

System of Filtration:

**Mapping Russia's Detention Operations in
Donetsk Oblast**

25 August 2022

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Humanitarian Research Lab

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Section I: Executive Summary

I. INTRODUCTION

This report maps a system of filtration facilities and processes employed by Russia and Russia-aligned forces to screen Ukrainian civilians, combatants (including potential prisoners of war), and other people present in Donetsk oblast beginning in March 2022. “Filtration” is defined within the context of this report as the multi-step system Russia and its proxies have deployed in territory they currently occupy within Ukraine to register, interrogate, and, in some cases, indefinitely detain people residing there at the time Russia and its aligned forces took that locale under its control.

There is evidence the system was created weeks before the invasion began and likely grew following Russia’s capture of Mariupol in April 2022 to accommodate filtration of all citizens.¹ Combining open source information with remote sensing data, the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale HRL) is able to present the most comprehensive public assessment to date of this large-scale apparatus of screening and extrajudicial detention. Findings in this report are consistent with and expand on conclusions reached by other organizations and governmental bodies, including the United States National Intelligence Council.²

While the total number of people who have passed through filtration cannot be reliably estimated, by 14 June 2022 the total number of civilians who had reached Russia from Ukraine rose to at least 1,700,000, including 276,000 children, according to the former Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights.³ On August 16, a Russian government representative reported figures twice as large – over 3,400,000 people, including over 550,000 children.⁴ It is unknown how many people are currently held within the filtration system.

Occupying powers in international conflicts have the right to register persons within their area of control. The force in control may even detain civilians in certain limited circumstances. However, Russia’s apparent filtration system for persons within Donetsk oblast, which includes use of extrajudicial and incommunicado detention, violates multiple elements of international humanitarian law and raises multiple potentially grave human rights issues discussed further below.

According to the Russia-backed so-called Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), the system exists “to prevent persons involved in the security apparatus of Ukraine, members of nationalist battalions, members of sabotage and reconnaissance groups, as well as their accomplices from entering the

¹ Miller, Christopher. “One Ukrainian Family’s Perilous Journey through Russia’s ‘Filtration Camps.’” *POLITICO*, May 26, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ta7SM>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/26/ukraine-filtration-camps-00034862>.

² National Intelligence Council. “Russian Forces Conducting Detentions and Forced Deportations Through Systematic Filtration Operations,” June 15, 2022. <https://archive.ph/LF2p9>. Accessed August 19, 2022. <https://www.dni.gov/files/ODNI/documents/assessments/NICM-Unclassified-Assessment-on-Russian-Filtration-Camps-2022.pdf>.

³ OSCE. “Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022),” July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Is8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>.

⁴ Interfax.ru. “Число эвакуированных в РФ с Украины и из Донбасса превысило 3,4 млн человек.” August 16, 2022. <https://archive.ph/irKDD>. Accessed August 19, 2022. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/856947>.

territory of the Donetsk People’s Republic.”⁵ The Russian Embassy in Washington, DC described the system as follows:

