians. Like the convention on genocide, however, the Geneva conventions specified that trials were to be arranged by individual governments. In 1977 two protocols were adopted to clarify and supplement the Geneva conventions. Recognizing that many conflicts were internal rather than international in scope, the second protocol afforded greater protection to guerrilla combatants in civil wars [10].

Task 2. Match the English words with the Ukrainian translation.

1) cruel	a) смертна кара
2) customs	b) жорстокий
3) to violate	c) ставлення/поводження
4) death penalty	d) намір
5) guilt	e) звичаї
6) treatment	f) внутрішній
7) internal	g) карати
8) guerillas	h) порушувати
9) to punish	i) вина/провина
10) intention	j) партизани

Task 3. Work in groups. Discuss the following questions and share your opinion with the class.

1. Why are some countries so eager to wage war, while others aren't?
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word 'war'?
3. What do you think of the system of charging people with warcrimes?
4. Are there any benefits to war?
5. How important is it to remember wars fought in the past?



View from inside the damaged building in Kharkiv.
Photo: by Kostiantyn Sova

Task 4. Translate the sentences given below into English.

1. В юридичних джерелах термін «воєнні злочини» визначається неоднаково.
2. Воєнні злочини – це серйозні порушення міжнародного права.
3. Руйнування шкіл, театрів, лікарень є незаконними та протиправними діями.
4. Особи, що вчиняють воєнні злочини, повинні постати перед судом та отримати відповідне покарання за свої діяння.
5. Жертви воєнних злочинів мають право на справедливість.
6. Геноцид є одним із найтяжчих воєнних злочинів.
7. Міжнародний кримінальний суд розглядає справи про воєнні злочини.
8. Напад на мирних жителів розглядається як протиправна дія і вважається воєнним злочином.
9. Застосування хімічної, біологічної та іншої забороненої Женевською конвенцією зброї суперечить правилам і звичаям ведення війни.
10. Військовополонені повинні утримуватися в гарних умовах та не піддаватися тортурам.



Two Ukrainian soldiers walk along the frontline city of Avdiivka in the Donetsk region.
Photo: by Kostiantyn Liberov and Vlada Liberova / Getty Images

Task 5. Translate the words into Ukrainian. Memorize the unfamiliar ones.

civilians, to treat with a respect, cornerstone, temporary, to apply, to reflect, wounded soldiers, civil building, target, international law, medical units, shipwrecked military personnel, Hague Convention, place of captivity, to repatriate, hostile, cessation, to distinguish, specific regime, combatant, maritime warfare, laws and customs of war

Task 6. Read the short abstract. Fill in the gaps using the words given in the chart.

combat (n), outline (v), articles, ratified, wounded, transport, personnel, sea, hospital, released, entitled, internees, population, obligations

The Geneva Conventions [9]

The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, which 1)_____ how soldiers and civilians should be treated during 2)_____, serve as the cornerstone of contemporary international humanitarian law.

The Conventions have been 3)_____ by all States and are universally applicable.

The Conventions were adopted in 1949 to reflect on the Second World War's experiences. In 1977, two further Protocols that widened the rules were established. Then, in 2005, a third Protocol was adopted that recognized the red crystal as an additional emblem.

The First Geneva Convention

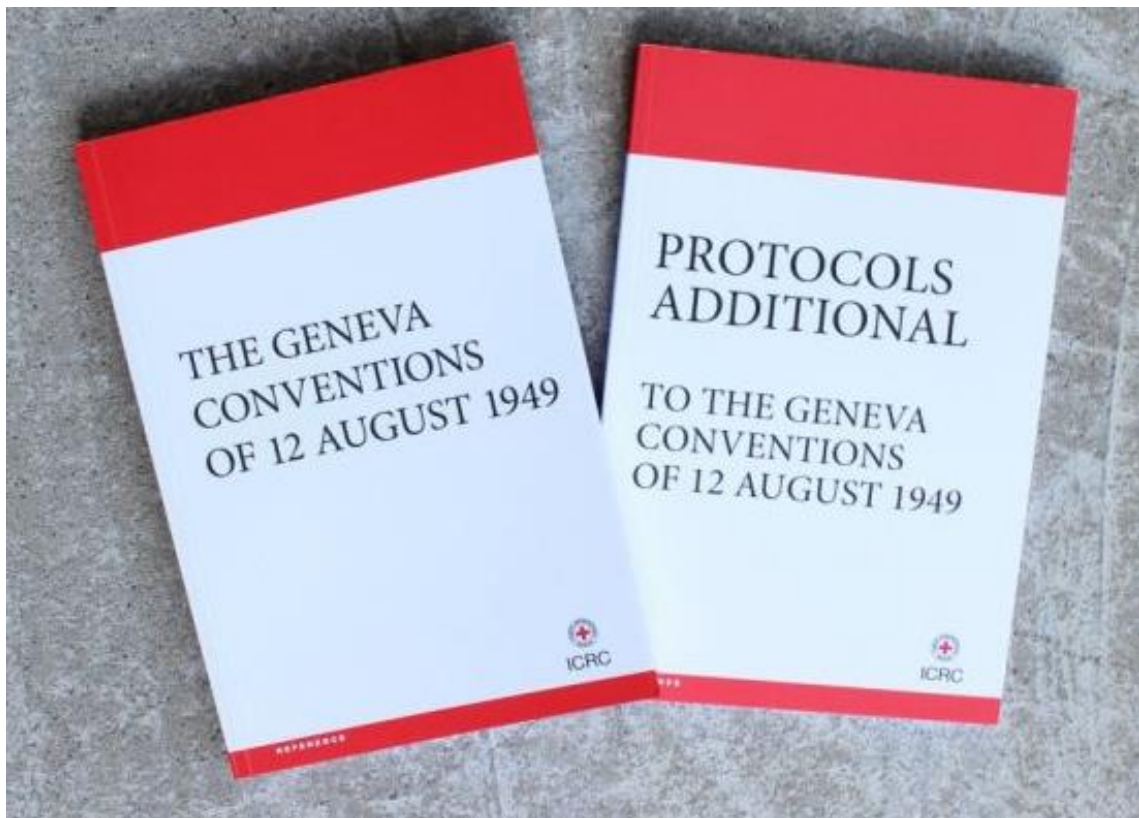
The First Geneva Convention protects wounded and sick soldiers on land during the war.

This Convention represents the fourth updated version of the Geneva Convention on the 4)_____ and sick following those adopted in 1864, 1906 and 1929. It contains 64 5)_____. These provide protection for the wounded and sick, but also for medical and religious 6)_____, medical units and medical 7)_____. The Convention also recognizes the distinctive emblems.

The Second Geneva Convention

The Second Geneva Convention protects wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war.

This Convention replaced the Hague Convention of 1907 for the Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Principles of the Geneva Convention. It closely follows the provisions of the first Geneva Convention in structure and content. It has 63 articles specifically applicable to war at 8)_____. For example, it protects 9)_____ ships.



The Geneva Conventions [9]

The Third Geneva Convention

The Third Geneva Convention applies to prisoners of war.

This Convention replaced the Prisoners of War Convention of 1929. It contains 143 articles whereas the 1929 Convention had only 97. The categories of persons 10)_____ to prisoner of war status were broadened in accordance with Conventions I and II. The conditions and places of captivity were more precisely defined, particularly with regard to the labor of prisoners of war, their financial resources, the relief they receive, and the judicial proceedings instituted against them.