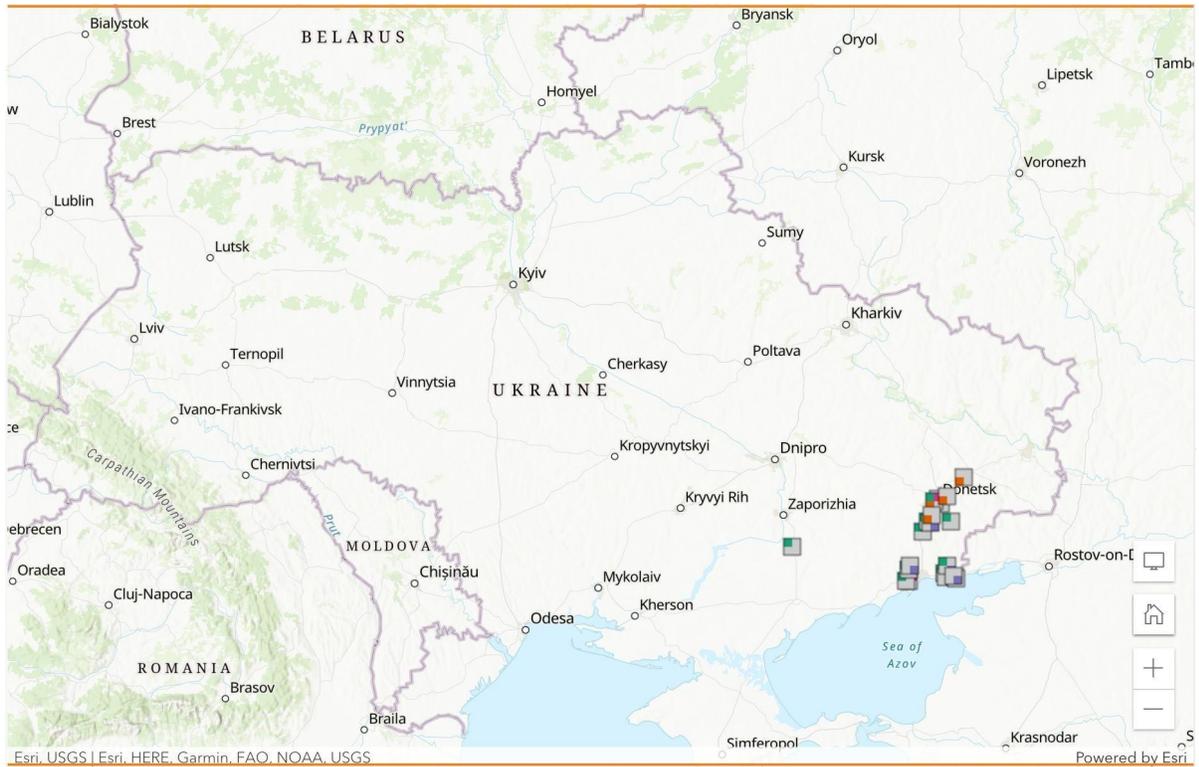
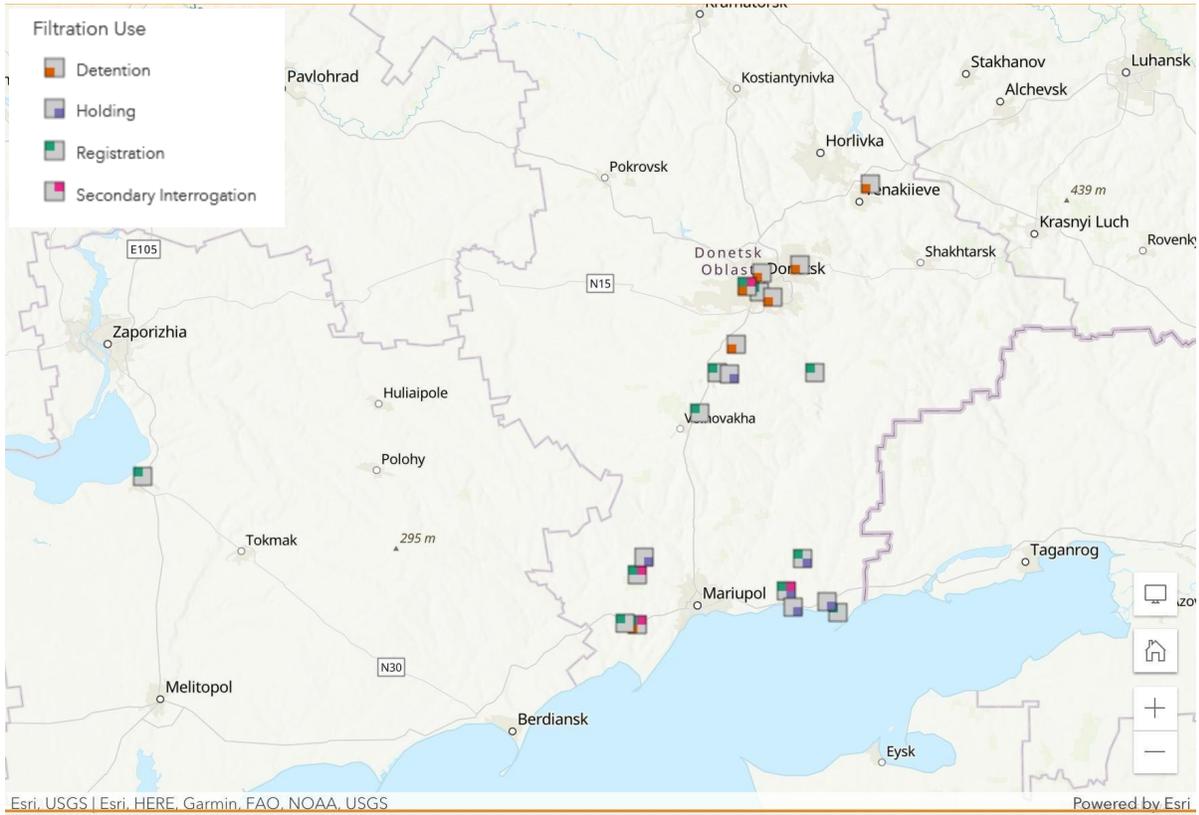
We emphasize: in this particular case, [the system] is about checkpoints for civilians leaving the active combat zone. In order to avoid sabotage operations by the Ukrainian nationalists’ battalions, Russian soldiers carefully inspect vehicles heading to safe regions. We will detain all bandits and fascists. The Russian military does not create any barriers for the civilian population, but helps to stay alive, provides them with food and medicine.⁶

The map below shows the general location of the filtration system’s components identified by Yale HRL both within and near Donetsk oblast. The total number of facilities engaged in filtration operations in Donetsk oblast cannot be conclusively determined by open source analysis and remote sensing alone. Ground investigations are required to cross-corroborate these initial findings. That said, as discussed in this report, Yale HRL has identified with high confidence at least twenty-one (21) distinct locations in and around Donetsk oblast containing one or more facilities in the filtration system for civilians that Russia and its aligned forces have operated since the invasion.

⁵ In this report’s first mention of the so-called Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR), the authors include the term ‘so-called’; for syntax reasons we do not include it in every instance thereafter. The exclusion of ‘so-called’ does not indicate HRL’s recognition of the Donetsk People’s Republic; HRL does not recognize the autonomy of the so-called DPR. Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

⁶ Embassy of Russia in the USA / Посольство России в США. <https://perma.cc/ML7T-QDQB>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/RusEmbUSA/posts/333477265484259>.