The Convention establishes the principle that prisoners of war shall be 11)_____ and repatriated without delay after the cessation of active hostilities.

The Fourth Geneva Convention

The Fourth Geneva Convention protects civilians, including those in occupied territory.

The Convention deals with the status and treatment of protected persons, distinguishing between the situation of foreigners on the territory of one of the parties to the conflict and that of civilians in occupied territory. It spells out the 12)_____ of the Occupying Power towards the civilian 13)_____ and contains detailed provisions on humanitarian relief for populations in occupied territory. It also contains a specific regime for the treatment of civilian 14)_____.

NOTA BENE

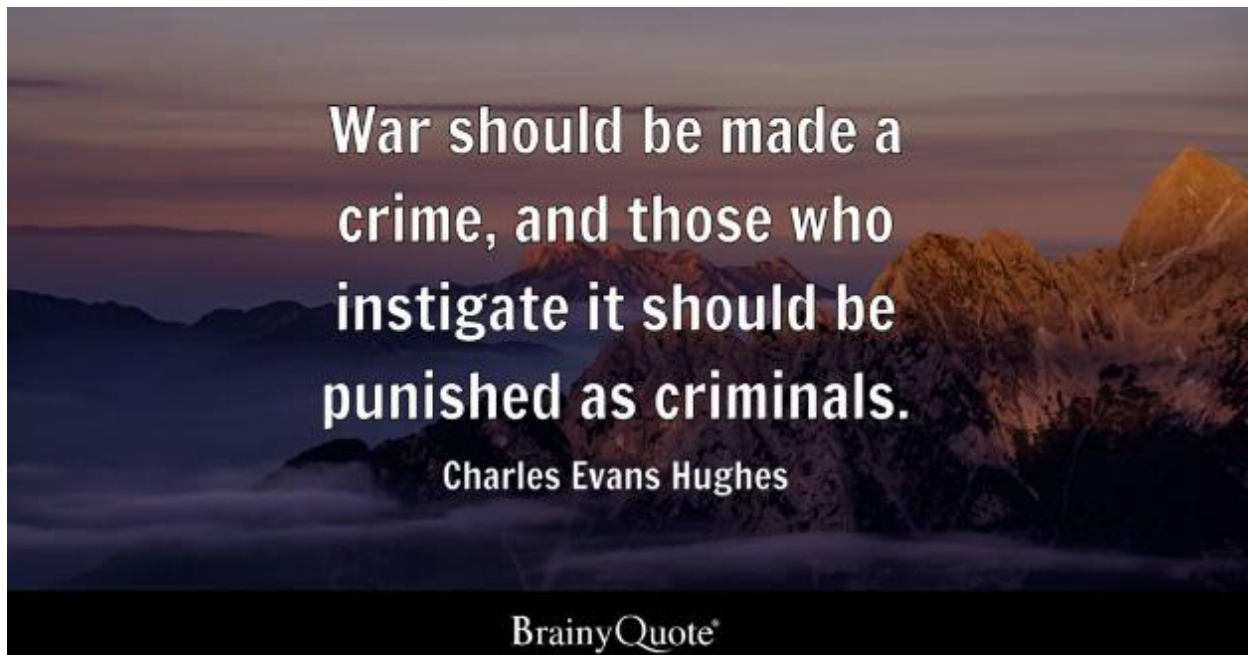
Римський статут Міжнародного Кримінального Суду (англ. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*) – міжнародний договір, що заснував Міжнародний кримінальний суд. Ухвалений на дипломатичній конференції в Римі 17 липня 1998 року та набрав чинності 1 липня 2002 року. 21 серпня 2024 року Верховна Рада України 9-го скликання ратифікувала Римський статут [11].

Римський статут встановлює чотири основні міжнародні злочини: геноцид, злочини проти людяності, військові злочини і злочини агресії [11].

Useful words:

<i>геноцид – genocide</i>	<i>злочини протилюдяності – crimes against humanity</i>
<i>військові злочини – war crimes</i>	<i>злочини агресії – crimes of aggression</i>
<i>військовополонені – prisoners of war</i>	<i>біженці – refugees</i>

Task 7. Comment on the given quotation. Write a short commentary up to 7 sentences. Present your thoughts to the group.



URL: https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/charles_evans_hughes_169236?img=5

Task 8. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

shield, recruitment, trial, warfare, refer to, destruction, inhumane, seizure, investigate, depriving, poison, targeting, toxic, peacekeepers, forbidden, rape, occupying

1. War crimes _____ serious violations of international humanitarian law committed during armed conflicts.
2. The deliberate killing of civilians who are not taking part in _____ constitutes a grave war crime under international law.
3. Subjecting prisoners of war to torture, _____ treatment, or medical experiments is strictly prohibited and considered a war crime.
4. The intentional and large-scale _____ of towns, villages, or civilian infrastructure without military necessity is classified as a war crime.
5. The use of prohibited weapons, such as _____ or _____ gases, violates the laws of war and is punishable under the Rome Statute.
6. _____ medical personnel, hospitals, or humanitarian missions that are protected under international law is regarded as a serious war crime.

7. Committing sexual violence, including _____ or forced prostitution, against civilians or prisoners during an armed conflict is strictly _____ and punishable.

8. The _____, enlistment, or use of children under the age of 15 to participate in hostilities is a severe violation of international law.

9. Intentionally _____ civilian populations of food, water, or essential resources as a method of warfare constitutes a war crime.

10. Taking hostages, including civilians or enemy combatants, and using them as a human _____ is considered a violation of the laws of war.

11. Executing prisoners of war or captured combatants without a fair and impartial _____ is a direct breach of the Geneva Conventions and a war crime.

12. Forcing individuals to fight against their own country or compelling civilians to serve in an _____ army is illegal under international law.

13. Launching attacks against United Nations _____, who are protected under international agreements, is a criminal act.

14. Looting and unlawful _____ of private or public property during armed conflict are strictly prohibited and classified as war crimes.

15. The International Criminal Court has the authority to _____, prosecute, and punish individuals responsible for committing war crimes under its jurisdiction.



A police officer rescues a cat after a russian massive attack. Kyiv. January 2, 2024. Photo: by Kostiantyn Liberov and Vlada Liberova

Task 9. Match the English words with the translation. The order of translation is incorrect.

1) violation	a)тяжкий
2) armed conflict	b) намір
3) grave (adj.)	c) брати участь
4) strictly	d) порушення
5) to prohibit	e) бойові дії
6) intent	f) збройний конфлікт
7) hostilities	g) заручники
8)enemy	h) забороняти
9) hostages	i) суворо
10) to participate	j) ворог

Task 10. Match the words with the definitions. Translate them into Ukrainian. The order of definitions is incorrect. Write a short and coherent story on any topic using the words from the left part of the chart.

1.	deliberate	a.	the fact of not having something that you need, like enough food, money or a home; the process that causes this
2.	to subject	b.	an object such as a knife, gun, bomb, etc. that is used for fighting or attacking somebody
3.	torture (n)	c.	the crime of stealing money or property from a person or place, especially during a riot, war etc.
4.	weapon	d.	the act of causing somebody severe pain in order to punish them or make them say or do something
5.	severe	e.	not supporting one person or group more than another
6.	deprivation	f.	done on purpose rather than by accident
7.	impartial	g.	to officially charge somebody with a crime in court

8.	to force	h.	extremely bad or serious
9.	looting	i.	a thing or things that are owned by somebody; a possession or possessions
10.	property	j.	to bring a group of people under your control, especially by using force
11.	to prosecute	k.	the power to give orders to people; the power or right to do something
12.	authority	l.	to make somebody do something that they do not want to do

Task 11. Read and translate the abstract. Memorize the new words. Write a short summary.

VOCABULARY	
breach (n)	порушення
provision (n)	положення
willful	умисний
suffering	страждання
appropriation	привласнення
wantonly	безпричинно; безпідставно
to compel	змушувати
to serve	служити
confinement	ув'язнення
intentional	навмисний
vehicle	транспортний засіб
incidental	випадковий
damage	збиток; шкода
to surrender	здаватися
military insignia	військові знаки розрізнення
flag of truce	прапор перемир'я; прапор парламента

charity	благодійність
to endanger	ставити під загрозу
mutilation	каліцтво
treacherously	віроломно; підступно
no quarter	відсутність пощади
to seize	вилучати
commencement	початок
asphyxiating	задушливий
poisonous	отруйний
bullets with hard envelope	кулі з твердою оболонкою
superfluous	зайвий
projectiles	боєприпаси
to humiliate	принижувати
outrage	наруга
indispensable	незамінний; необхідний
starvation	голод
degrading	принизливий
permanent blindness	постійна сліпота
naked eye	неозброєним оком
conscript (n)	новобранець; призовник
X-rays	рентгенівські промені
to abolish	скасовувати
to suspend	призупиняти
inadmissible	неприпустимий
to justify	виправдовувати
to direct	направляти
directly	безпосередньо
annex	додаток
blind	сліпий

NOTA BENE

People commonly confuse words «**inhuman**» and «**inhumane**», because they are similar in spelling, sound and meaning. But, «**inhuman**» means lacking the qualities of humans, such as intelligence or emotions, while «**inhumane**» means cruel or lacking in compassion. The two words are often used interchangeably, but they have different meanings.



Israeli tanks. AFP photo

WAR CRIMES

According to the article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court «*war crimes*» means:

a) Grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, namely, any of the following acts against persons or property protected under the provisions of the relevant Geneva Convention:

- 1) wilful killing;
- 2) torture or inhuman treatment, including biological experiments;
- 3) willfully causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or health;

- 4) extensive destruction and appropriation of property, not justified by military necessity and carried out unlawfully and wantonly;
- 5) compelling a prisoner of war or other protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile power;
- 6) willfully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial;
- 7) unlawful deportation or transfer or unlawful confinement;
- 8) taking of hostages [12].



AFP photo (URL: Daily Sabah)

b) Other serious violations of the laws and customs applicable in international armed conflict, within the established framework of international law, namely, any of the following acts:

- 1) intentionally directing attacks against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians not taking direct part in hostilities;
- 2) intentionally directing attacks against civilian objects, that is, objects which are not military objectives;
- 3) intentionally directing attacks against personnel, installations, material, units or

vehicles involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict;

4) intentionally launching an attack in the knowledge that such attack will cause incidental loss of life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects or widespread, long-term and severe damage to the natural environment which would be clearly excessive in relation to the concrete and direct overall military advantage anticipated;

5) attacking or bombarding, by whatever means, towns, villages, dwellings or buildings which are undefended and which are not military objectives;

6) killing or wounding a combatant who, having laid down his arms or having no longer means of defense, has surrendered at discretion;

7) making improper use of a flag of truce, of the flag or of the military insignia and uniform of the enemy or of the United Nations, as well as of the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions, resulting in death or serious personal injury;

8) the transfer, directly or indirectly, by the Occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies, or the deportation or transfer of all or parts of the population of the occupied territory within or outside this territory;



Damaged combat vehicles of russian troops in the yard of private house in Bucha, Kyiv region.

Photo: Serhii Nuzhnenko (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) / the Collection of war.ukraine.ua

9) intentionally directing attacks against buildings dedicated to religion, education, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives;

10) subjecting persons who are in the power of an adverse party to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are neither justified by the medical, dental or hospital treatment of the person concerned nor carried out in his or her interest, and which cause death to or seriously endanger the health of such person or persons;

11) killing or wounding treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army;

12) declaring that no quarter will be given;

13) destroying or seizing the enemy's property unless such destruction or seizure be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war;

14) declaring abolished, suspended or inadmissible in a court of law the rights and actions of the nationals of the hostile party;

15) compelling the nationals of the hostile party to take part in the operations of war directed against their own country, even if they were in the belligerent's service before the commencement of the war;

16) pillaging a town or place, even when taken by assault;

17) employing poison or poisoned weapons;

18) employing asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and all analogous liquids, materials or devices;

19) employing bullets which expand or flatten easily in the human body, such as bullets with a hard envelope which does not entirely cover the core or is pierced with incisions;

20) employing weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare which are of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering or which are inherently indiscriminate in violation of the international law of armed conflict, provided that such weapons, projectiles and material and methods of warfare are the subject of a comprehensive prohibition and are included in an annex to this Statute, by an

amendment in accordance with the relevant provisions set forth in articles 121 and 123;

21) committing outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;



Exhumation of the body of Ukrainian soldier found with his hands tied behind his back at the site of a mass burial near Iziun, the Kharkiv region

Photo: Serhii Nuzhnenko (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty) / the Collection of war.ukraine.ua

22) committing rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, as defined in article 7, paragraph 2 (f), enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence also constituting a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions;

23) utilizing the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations;

24) intentionally directing attacks against buildings, material, medical units and transport, and personnel using the distinctive emblems of the Geneva Conventions in conformity with international law;

25) intentionally using starvation of civilians as a method of warfare by depriving them of objects indispensable to their survival, including willfully impeding relief supplies as provided for under the Geneva Conventions;

26) conscripting or enlisting children under the age of fifteen years into the national armed forces or using them to participate actively in hostilities;

27) employing weapons, which use microbial or other biological agents, or toxins, whatever their origin or method of production;

28) employing weapons the primary effect of which is to injure by fragments which in the human body escape detection by X-rays;

29) employing laser weapons specifically designed, as their sole combat function or as one of their combat functions, to cause permanent blindness to unenhanced vision, that is to the naked eye or to the eye with corrective eyesight devices [12].



A boy runs through a playground covered in debris after a Russian strike in the town of Selydove, the Donetsk region. November 2023.

Photo: by Anatolii Stepanov / AFP / Getty Images

Task 12. Translate the words and word combinations into English.

Катування військовополонених, фізичний біль, принизливе ставлення, значні каліцтва, військова необхідність, заручники, незаконне ув'язнення, позбавляти основних прав, закони та звичаї війни, цивільне населення, невійськові цілі, статут ООН, тяжкі збитки для навколишнього середовища, хворі та поранені, вилучення майна цивільних осіб, штурм, Женевські конвенції, примусова проституція, людська гідність, метод ведення бойових дій, рекрутування дітей до збройних формувань, медичний персонал, порушення міжнародного права.

Task 13. Match the words with their definitions. Write 5 sentences using the words from the chart.