Fig: 01: Maps of Filtration Components



II. PRIMARY FINDINGS

Filtration Sites Identified to High Confidence

Yale HRL has identified with high confidence at least twenty-one (21) distinct locations in and around Donetsk oblast containing one or more facilities in the filtration system for civilians that Russia and its aligned forces now operate. The table below shows only locations that have been verified by at least five independent open sources of information. In some cases, imagery data has either helped corroborate the location of the site and/or provided evidence about how a facility is being utilized for filtration (i.e. the presence of tents, buses, etc.). However, most sites below have been included without imagery data corroborating their alleged role in the filtration system if they have passed the “five source” rule for verification.

Table 01: Verified Filtration Sites in Donetsk Oblast⁷

| | Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Market | Filtration Post “Bezimmenne” | Registration, holding, secondary interrogation |
| 2 | School | Bezimmenne School | Holding |
| 3 | Village Administration Building | Buhas Village Administration | Registration |
| 4 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Dokuchaievsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| 5 | Community Center | Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure | Holding, registration |
| 6 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Donetsk Headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| 7 | Prison | Donetsk Pre-Trial Detention Center | Detention |
| 8 | Prison | Izolyatsia Prison | Detention |
| 9 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Directorate for Combating Organized Crime | Registration, secondary interrogation, detention |
| 10 | School | Chelyuskinska School | Registration, Holding |
| 11 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Manhush District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration, secondary interrogation, detention |
| 12 | Checkpoint | Filtration Post “Manhush” | Registration |
| 13 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Nikolske Police Department | Registration, secondary interrogation |

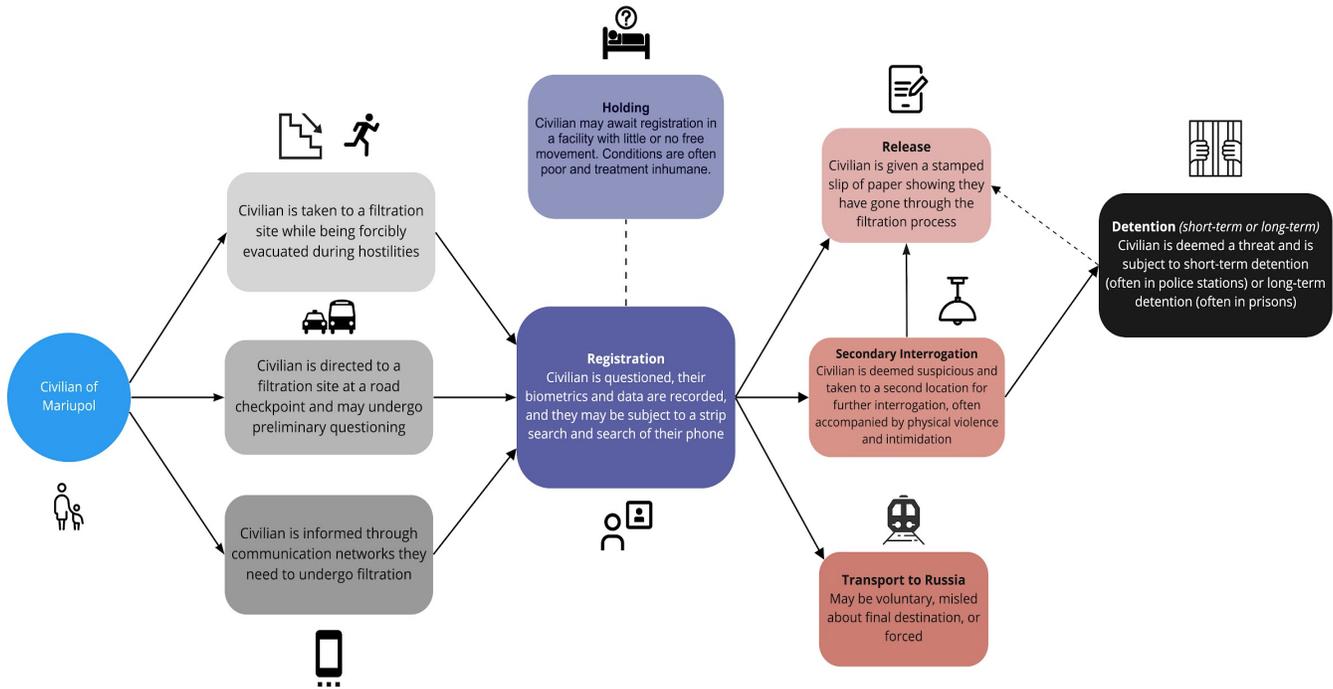
⁷ N.B.: This report uses only the English name of place locations, as opposed to English and Ukrainian or English and Russian. English names are transliterated from Ukrainian.

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 14 | School | Nikolske School № 1 | Holding |
| 15 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Novoazovsk District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| 16 | Prison | Yenakiieve Correctional Colony № 52 Bakhmut Raion | Detention |
| 17 | Prison | Volnovakha Correctional Colony № 120 Volnovakha Raion | Detention |
| 18 | Internal Affairs/Police Station | Starobesheve Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| 19 | Checkpoint | Vasylivka highway checkpoint | Registration |
| Locations with more than one potential geolocation option | | | |
| | Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
| 20 | Prison | Option 1: Makiivka Correctional Colony № 32 | Detention |
| | | Option 2: Western Correctional Colony № 97 | |
| 21 | School | Option 1: Novoazovsk School № 1 | Holding |
| | | Option 2: Novoazovsk School № 2 | |
| | | Option 3: Novoazovsk School № 3 | |

Four Categories of Facilities

Filtration facilities can be organized into four categories: 1) registration points, 2) camps and other holding facilities for those awaiting registration, 3) interrogation centers, and 4) prisons (typically correctional colonies) that serve as long-term detention facilities. It is important to note that one facility can perform multiple roles and the role(s) that a facility may play in the system can change over time. The figure below shows some of the commonly reported trajectories that people report taking through the system.

Fig. 02: Overview of System of Filtration



Disturbed Earth at Volnovakha Correctional Colony: Consistent with Reported Grave Digging

One of the identified facilities is a correctional colony near the village of Olenivka, where civilians and POWs have allegedly been detained. Numerous reports of torture of POWs have emerged from civilian detainees who were held in this facility.⁸ Yale HRL has identified two areas of disturbed earth present in the south and southwest section of the Volnovakha Correctional Colony grounds. The disturbed earth in the southwest corner of the facility is directly adjacent to the barracks where POWs are reportedly held.⁹ These disturbed earth areas are consistent with

⁸ Harding, Luke. "Absolute Evil: Inside the Russian Prison Camp Where Dozens of Ukrainians Burned to Death." *The Guardian*, August 6, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/Prz8j>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/06/russian-prison-camp-ukrainians-deaths-donetsk>; Trew, Bel. "Inside Olenivka, the Russian Prison Camp Where Ukrainians Vanish." *The Independent*, August 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/53SBs>. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-war-news-olenivka-prison-b2149435.html>; Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Сто днів в Оленівській колонії: «Вечорами було чути благання про допомогу»," August 13, 2022. <https://archive.ph/tX7KN>. Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/sto-dniv-v-olenivskij-kolonii%20-%20vechorami-bulo-chutno-blagannya-pro-dopomogu/>.

⁹ Trew, Bel. "Inside Olenivka, the Russian Prison Camp Where Ukrainians Vanish." *The Independent*, August 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/53SBs>. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-war-news-olenivka-prison-b2149435.html>; Lister, Tim, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Vasco Cotovio, Benjamin Brown, and Kostan Nechyporenko. "Russia Claims Ukraine Used US Arms to Kill Jailed POWs. Evidence Tells a Different Story." *CNN*, August 11, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XDG2o>. Accessed August 11, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2022/08/europe/olenivka-donetsk-prison-attack/index.html>.

visual characteristics that indicate individuated or mass graves.¹⁰ The time frames in which these two areas of disturbed earth became visible – between 26 March and 11 April 2022, and between 17 July and 27 July 2022, respectively – corroborate at least one allegation that graves were being dug at that facility in late March or early April 2022. A man released from the prison in April gave Ukrainian outlet *NV* the following account, which Yale HRL translated from the Ukrainian:

I also remember one episode from that time. New captured servicemen were brought to the colony. They started to beat them. The guards turned on the radio for the entire prison and at that moment these prisoners were beaten. And every day in the prison some of the detainees did some work in the kitchen or some other tasks. The man who was on similar duty that day, upon returning to the cell, said that today he was digging graves right on the territory of the colony.¹¹

The two areas of disturbed earth differ in physical appearance visible in satellite imagery:

- a. Imagery captured on 11 April 2022 shows between 30 to 40 ovoid earth disturbances – averaging 2.8 meters in length and 2.38 meters in width – appearing in the southwest corner of the prison site.¹² The disturbances appear to be randomly distributed with only partial alignment in their respective locations and size. (See Appendix II.)
- b. Imagery captured on 27 July 2022 shows 8 parallel rows of disturbed earth – averaging 16.29 meters in length and 2.71 meters in width – with one 4 by 1-meter perpendicular outlier. These rows are located approximately 30 meters due east from those observed in April.¹³ (See Appendix II.)

These disturbances were measured using available imagery that was off nadir (ranging between approximately 6° to 40° off nadir), producing a likely divergence from actual ground dimensions. The measuring tool available to Yale HRL analysts was restricted to 1 meter increments, limiting the accuracy of measurements gathered.

Subsequent imagery of these two areas shows that the appearance of disturbed earth gradually fades. The markings first seen on 11 April 2022 fade gradually over the following three months in a manner consistent with natural, seasonal regrowth of vegetation and earth movement (e.g. the

¹⁰ “Cover-Up: New Evidence of Three Mass Graves in South Kordofan,” 17 August 2011. Satellite Sentinel Project: Cambridge, MA. <https://archive.ph/CRFgw>.

<https://hhi.harvard.edu/publications/cover-new-evidence-three-mass-graves-south-kordofan>

¹¹ Лопатіна, Ірина. “Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку – свідчення українця, який вирвавсь.” *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-koloniayah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

¹² We have included a range of markings as opposed to a specific number due to potential conflation with vegetation. Markings consistent with vegetation, which are visually similar to the markings demonstrating disturbed earth, especially in lower-quality imagery, appear in this area prior to April 2022. While it is clear that the majority of the markings first observed on 11 April 2022 are not vegetation, and rather indicative of disturbed earth that is deliberate and man-made, we have included a margin for error given the presence of vegetation in the area.

¹³ Note that analysis conducted by a third-party using PlanetScope imagery [approximately 3 meters per pixel resolution] suggests that disturbed earth of a similar kind appears to be present in this same area of the prison facility as early as 2022-07-21. We have yet to review this lower resolution imagery first hand and therefore cannot yet confirm this narrower time frame within which this particular batch of disturbed earth first appeared.