1) to humiliate	a) the fact of not having something that you need, like enough food, money or a home; the process that causes this
2) suffering	b) the fact of being given honour and respect by people
3) wound	c) to make somebody feel ashamed or stupid and lose the respect of other people
4) hostile	d) the crime of stealing things from shops or buildings after a riot, war, fire, etc.
5) deprivation	e) a kind or forgiving attitude towards somebody that you have the power to harm or right to punish
6) looting	f) aggressive or unfriendly and ready to argue or fight
7) hostage	g) a person who is killed or injured in war or in an accident
8) casualty	h) physical or mental pain
9) mercy	i) the use of legal authority to take something from somebody; an amount of something that is taken in this way
10) seizure	j) a person who is captured and held prisoner by a person or group, and who may be injured or killed if people do not do what the person or group is asking
11) warfare	k) an injury to part of the body, especially one in which a hole is made in the skin using a weapon
12) dignity	l) the activity of fighting a war, especially using particular weapons or methods

Task 14. Translate the text into Ukrainian.

War crimes are among the most serious violations of international law, committed during armed conflicts. They include grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, such as willful killing, torture, and inhumane treatment of prisoners of war and civilians. Intentionally targeting civilians, hospitals, or humanitarian missions is strictly prohibited under the laws and customs of war. The use of poisonous weapons, starvation as a method of warfare and attacking cultural heritage sites are also considered war crimes.



A woman walks amid destroyed Russian tanks in Bucha, in the outskirts of Kyiv, Ukraine, Sunday, April 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

In both international and non-international armed conflicts, acts like taking hostages, executing prisoners without a fair trial and recruiting child soldiers are illegal. Sexual violence, including rape, forced prostitution, and forced sterilization, is recognized as a war crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Deportation or forced transfer of civilians from occupied territories is another serious violation.

Commanders and political leaders can be held accountable if they order, condone, or fail to prevent war crimes committed by their forces. The ICC and other international

tribunals prosecute individuals responsible for such atrocities. Despite legal frameworks, many conflicts still see widespread war crimes, often with little accountability. Strengthening international cooperation, enforcing accountability, and promoting adherence to humanitarian law is crucial to preventing future violations.

Task 15. Match the two parts of the sentences. Translate the completed sentences.

1.	Crimes of aggression involve the use of armed force by a state	a.	are also classified as acts of aggression
2.	This crime includes acts	b.	even if they personally did not participate in combat.
3.	A state committing aggression threatens	c.	such as invasion, military occupation, and annexation by force.
4.	Blockades of ports or coasts that harm another state's security	d.	aggression concerns the illegal initiation of conflict.
5.	Planning, preparation, or execution of aggressive war by political or military leaders is	e.	against another state in violation of international law.
6.	Unlike war crimes, which focus on battlefield conduct,	f.	is considered a crime of aggression.
7.	The Nuremberg Trials after World War II established aggression	g.	strong international cooperation and adherence to the United Nations Charter.
8.	Leaders responsible for acts of aggression can face prosecution	h.	punishable under international law.
9.	Preventing crimes of aggression requires	i.	the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of another nation.
10.	Launching an attack without justification or United Nations approval	j.	as the supreme international crime.

Task 16. Work in groups. Discuss the questions below. Present your answers to the class.

1. What springs to mind when you hear the term «war crimes»?

2. Do people in a war worry about war crimes?

3. What is the worst war crime anyone can commit?

4. Which countries do you know that have committed the biggest war crimes?

5. Do you think war crimes will ever stop?



Nanjing Massacre

Pictures From History/Universal Images Group via Getty Images

Task 17. Before watching the video «War crimes explained» discuss the following questions with your group members.

1. Who decides what a war crime is?

2. How the war crimes evidence is collected?

3. How are war criminals brought to justice?

4. What different organizations that are dealing with the protection of human rights do you know?

Task 17.1. Watch the video «War crimes explained». Mark the statements True or False.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0RydVCnco4>

1. The concept of «the rules of war» is absolutely new and appeared not more than 25 years ago.
2. Geneva Conventions were created after the World War I.
3. All countries recognize the core ideas of minimizing suffering and protecting people not involved in the fighting.
4. War crimes are when you break the rules of war during an armed conflict.
5. Attacking historical monuments is not considered a war crime.
6. Using child soldiers or civilians as human shields is considered a serious war crime.
7. The biggest difference between war crimes and crimes against humanity is that the latter not taking place during a conflict.
8. Genocide is always about the physical killing or devastation only.
9. Human Rights groups play a vital role in the collection of evidence.
10. Prosecuting war criminals in court is quite an easy procedure, because you need just to demonstrate collected evidence and facts.

Task 17.2 Fill in the gaps using the words given below.

collateral damage, missiles, campaigns, escalating, incendiary weapon, unnecessary suffering, international tribunal

1. The bombing of the village resulted in significant _____, with civilian homes and hospitals being destroyed.
2. The use of banned chemical weapons caused _____ among both soldiers and civilians, leading to serious health problems and even death.

3. The deliberate targeting of residential areas with _____ was condemned as a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.

4. The general was brought before an _____ to face charges of crimes against humanity committed during the conflict.

5. The _____ violence led to widespread human rights violations, prompting investigations into potential war crimes.

6. The use of an _____ against civilian population led to gruesome consequences and huge fires.

7. A war crime can be the death of just one person, whereas crimes against humanity are often organized _____ with the aim of killing or torturing or displacing a large group of civilians over a period of time.



A napalm bomb erupts in a fireball near U.S. troops in South Vietnam, 1966. AP Images
URL: <https://upfront.scholastic.com/issues/2022-23/031323/the-vietnam-war.html?language=english#1270L>

Task 18. Read the extracts and match them with the appropriate titles.

A. Second Sino-Japanese War	C. World War II
B. Vietnam War	D. Korean War

1. _____

This war spanned multiple continents, with battles fought across Europe, Asia, and the Pacific. Civilians suffered immensely, particularly in occupied territories where genocide, forced labor, and mass executions were carried out. Entire cities were reduced to rubble by firebombing. War crimes trials were held afterward, attempting to bring justice to those responsible in Nuremberg.

2. _____

This conflict began when one side, backed by a powerful communist ally, launched a sudden invasion across the 38th parallel. Civilians were caught in the crossfire as foreign powers intervened, turning the peninsula into a battleground. Mass executions, forced disappearances, and targeted killings of political opponents were widespread. The war ended in an uneasy ceasefire rather than a peace treaty, leaving the two nations technically still at war.

3. _____

This war started in 1937. During this brutal conflict, one nation's imperial ambitions led to a devastating invasion of its neighbor. Cities were bombed, civilians killed, and prisoners of war subjected to inhumane experiments. One of the most notorious atrocities occurred in the Nanjing city, where tens of thousands people were killed. This war later merged into a global conflict, with the victimized nation receiving support from major Allied powers.

4. _____

Guerrilla warfare, airstrikes, and chemical weapons characterized this long and controversial conflict. Civilians suffered from massacres, napalm bombings, and the use of defoliants that caused long-term health effects. Reports of atrocities committed by both sides shocked the world, leading to widespread protests and opposition. Despite massive military efforts, the invading forces ultimately withdrew, leaving the nation to reunite under a new government. One of the notorious war crimes was committed by a platoon of soldiers on March 1968 at My Lai, a small village.

Task 19. Complete the multiple choice test.