Eliot Higgins [@EliotHiggins]. “Lower Resolution Imagery on Planet Indicates the Ground Disturbance (Seen at Bottom of This Video) Occurred after July 18th and Prior to July 21st at Olenivka Prison: <https://t.co/Pqqmq8oAiQ>.” *Twitter*, July 31, 2022. <https://archive.ph/WLdOM>. <https://twitter.com/EliotHiggins/status/1553709021051424769>.

effect of wind and rain smoothing over previously disturbed earth). Those first observed on 27 July 2022 appear to recede in a quicker, more organized manner. On 30 July 2022, the parallel rows are no longer present; instead approximately 21 circular and rectangular earth disturbances are visible. By 5 August, only faint indicators of disturbed earth remain visible; full change detection is not possible due to cloud cover and resulting haze, obscuring earth surface details (see Appendix II).

Without further investigation, including the ability to independently excavate these locations, no definitive determination can be made about what these sites contain based only on the evidence in this report. However, given the cases of incommunicado detention of persons at this facility, Yale HRL is releasing this preliminary assessment. The decision by Russia and local authorities not to immediately grant requests by international humanitarian organizations to access this site, as well as the recent fatal explosion there, catalyzed Yale HRL's decision to release the analysis above.¹⁴

Both areas of disturbed earth predate the 29 July 2022 explosion at the facility, which allegedly killed as many as 53 POWs present there.¹⁵ Photographs from the site taken by AP show human remains with damage consistent with immolation and visual confirmation of the burned building and its interior. AP photo captions include details alleging that the remains are those of POWs; however, this has not been independently confirmed through published AP visual evidence or alternate open sources. An 11 August 2022 report by CNN, as well as others by open source data analysts, casts serious doubt on Russia's claim that the explosion was caused by a Ukrainian High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).¹⁶ Yale HRL's analysis provides no further insight into what caused the alleged fatalities on 29 July beyond what has been credibly reported elsewhere, but does raise urgent concerns about current conditions and potential ongoing abuses that may be occurring at the Volnovakha Correctional Colony. Yale HRL's assessment underscores the need for independent monitors to be able to inspect the filtration system without delay or limitation.

International Organization Access to Filtration Facilities Urgently Required

The conditions reported by those released from these facilities can constitute cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment under international humanitarian and human rights law. These conditions include overcrowded facilities, a lack of access to adequate sanitation, insufficient food and clean water, exposure to the elements, denial of medical care, and the use of isolation. In some specific instances, the treatment described as having been endured by those released, such as use of

¹⁴ ICRC Ukraine (@ICRC_ua). "To be clear, our request to access the POWs from Olenivka penal facility yesterday has not been granted. Granting ICRC access to POWs is an obligation of parties to conflict under the Geneva Conventions." 16:29 GMT 30 July 2022, Twitter Web App. <https://archive.ph/SWf1Z>. Available at https://twitter.com/ICRC_ua/status/1553402454473117697.

¹⁵ Hunder, Max, and Pavel Polityuk. "Russia, Ukraine Trade Blame for Dozens of Deaths in Donetsk Prison Destruction." *Reuters*, July 30, 2022. <https://archive.ph/4X2MG>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-bombs-russian-forces-drive-retake-south-2022-07-28/>.

¹⁶ Alaeva, Liliia. "Graves in Olenivka Were Dug before the 'Shelling.'" *The Universe. Space. Tech*, August 1, 2022. <https://archive.ph/hj4v9>. <https://universemagazine.com/en/satellite-images-of-olenivka-russia-dug-graves-in-advance/>; The Odessa Journal. "Bellingcat Investigator: Russia Prepared Graves for Executed Ukrainian Soldiers in Yelenovka in Advance," July 31, 2022. <https://archive.ph/K4jbl>. <https://odessa-journal.com/bellingcat-investigator-russia-prepared-graves-for-executed-ukrainian-soldiers-in-yelenovka-in-advance/>; Lister, Tim, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Vasco Cotovio, Benjamin Brown, and Kostan Nechyporenko. "Russia Claims Ukraine Used US Arms to Kill Jailed POWs. Evidence Tells a Different Story." *CNN*, August 11, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XDG2o>. Accessed August 11, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2022/08/europe/olenivka-donetsk-prison-attack/index.html>.

electric shocks, extreme conditions of isolation, and physical assault, may potentially constitute torture if proven.

Only in-person and unfettered inspections by representatives of the United Nations (UN) and humanitarian international organizations can conclusively confirm the findings of this report and other related investigations. Yale HRL calls on Russia and Russia-aligned forces to grant UN representatives and humanitarian international organizations immediate access to the locations identified in this report and any additional locations utilized for these operations not included herein, including access to any civilians, prisoners of war (POWs), or other personnel located there.

In particular, access to POWs shall be granted to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in international armed conflict, as per the Geneva Conventions. In particular, the ICRC stated publicly it had immediately requested access to the Volnovakha Correctional Colony following the 29 July explosion, and offered medical and forensic support, in line with its mandate.¹⁷ Similarly, the UN established a Fact-Finding mission to investigate the 29 July incident and conditions in the facility.¹⁸ Such access is necessary for States to comply with their obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Separately, timely access for forensic experts is immediately recommended to more fully assess the nature of the disturbed earth phenomena Yale HRL observed, which appears consistent with indicators of individualized and mass graves in other armed conflicts. Any investigation or inspection should count on the participation of forensic and criminalistic specialists, including being allowed to examine the building in which POWs were allegedly immolated on 29 July.¹⁹ If necessary, test trenches should be allowed to be dug at the sites of the disturbed earth identified in this report. Aggressive remote sensing monitoring of all locations identified in this report should continue indefinitely.