1. What is the best definition of a war crime?

- A) Any act of violence committed during wartime
- B) A violation of the laws and customs of war, including targeting civilians, mistreatment of prisoners, and use of banned weapons
- C) Any military action that results in casualties
- D) A crime committed by military personnel against their own government

2. Which international body is primarily responsible for prosecuting individuals accused of war crimes?

- A) United Nations Security Council
- B) International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- C) International Criminal Court (ICC)
- D) World Trade Organization (WTO)

3. The Geneva Conventions are a set of treaties that primarily protect:

- A) Military strategists
- B) Civilians, prisoners of war, and the wounded
- C) Political leaders
- D) Private corporations

4. What is the primary purpose of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

- A) To regulate international trade disputes
- B) To establish a permanent international court for prosecuting war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity
- C) To create peace treaties after conflicts
- D) To define military strategy for NATO

5. Which of the following is NOT considered a war crime?

- A) Torturing prisoners of war
- B) Using child soldiers
- C) Taking hostages
- D) Attacking an enemy military base

6. Deliberately targeting civilians in a conflict is considered:

- A) A legitimate military strategy
- B) A war crime under international law
- C) A minor offense with no real consequences
- D) Only illegal if chemical weapons are used

7. Which type of weapon is explicitly banned under international law due to humanitarian concerns?

- A) Submarines
- B) Biological and chemical weapons
- C) Tanks
- D) Drones

8. Which of the following is an example of an illegal act under the Geneva Conventions?

- A) Providing medical aid to wounded soldiers
- B) Taking enemy soldiers as prisoners of war
- C) Executing unarmed prisoners
- D) Conducting military operations in enemy territory

9. What is genocide?

- A) The mass killing or persecution of a specific national, ethnic, racial, or religious group
- B) The forced removal of enemy soldiers
- C) The destruction of military bases
- D) The execution of prisoners of war

10. The Nuremberg Trials were significant because they:

- A) Were the first trials to hold individuals accountable for war crimes
- B) Allowed war criminals to go free
- C) Established the International Criminal Court
- D) Were held to determine military promotions

11. What is the maximum sentence that the International Criminal Court (ICC) can impose?

- A) 10 years in prison
- B) Death penalty
- C) Life imprisonment
- D) Exile from one's home country

12. A soldier following an unlawful order to commit a war crime:

- A) Is always exempt from punishment
- B) Can be held accountable if they knew the order was illegal
- C) Cannot be prosecuted if they acted out of fear
- D) Is only guilty if the crime was committed in enemy territory

13. What is "command responsibility" in the context of war crimes?

- A) The duty of a commander to win battles at all costs
- B) The legal doctrine holding superiors responsible for war crimes committed by their subordinates if they knew or should have known about them
- C) A military principle ensuring loyalty to one's country
- D) A leadership award given to high-ranking officers

14. Which of the following crimes falls under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

- A) Crimes of aggression
- B) Genocide
- C) Crimes against humanity
- D) All of the above

15. Which major international document sets the rules for the humane treatment of prisoners of war?

- A) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- B) The Geneva Conventions
- C) The Treaty of Versailles
- D) The United Nations Charter

Task 20. Write a short paragraph (5-6 sentences) about the importance of investigating war crimes. Use at least 5 words from the given list.

wars, victims, witnesses, international law, trauma, suspicion, verdict, injuries, sufferings, mass killings, prisoners of war, political leaders, justice, revenge, no mercy, resistance, torture, degrading treatment, violence, chaos, international law, treaties, court, accountability, evidence, persecution, human rights, civilians, transnational repression, child soldiers, human shields, displacing a large group of people



On January 14, the Russian missile strike on Dnipro destroyed a section of a nine-story residential building. 46 people were killed and 80 were injured.

URL: Elena Tita / the Collection of war.ukraine.ua

NOTA BENE

MEMORICIDE is the destruction of the memory, extermination of the past of targeted people. It also refers to destruction of the traces (such as religious buildings or schools) that might recall the former presence of those considered undesirable.

The term was coined by Croatian doctor Mirko Grmek in a text published in *Le Figaro* on 19 December 1991 [19].

Task 21. Match each term on the left with its correct definition on the right.

1.Torture	a	a crime under international law even if it is not a crime in the country where it takes place, and incitement to commit genocide is also a crime. This term means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.
2.Genocide	b	an offence for a public official or person acting in an official capacity to intentionally inflict severe pain or suffering on another in the performance or purported performance of their official duties, without lawful authority.
3.Crimes against humanity	c	the intentional killing of civilians, prisoners of war, or other protected persons in violation of the laws of war.
4.Willful Killing	d	atrocities and offences committed against any civilian population, as part of a widespread attack.
5. Taking Hostages	e	recruiting or using children under the age of 15 in armed forces or groups, either in combat or support roles.
6.Use of Prohibited Weapons	f	seizing individuals and threatening harm to force an opposing party to act or refrain from acting.
7.Using Child Soldiers	g	employing weapons that cause excessive injury, suffering, or long-term environmental damage, such as chemical or biological weapons.

Task 22. Translate the words and word combinations. You will encounter them in the next task.

civilians	
	воєнні дії
	військовополонені
wounded soldiers	
	власність

	звичаї війни
The International Criminal Court (ICC)	
Paris Declaration Respecting Maritime Law	
Hague Convention on the Laws and Customs of War	
	Перша світова війна
	отруйні гази
London Protocol on Submarine Warfare	
	кримінальна відповідальність
looting	
	насилля
asphyxiating gases	
	Червоний Хрест
The Red Crescent	
	позбавлення волі
	умисне вбивство
life imprisonment	

Task 23. Translate the abstracts into English. Memorize the names of the new protocols and conventions.

1. Закони та звичаї війни мають на меті усунути найжорстокіші способи і засоби ведення війни та забезпечити захист мирного населення. Визначають порядок початку, ведення і припинення воєнних дій, правове становище комбатантів і цивільного населення, військовополонених, хворих і поранених військовослужбовців тощо, а також правовий режим власності. Встановлюють юридичну відповідальність за порушення законів та звичаїв війни. Порушення законів війни та скоєння воєнних злочинів розглядає Міжнародний кримінальний суд у Гаазі, який діє з 2002 року [16].

2. Чинні закони та звичаї війни визначені міжнародними договорами. Першими з таких актів були Паризька декларація про морську війну (1856 р.), Женевська конвенція про поліпшення долі поранених на полі бою (1864 р.), Гаазька конвенція про закони та звичаї сухопутної війни (1899 р.), Гаазька конвенція про бомбардування морськими силами під час війни (1907 р.), Лондонська декларація про право морської війни (1909 р.). Після Першої світової війни 1914–1918 рр. був прийнято Женевський протокол про заборону застосування на війні задушливих, отруйних або інших подібних газів та бактеріологічних засобів (1925 р.). До цієї ж категорії актів належать Женевська конвенція про поводження з військовополоненими (1929 р.), Лондонський протокол про дії підводних човнів проти торговельних суден у воєнний час (1936 р.) тощо [16].



URL photo: Roman Baluk / the Collection of war.ukraine.ua

3. Після Другої світової війни 1939–1945 рр. порушення законів та звичаїв війни було визнано одним із найтяжчих міжнародних злочинів, вчинення яких тягне за собою кримінальну відповідальність. Був підписаний пакет Женевських конвенцій, що стосуються поліпшення долі поранених і хворих у діючих арміях та

потерпілих у корабельній аварії зі складу збройних сил на морі, поводження з військовополоненими, захисту цивільного населення під час війни (1949 р.) [16].

4. Відповідно до вимог Женевських конвенцій, до Кримінального кодексу України (ККУ) внесено норми про відповідальність за мародерство, поганеповодження з військовополоненими, насильство над населенням у районі бойових дій, незаконне носіння знаків Червоного Хреста і Червоного Півмісяця та зловживання ними [16].



Vovchansk in the Kharkiv region is another Ukrainian city turned into ruins due to russian military aggression. URL: Kostiantyn and Vlada Liberova

5. Згідно зі ст. 438 ККУ, жорстоке поводження з військовополоненими або цивільним населенням, вигнання цивільного населення для примусових робіт, розграбування національних цінностей на окупованій території, застосування засобів ведення війни, заборонених міжнародним правом, інші порушення законів та звичаїв війни, що передбачені міжнародними договорами, згода на обов'язковість яких надана Верховною Радою України, а також віддання наказу про вчинення таких дій, караються позбавленням волі на строк від 8 до 12 років.

Ті самі діяння, якщо вони поєднані з умисним вбивством – позбавленням волі на строк від 10 до 15 років або довічно [16].

Task 24. Read and translate the text. Pay attention to the highlighted words.

Work in pairs and explain the meaning of these words in English.

The full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine really became a challenge for the **proper implementation** of the criminal process, which requires an effective response from law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. Significant changes are needed in the criminal procedural legislation, which will ensure effective investigations of criminal offenses. This may include improving evidence-gathering procedures, strengthening mechanisms to protect the rights of victims, and ensuring effective judicial review of criminal proceedings. Proposals from legislators regarding the legal regime of martial law must be carefully analyzed taking into account the peculiarities of the criminal process in **wartime conditions**. It is important that they reflect the real needs of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system in fighting crime and **ensuring law and order**. After all, the quality of criminal procedural legislation requires not only the correct formulation of legislation, but also, first of all, its effective application in practice. Ensuring **justice for all victims** of the actions of the aggressor state is an important goal that must be achieved by improving the criminal process and strengthening legal protection mechanisms.

The changes in **criminal procedural legislation** are aimed at regulating the activities of **pre-trial investigation bodies** throughout the state, especially in the conditions of **martial law**. Since the normal functioning of state institutions is disrupted during **hostilities**, in connection with this there is a need for a **special legal regulation** of the process of **investigating criminal offenses**.

The introduction of martial law **made adjustments** (внесло корективи) to the work of the **judicial authorities, law enforcement agencies, the bar, the prosecutor's office**, the notary, etc. Therefore, first of all, there was a question about making changes to the **procedural legislation**, which would regulate certain issues regarding the

implementation of judicial proceedings, pre-trial investigation and **take into account** the realities of martial law conditions.

After the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russian Federation into the territory of Ukraine, several more changes were made to Section IX-1, namely, on March 15, 2022, changes were made to the title of the section as follows: "Special regime of pre-trial investigation, **trial in conditions of war, state of emergency** or in the area of **anti-terrorist operations** or measures to **ensure national security** and defense, repulse and deter armed aggression of Russian Federation and/or other states against Ukraine" and supplemented by Article 616 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine "Cancellation of the preventive measure for **military service** under conscription during mobilization, on a special period or change of preventive measure for other reasons".

However, the most significant and important changes to the **Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine** regarding the specifics of the investigation of criminal proceedings under martial law were introduced by the Law of Ukraine dated April 14, 2022 "**On Amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine on Improving the Procedure for Conducting Criminal Proceedings under Martial Law**". So, in particular, changes were again made to the title of section IX-1, namely: "Special regime of pre-trial investigation, trial under martial law", as well as quite a lot of changes and features of criminal proceedings under martial law were fixed by changes to Article 615 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.

So, let's pay attention to the specific features of the amendments and additions to the **Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine**, in particular, with regard to evidence and proof, the legislator introduced a special norm regarding the assessment of the materiality of a violation of human rights in the conditions of martial law.

Also worthy of attention are the changes related to the terms of the pre-trial investigation under martial law. Thus, in particular, the Law of Ukraine dated August 23, 2023 amended the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine regarding the specifics of calculating the terms of pre-trial investigation under martial law, which provide for the following: pre-trial investigations and on the date of the **imposition of martial law**, no person has been notified of the suspicion, the period from the date of the introduction of

martial law to the date of its termination or cancellation is not included in the general terms provided for in the second part of Article 219 of this Code.

Taking into account and analyzing these changes, we believe that the amendments made to the Criminal Code of Ukraine will definitely make it possible to increase **the quality and efficiency** of the process of pre-trial investigation of criminal proceedings under martial law, as well as the ability **to ensure the effective collection of evidence** and the appropriate and proper recording of **war crimes and genocide**.

NOTA BENE

ECOCIDE is the destruction of the environment by humans. Ecocide threatens all human populations who are dependent on natural resources for maintaining ecosystems and ensuring their ability to support future generations [18].

Common causes of ecocide include war, pollution, over-exploitation of natural resources such as the Amazon rainforest, and industrial disasters. The term was popularized by Olof Palme when he accused the United States of ecocide at the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment [18].

Ecocide may occur with or without intent. Environmental lawyer Polly Higgins distinguishes between ascertainable and non-ascertainable ecocide, with the former having a clear human cause while the latter does not. An example of non-ascertainable ecocide is destruction due to extreme weather events related to climate change [18].

The Independent Expert Panel for the Legal Definition of Ecocide, convened by Stop Ecocide Foundation describes ecocide as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts" [18].

Task 25. Write 10 questions to the text from Task 24. Work in groups. Ask and answer the questions.

Task 26. Read and translate the text. Write a summary.

Peculiarities of criminal proceeding under martial law

During the wartime, it is impossible to ensure compliance of pre-trial investigation bodies, prosecutors and courts with the deadlines set by the Criminal Penal Code of Ukraine. As a result of this, the rights of participants in criminal proceedings and the procedure of calculation of the terms of the pre-trial investigation may be violated.

Under the martial law, conducting investigative (search) and other procedural actions both before and after notifying a person of suspicion can be significantly complicated, and in some cases – impossible. If the pre-trial investigation body is unable to investigate in due time, it shall not be possible to justify the waste of procedural time.



A photographer from Kharkiv captured over 60 missile launches from the territory of Russia
URL: photo by Vadim Belikov

However, the Criminal Penal Code of Ukraine does not stipulate a solution to be applied when it deems impossible to perform the relevant actions within the timeframe

specified by law. This is about the terms of performing the following procedural actions:

- consideration of petitions during the pre-trial investigation (Article 220 of the CPC);
- reviewing the materials of the pre-trial investigation before its completion (Article 221 of the CPC);
- filing and reviewing a complaint against the decision, action or inaction of the investigator, coroner or prosecutor (Articles 304, 306 of the CPC);
- appeal against non-compliance with reasonable time limits (Article 308 of the CPC);
- proclamation of a court decision (Article 376 of the CPC);
- appeal and cassation appeal (Articles 395, 426 of the CPC).

Therefore, experts suggest to amend Article 615 of the CPC of Ukraine, which establishes a special regime of pre-trial investigation, in particular, under martial law, to add provisions that:

- establish the possibility of extending the term of pre-trial investigation for the period of martial law or state of emergency, in the whole of Ukraine or its separate localities;
- introduce the possibility of committing certain procedural actions, the commission of which is objectively impossible, in particular, under martial law or state of emergency, as soon as possible, but no later than 15 days after the termination or abolition of martial law or state of emergency.