Humanitarian international organizations should further be able to assess the conditions in which any persons, including POWs, civilians, and any other personnel are held. Humanitarian international organizations should further be able to provide medical assistance to the wounded, support in the evacuation of the seriously injured to medical facilities and provide medical supplies, provide resources to help with the identification and dignified management of the dead, and support the return and transfer of mortal remains. Humanitarian international organizations should further be able to bring news to families who have lost contact with loved ones in this conflict. Yale HRL calls on Russia and Russia-aligned forces to grant UN representatives and

¹⁷ ICRC Ukraine (@ICRC_ua). "We strongly condemn the recent attack on a penal facility holding prisoners of war (POWs) in Olenivka. Too many lives have been lost and families torn apart in the armed conflict in #Ukraine. We immediately requested access to Olenivka and POWs, offering our assistance..." 16:27 GMT 30 July 2022, Twitter Web App. <https://archive.ph/jplaC>. Available at https://twitter.com/ICRC_ua/status/1553401834802388994; ICRC Ukraine (@ICRC_ua). "To be clear, our request to access the POWs from Olenivka penal facility yesterday has not been granted. Granting ICRC access to POWs is an obligation of parties to conflict under the Geneva Conventions." 16:29 GMT 30 July 2022, Twitter Web App. <https://archive.ph/SWf1Z>. Available at https://twitter.com/ICRC_ua/status/1553402454473117697; International Committee of the Red Cross. "Protection of the Dead through Forensic Action." Topic, September 29, 2020. <https://www.icrc.org/en/what-we-do/forensic-action>.

¹⁸ "Secretary-General's Remarks to the Press at Lviv, Ukraine Press Conference [as Delivered] | United Nations Secretary-General," August 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/jZC1u>. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2022-08-18/secretary-generals-remarks-the-press-lviv-ukraine-press-conference-delivered>.

¹⁹ Blann, Susie. "Red Cross Struggles to See Prison Where Ukrainian POWs Died." *AP News*, July 30, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/C2u1D>. Accessed August 11, 2022. <https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-zelenskyy-moscow-donetsk-prisoners-of-war-8f319bf7a7234b1100c26a01fa83728a>.

humanitarian international organizations immediate access to the locations identified in this report and any additional locations utilized for these operations not included herein, including access to any civilians, prisoners of war, or other personnel located there.

III. METHODOLOGY

The investigative methodology for this report combines open source investigation and very high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery analysis (see Appendix I for detailed methodology section). The VHR imagery used to support this investigation was commercially available, unclassified imagery captured by Maxar Technologies, Planet Labs PBC, and BlackSky Global LLC. Given the limitations of satellite imagery to gather information on events occurring within buildings, this report primarily rests on extensive open source research, with an emphasis on aggregating and collating multiple sources to understand the filtration process.

For a site to be included in the final count of this report, it had to be verified by at least five independently corroborated open source reports. Satellite imagery verification was not required, but was used as additional verification when it was relevant and available. The open source analysts took the following steps for each site included in the final count:

1. **Location Identification:** Identification of nodes in the filtration system based on primary sourcing (particularly open Telegram channels and groups), Ukrainian language, Russian language, and other foreign news reporting, and the work of other human rights investigative bodies.
2. **Open source investigative analysis:** Gathering further corroborating open source material from primary and secondary sources.
3. **Verification:** Review of open source accounts and reporting on locations and verification of locations and any claims made. Sites with at least five high-credibility corroborating reports are considered verified and included in the final count.
4. **Geospatial analysis:** Review of satellite imagery for every location identified to corroborate claims with external signatures (e.g. the presence of tents). Many sites are located inside of existing buildings and therefore show no external sign of filtration.

The sites identified in this report represent those for which Yale HRL has high confidence. Additional sites were identified, but it was impossible to establish facts about them with high confidence based on the available open source material and imagery. Open source material is limited by a survivorship bias, with people who never leave a facility unable to communicate their experience in it. Many of the buildings used for filtration locations predated the invasion, and bear no clear external indication of what occurs inside of them.

All open source materials in Ukrainian or Russian were initially translated by Google and then verified by a language expert. Throughout the report, HRL uses the Ukrainian name of cities, towns, and villages according to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.²⁰ The spelling of place names can differ across Ukrainian and Russian; we have included a note where something may be unclear or

²⁰ State Statistics Service of Ukraine. "Number of Present Population of Ukraine, as of January 1." Kyiv: State Statistics Service of Ukraine, 2021. http://database.ukrcensus.gov.ua/PXWEB2007/ukr/publ_new1/2021/zb_chuselnist%202021.pdf. Archived at <https://perma.cc/5W9A-VLVN>.

require an explanation. We have chosen to use acronyms geared towards an English-speaking reader (e.g. DPR as opposed to DNR).

IV. APPLICABLE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW

Russia's occupation of territory within Ukraine, including any extension of its authority through the use of proxy forces, such as the so-called "Donetsk People's Republic," or DPR, is governed under international law by Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Treaty and the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention.²¹ Violations of the provisions of these instruments, as well as others detailed below, such as the Convention Against Torture, can constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute.²²

These instruments generally prohibit the following actions, amongst others not listed below, by an occupying power, including:

- Forced transfer of residents of the occupied territory from that territory;
- Relocation of citizens of the occupying power's state into occupied territory
- Impeding access to international monitors, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, trying to access populations in that territory, including both POWs and civilians in detention settings;
- Restrictions on the ability of international monitors to establish the whereabouts, status, and confirm the wellbeing of detainees in the custody of an occupying power, including efforts to establish contact between detainees and their families;
- Collective punishment, including the use of torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, as well as reprisals against persons and their property;
- Blocking food, water, medical supplies, and services needed to ensure basic standards of hygiene; and
- Seizure of private property not required by military necessity.

The evidence collected in this report corroborates numerous allegations that many of these prohibitions are being violated by Russia and its proxies, including the DPR. It must be noted that occupying powers are allowed in limited circumstances to detain civilians when it occupies territory during conflicts of an international nature, such as the current conflict in Ukraine. The situations in which this detention is allowed is governed by the Fourth Geneva Convention (Arts. 41, 42, 68, and 78).²³

²¹ *Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Geneva Convention)*, 12 August 1949, 75 UNTS 287, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b36d2.html> [accessed 12 August 2022]; *Hague Convention (IV) Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land and Its Annex: Regulations Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land*, 18 October 1907, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4374cae64.html> [accessed 12 August 2022]

²² *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (last amended 2010)*, 17 July 1998, ISBN No. 92-9227-227-6, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3a84.html> [accessed 12 August 2022]

²³ *Ibid* 17.

However, Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention and the Convention Against Torture both apply to all personnel in the custody of an occupying power.²⁴ Russia, and by extension its proxies, are a signatory to both of these treaties and are also bound by its provisions under international law.

The treaties referenced above prohibit the use of techniques and conditions of confinement widely recognized as torture and cruel inhuman and degrading treatment, including electric shock, beatings, stress positions, mock execution, prolonged isolation, sleep deprivation, waterboarding, mutilation, prolonged shackling, and multiple other techniques and conditions of confinement.

V. HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES RAISED BY THE FILTRATION SYSTEM

Tracking Vulnerable Populations in the Filtration System

Any individual in a detention setting can be considered part of a vulnerable population simply by the fact that they are a detainee. Detainees, regardless of their demographics, are highly susceptible to grave human rights violations because of the environment in which they are held. However, certain demographic groups are especially vulnerable when placed in detention settings, such as women, children, and those with physical and mental disabilities.

Exact demographic information about those held within facilities in the filtration system are not known. However, analysis of the 21 locations this report identifies finds open source evidence that at least fifteen facilities have held women since the system was established earlier this year. Nineteen of the 21 sites appear to have held men.

Five sites show evidence of the presence of POWs since the invasion began. Open source evidence also suggests that at least six locations have held children since the invasion. In two cases, Yale HRL analysts could not draw definitive conclusions about who is held in the facility.

Yale HRL has created detailed charts mapping which demographic groups are known to be at which facilities. These charts are not being publicly released due to the highly actionable demographically identifiable information they contain.

Human Rights Issues Requiring Further Investigation

Yale HRL has identified five major human rights issues urgently warranting further investigation. Due to currently available evidence and the methodological limitations of this report, Yale HRL is not able to make conclusive determinations about the following issues. However, the limited evidence of these issues highlights the importance of efforts to ensure access by UN and humanitarian international organizations.

- **Allegations of Cruel, Inhuman, and Degrading Treatment, and Torture:** There have been repeated and extensive accounts of physical abuse, crowded and unsanitary living conditions, a lack of food and water, and exposure to the elements throughout the

²⁴ Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field. Geneva, 12 August 1949; UN General Assembly, Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 10 December 1984, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1465, p. 85, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3a94.html> [accessed 12 August 2022]

available open source material.²⁵ Techniques allegedly include but are not limited to prolonged isolation and the alleged use of electric shocks, and may constitute torture under international human rights law.²⁶ Professionally conducted interviews of survivors, including physical and mental health examinations consistent with international forensic protocols for collecting evidence of alleged torture, are required to substantiate these serious claims.

- **Transport/Forcible Deportation to Russia:** After undergoing the filtration process in Donetsk oblast, many Ukrainians report being transported or forcibly deported to Russia, which is a violation of international humanitarian law.²⁷ Witnesses describe being coerced, told they do not have another option, or misled about their final destination, while others go voluntarily.²⁸ Many of those who are transported to Russia through the filtration system report being interrogated, pressured to take Russian citizenship, subjected to poor conditions, and having their freedom of movement limited once on Russian territory.²⁹
- **Missing Children/Family Separation:** Children as young as 14 have been subjected to filtration themselves, while younger children are sometimes made to await their parents' filtration in the same inhumane conditions.³⁰ By 14 June 2022, 276,000 children had been deported to Russia.³¹ In early May, the Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights claimed that 2,161 orphans, children lacking status, or children without parental care had been

²⁵ E.g. Walker, Shaun. "Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia's Assault." *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

²⁶ E.g. Bachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

²⁷ ICRC IHL Database. "Customary IHL - Rule 129. The Act of Displacement." <https://archive.ph/VPTMz>. Accessed August 18, 2022. https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v1_rul_rule129#Fn_EC48E6AE_00019; "Human Rights Dimension of Population Transfer, Implantation of Settlers." United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, June 30, 1994. <https://archive.ph/yhToB>. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-179611/>.