NOTA BENE

Необхідно розрізняти поняття «воєнний злочин» та «військовий злочин»:

Воєнні злочини – це порушення міжнародних законів та звичаїв війни, які здійснюються під час війни.

Військові злочини – це кримінальні правопорушення проти порядку несення або проходження військової служби армії окремої країни, вчиняються незалежно від того є війна чи немає[17].

Task 27. Work in pairs. Read and translate the dialogue (interrogation).

Interrogation Transcript

Case No.: 2025/078-KM

Date: March 3, 2025

Location: ICC

Interrogator: Officer B

Suspect: Colonel M

Observer: Representative from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Officer B: Colonel M, you are being questioned today in relation to charges of war crimes under Article 8 of the Rome Statute. Do you understand the charges brought against you?

Colonel M: Yes, I understand the charges, but I categorically deny any wrongdoing.

Officer B: Let us begin with the events of May 15, 2023, in the village of L. Witness testimonies and satellite imagery confirm that your regiment was responsible for an indiscriminate artillery barrage, resulting in the deaths of 67 civilians. How do you respond?

Colonel M: I maintain that my regiment only engaged legitimate military targets. Civilian casualties, while unfortunate, were collateral damage in a lawful military operation.

Officer B: Are you aware that targeting civilians or launching disproportionate attacks constitutes a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions?

Colonel M: I instructed my officers to follow the rules of engagement. Any unintended casualties were a consequence of enemy combatants using civilian structures for cover.

Officer B: According to intercepted communications, you personally authorized the shelling despite intelligence indicating a high civilian presence. Can you explain this?

Colonel M: That information is inaccurate. I never issued such an order.

Officer B: Very well. Let us move to the issue of mistreatment of prisoners of war. Testimonies from former detainees describe inhumane conditions and systematic torture at Camp 45, under your direct command. Do you deny this?

Colonel M: I refute those allegations entirely. My subordinates were instructed to treat prisoners in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

Officer B: Yet medical reports indicate severe physical abuse. There is also documented evidence of enforced disappearances. Who, if not you, is responsible?

Colonel M: If any individuals under my command engaged in unauthorized actions, they did so without my knowledge or approval.

Officer B: The principle of command responsibility holds you accountable for the actions of your subordinates. Are you claiming a lack of control over your own forces?

Colonel M: I reject that assertion. Any isolated violations should be investigated, but I am not responsible for crimes I did not order.

Officer B: Noted. This concludes today's session. The next hearing will focus on documented evidence of forced displacement and ethnic cleansing.

Task 28. Translate the words from the dialogue into English.

Write 5 sentences using them.

обвинувачення, супутникові знімки, показання свідків, артилерійський обстріл, втрати серед цивільного населення, грубе порушення закону, розвідка (розвідувальні дані), неточна інформація, нелюдське ставлення, катування, наказ, докази, етнічні чистки

Task 29. Work in pairs. Create your own dialogue. Use Task 27 as an example.

Task 30. Translate the abstract into English.

Воєнні злочини є грубими порушеннями міжнародного гуманітарного права. Вони включають навмисні напади на мирне населення, катування військовополонених, використання забороненої зброї та примусове переміщення цивільних осіб. Такі дії заборонені Женевськими конвенціями та додатковими протоколами до них.

Одним із найтяжчих воєнних злочинів є геноцид — знищення певної етнічної, національної чи релігійної групи. Крім того, воєнні дії не повинні спричиняти надмірних страждань або заподіювати шкоду особам, які не беруть

участі в бойових діях. Використання тортур та нелюдське поводження з полоненими є злочинами проти людяності.



Ohmatdyt. A direct hit by russian missile on the largest children's hospital in Ukraine. Civilians are helping to clear the debris as people may still be under the rubble. July 8, 2024

Photo: Kostiantyn Liberov and Vlada Liberova

Командири військових підрозділів несуть відповідальність за дії своїх підлеглих. Принцип командної відповідальності передбачає, що навіть якщо злочини були вчинені підлеглими без прямого наказу, їхні керівники можуть бути притягнуті до відповідальності за бездіяльність або недостатній контроль.

Жертви воєнних злочинів мають право на справедливий судовий розгляд та відшкодування завданої шкоди. Світова спільнота повинна працювати разом, щоб запобігати воєнним злочинам та забезпечувати справедливість для потерпілих.

NOTA BENE

Idioms:

A Pyrrhic victory – *a success that brings such significant harm to the victor that it differs little from defeat.*

Fight fire with fire – *to use the same methods as someone else in order to defeat them.*

Task 31. Work in groups. Follow the instructions to create a project.

Objective: Imagine that you're historical researchers, journalists or scholars. Create a tribunal case file related to a war crime.	Instructions: 1. Choose a war crime. 2. Create a Tribunal Case File. This file should include: a 200-250 word summary of the war crime, including the time, place, key figures; witness testimonies (2-3 testimonies from different perspectives, e.g. soldier, victim, journalist); defense and prosecution arguments; final verdict
Evaluation Criteria: ☐ Creativity and originality ☐ Historical accuracy mixed with engaging storytelling ☐ Clarity of argumentation ☐ Grammar, structure, and coherence	



The city of Toretsk in the Donetsk region was turned into ruins by Russia's military aggression. July 2024
Photo: Kostiantyn and Vlada Liberov

Task 32. Choose a topic from the list and write an essay. Read the clues that can help you.

Note: your essay should be no more than 12 sentences.

Topic 1. The responsibility of soldiers vs. commanders in war crimes. <i>Clue:</i> whether individual soldiers should be held accountable for war crimes or if responsibility lies primarily with commanders and policymakers.	Topic 2. Can war crimes ever be justified? <i>Clue:</i> examine cases where war crimes may have been committed for "greater good" arguments and critically assess their validity.	Topic 3. Media and war crimes. <i>Clue:</i> analyze the role of media in exposing or concealing war crimes and its impact on international responses.
Topic 4. The use of chemical and biological weapons as war crimes. <i>Clue:</i> examine historical instances where chemical or biological weapons have been used (e.g., Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, World War I) and discuss how international treaties like the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) classify their use as war crimes.	Topic 5. The impact of war Crimes on post-conflict reconciliation and justice. <i>Clue:</i> analyze how war crimes affect societies after a conflict ends, including issues of transitional justice, truth commissions, and reparations. Use case studies such as South Africa, Bosnia, or Rwanda to explore how different societies address past atrocities.	Topic 6. War Crimes and the protection of civilians under international humanitarian law. <i>Clue:</i> explore the legal frameworks designed to protect civilians during armed conflicts, such as the Geneva Conventions. Discuss cases where these laws have been violated (e.g., targeting of hospitals, use of human shields) and the challenges in enforcing accountability.

DICTIONARY

airstrike	an attack by military aircraft on a city, enemy soldiers, or their supplies, either by bombing or by firing guns	авіаудар
armed conflict	armed confrontation between the armed forces of states	збройний конфлікт
assault	a violent attack	напад; штурм
atrocities	an extremely cruel act, or the committing of such acts	крайня жорстокість; звірство
beheading	to cut off someone's head, especially as a punishment	обезголовлення
blanket bombing	the act of dropping a lot of bombs over a large area such as a city, without aiming for any particular buildings	килимове бомбардування (або сатураційне бомбардування) – це бомбардування великої території, що виконується поступово, щоб завдати шкоди кожній частині вибраної ділянки землі)
bombing	an attack or attacks on a place or area using bombs, or the activity of attacking in this way	бомбардування (засіб ведення війни військово-повітряними силами або морським флотом на території противника, шляхом завдання ракетно-бомбових ударів по військових об'єктах)

breach	an act of breaking a law, promise, agreement, or relationship	порушення
bullet	a small metal object that is fired from a gun	куля
captivity	the state of being kept as a prisoner or in a space that you cannot escape from	полон; неволя
casualty	a person who is killed or injured in war or in an accident	втрата (про людей); потерпілий
cessation	the stopping of something; a break in something	припинення (наприклад команда «toceasefire» – припинити вогонь)
civilian	a person who is not a member of the armed forces or the police	цивільна особа
combatant	a person or group involved in fighting in a war or battle	комбатант (хто бере участь у веденні бойових дій)
confinement	the state of being forced to stay in a closed space, prison, etc.; the act of putting somebody there	ув'язнення; утримання
conscription	the practice of ordering people by law to join the armed forces	призов на військову службу
cruelty	behavior that causes physical or mental pain to others and makes them suffer, especially deliberately	жорстокість
customs	an accepted way of behaving or of doing things in a society or a community	звичаї

damage	physical harm caused to something which makes it less attractive, useful or valuable	збиток; шкода
debris	pieces of wood, metal, building materials, etc. that are left after something has been destroyed	уламки
degrading treatment	cruel or unkind treatment of somebody	принизливе ставлення або поводження
deportation	the act of forcing somebody to leave a country, usually because they have broken the law or because they have no legal right to be there	депортація
deprivation	the fact of not having something that you need, like enough food, money or a home; the process that causes this	позбавлення
detention	the state of being kept in a place, especially a prison, and prevented from leaving	затримання
devastation	great destruction or damage, especially over a wide area	тотальне руйнування та спустошення
dignity	the fact of being given honor and respect by people	гідність
enforced prostitution	involuntary or compulsory prostitution where a person is forced to perform sexual intercourse	примусова проституція
enforced sterilization	involuntary or coerced removal of a person's ability to reproduce, often through a surgical procedure	примусова статева стерилізація
enslavement	the act of making somebody a slave	рабство; поневолення

execution	the act of killing somebody, especially as a punishment	страта
exile	the state of being sent to live in another country that is not your own, especially for political reasons or as a punishment	вигнання
fear	the bad feeling that you have when you are in danger or when a particular thing frightens you	страх
frontline	a place where opposing armies face each other in war and where fighting happens	лінія фронту; лінія зіткнення
genocide	the murder of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group, with the aim of destroying that nation or group	геноцид
grave (adj)	very serious and important; giving you a reason to feel worried	тяжкий
guerilla (n)	a member of a small group of soldiers who are not part of an official army and who fight against official soldiers, usually to try to change the government	повстанець; партизан
guilt	the fact that somebody has done something illegal	провина
hostage	a person who is captured and held prisoner by a person or group, and who may be injured or killed if people do not do what the person or group is asking	заручник
hostile	aggressive or unfriendly and ready to argue or fight	ворожий

humiliation	a feeling of being ashamed or stupid and having lost the respect of other people; the act of making somebody feel like this	приниження
inhumane	not caring about the pain or problems of other people or animals; very cruel	нелюдський
injury	harm done to a person's or an animal's body	пошкодження
intent	what you intend or plan to do	намір; умисел
international law	a system of rules that is established by international agreement between countries	міжнародне право
intimidation	the act of frightening or threatening somebody so that they will do what you want	залякування
invasion	the act of an army entering another country by force in order to take control of it	вторгнення
law	the whole system of rules that everyone in a country or society must obey	закон; право
looting	the crime of stealing things from shops or buildings after a riot, fire, etc.	мародерство
mass killing	the violent crime of killing a number of people, typically simultaneously or over a relatively short period of time and in close geographic proximity	масове вбивство
missile	a weapon that is sent through the air and that explodes when it hits the thing that it is aimed at	реактивна ракета

mutilation	severe damage to somebody's body, especially when part of it is cut or torn off; the act of causing such damage	каліцтво
no quarter	during military conflict or war, implies that combatants would not be taken as prisoners, but executed	жодного милосердя
occupation	the act of moving into a country, town, etc. and taking control of it using military force; the period of time during which a country, town, etc. is controlled in this way	окупація
outrage	an act or event that is violent, cruel or very wrong and that shocks people or makes them very angry	наруга
persecution	the act of treating somebody in a cruel and unfair way, especially because of their race, religion or political beliefs	переслідування
poison	a substance that causes death or harm if it gets into the body	отрута
poisonous gases	a gas that is used to kill people, especially in a war	бойові отруйні речовини
prisoner of war	a person, usually a member of the armed forces, who is captured by the enemy during a war and kept in a prison camp until the war has finished	військовополонений
prohibition	the act of stopping something being done or used, especially by law	заборона
projectile	a body projected by external force and continuing in motion by its own inertia	снаряд, боєприпас

property	a thing or things that are owned by somebody; a possession or possessions	майно; власність
rape	the crime of forcing somebody to have sex when they do not want it or are not able to agree to it	зґвалтування
ratification	the act or process of making an agreement legally valid by voting for or signing it	ратифікація
recruitment	the act or process of finding new people to join an organization, the armed forces, etc.	рекрутинг
respect (n)	a strong feeling of approval of somebody/something because of their good qualities or achievements	повага
resistance	the act of using force to oppose somebody/something	опір
seizure	1) the act of using force to take control of a country, town, etc. 2) the use of legal authority to take something from somebody	1) захоплення 2) вилучення
serious bodily harm	causing somebody serious physical injury	тяжкі тілесні ушкодження
severe	extremely bad or serious	тяжкий, серйозний
shell-shock	a mental illness caused by fighting in a war	«снарядний шок» (термін введений у часи I-ї світової війни); зараз використовується як контузія чи невроз
starvation	the state in which somebody suffers or dies because they have no food	голод

suffering	physical or mental pain	страждання
target	an object, a person or a place that people aim at when attacking	ціль; мішень
torture	the act of causing somebody severe pain in order to punish them or make them say or do something	катування
treaty	a formal agreement between two or more countries	договір
trial	a formal examination of evidence in court by a judge and often a jury, to decide if somebody accused of a crime is guilty or not	судовий процес
tribunal	a special type of court with the authority to deal with a particular problem	трибунал
victim	a person who has been attacked, injured or killed as the result of a crime, a disease, an accident, etc.	потерпілий; жертва
violation	the act of going against or refusing to obey a law, an agreement, etc.	порушення
violence	violent behavior that is intended to hurt or kill somebody	насилля; жорстокість
war	a situation in which two or more countries or groups of people fight against each other over a period of time	війна
wanton	causing harm or damage deliberately and for no acceptable reason	безглуздий; довільний
war crime	a cruel act that is committed during a war and is against the international rules of war	воєнний злочин

warfare	the activity of fighting a war, especially using particular weapons or methods	бойові дії
weapon	an object such as a knife, gun, grenade, etc. that is used for fighting or attacking somebody	зброя
wounded	injured by a weapon, for example in a war	поранений



Photo illustration by Masako Yamaguchi [6]

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Світлана ШУТЕНКО
Олена ВОЛІК

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Видавець і виготовлювач ТОВ «7БЦ»
03067, м. Київ, вул. Олекси Тихого, 84
e-mail: 7bc@ukr.net, тел: (044) 592-00-80
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