²⁸ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. "Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin's Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out." *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>; Ворожко, Татьяна. "Из Мариуполя в Таганрог. Как украинцы, вынужденные эвакуироваться в Россию, выбирают оттуда." *HB*, July 10, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eu5aW>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/opinion/voyna-kak-ukraincy-vyezhhayut-iz-rossii-evakuaciya-novosti-ukrainy-50255303.html>.

²⁹ Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainara Tiefenthäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>; OSCE. "Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022)," July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Is8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>.

³⁰ Walker, Shaun. "Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia's Assault." *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

³¹ OSCE. "Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022)," July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Is8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>.

deported.³² There have also been allegations that street children who have parents and the children of Ukrainian soldiers are also being taken to Russia and put up for adoption.³³ There are reports of families being separated during the filtration process.³⁴

- **Forced Labor:** There have been reports of prisoners in territory occupied by Russia and its proxies being forced to work on town improvement projects and the coerced enlistment of men into a new local police force.³⁵ There are also reports of prisoners being forced to renovate the facilities at the Volnovakha Correctional Colony.³⁶
- **Extensive Data Collection:** It is clearly demonstrated by the open source information available that those who enter the filtration system are subjected to extensive data collection that includes, though is not limited to, the following: downloading phone contact lists; scanning for biometric indicators, including palm prints, digital photographs of faces, finger prints, and other physical markers; registration of identification numbers on their phones including IMEI numbers; and collection of passport numbers.³⁷ This collection is creating a robust and detailed corpus of data that can be used for further surveillance of the population in Donetsk oblast by Russia and Russia-aligned forces.

³² ТСН.ua. "Денісова назвала геноцидом усиновлення вивезених до Росії українських дітей-сиріт," May 3, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/bjeOn> <https://tsn.ua/ato/denisova-nazvala-genocidom-usinovlennya-vivezenih-do-rosiyi-ukrayinskih-ditey-sirit-2052343.html>.

³³ Dutczyn, Peter. "Hundreds of Children Taken from Ukraine Found in Russia's Taganrog." *Kyiv Post*, June 27, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/uwXGj>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/hundreds-of-children-taken-from-ukraine-found-in-russias-taganrog.html>; "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/oXq09>.

Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1174>; The Kyiv Independent [@KyivIndependent]. "The Children Have Reportedly Been Transferred in the Direction of Temporarily-Occupied Donetsk and the Russian City of Taganrog." Twitter, April 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Zik8H>. <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1515864173678366722>.

³⁴ Ostrovsky, Simon, Aina Tiefertäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>.

³⁵ Denisova, Ludmila. "About 'Filtration' Camps." *The Odessa Journal*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/W7oOg>.

<https://odessa-journal.com/about-filtration-camps/>; OSCE. "Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022)," July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Is8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>.

³⁶ Trew, Bel. "Inside Olenivka, the Russian Prison Camp Where Ukrainians Vanish." *The Independent*, August 21, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/53SBs>. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-war-news-olenivka-prison-b2149435.html>.

³⁷ Beard, Nadia. "Ukrainians Who Fled to Georgia Reveal Details of Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The Guardian*, June 12, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/r6JCo>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/12/ukrainians-who-fled-to-georgia-reveal-details-of-russias-filtration-camps>;

Hinton, Alexander. "Russia's Mass Kidnappings of Ukrainians Are a Page out of a Wartime Playbook – and Evidence of Genocide." *The Conversation*, July 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/LCNQi>.

Accessed August 12, 2022. <http://theconversation.com/russias-mass-kidnappings-of-ukrainians-are-a-page-out-of-a-wartime-playbook-and-evidence-of-genocide-187065>; "I Was Forcibly Evacuated from Mariupol to Russia."

openDemocracy, March 28, 2022. <https://archive.ph/i1wYn>. Accessed August 12, 2022.

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/forced-evacuation-ukraine-mariupol-russia/>; Satariano, Adam, and Scott Reinhard. "How Russia Took Over Ukraine's Internet in Occupied Territories." *The New York Times*, August 9, 2022, sec.

Technology. <https://archive.ph/hclXR>. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/08/09/technology/ukraine-internet-russia-censorship.html>; Epstein, Jake. "Ukrainian Woman Says Russian Forces at a 'filtration Camp' Fingerprinted and Took Data off Civilians' Cell Phones before Sending Them Deeper into Russia." *Business Insider*, March 31, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/v87WC>. Accessed August 12, 2022. <https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/ukrainian-woman-says-russian-forces-at-a-filtration-camp-fingerprinted-and-took-data-off-civilians-cell-phones-before-sending-them-deeper-into-russia/articleshow/90577104.cms>.

Section II. Understanding the Filtration System

Historical Precedent: Russian Federation's Uses of Population Filtration During Other Armed Conflicts

Filtration systems with similarities to that described in this report have been used by Russia in previous conflicts. During the First Chechen War (1994-1996) and Second Chechen War (1999-2003), Russia's forces were accused of "torturing, beating, and on occasion raping Chechen civilians at a 'filtration camp' inside Chechnya."³⁸ According to Human Rights Watch, "Chechens who do not have proper identity papers, who share a surname with a Chechen commander, who are thought to have relatives who are fighters, or who simply 'look' like fighters, continue to be detained and abused on a daily basis in their communities or at Chechnya's hundreds of checkpoints."³⁹

In June 2022, the ICC issued arrest warrants for three men related to their participation in "unlawful confinement, torture and inhuman treatment, outrages upon personal dignity, hostage taking, and unlawful transfer of civilians" during and shortly after the 2008 Russo-Georgia war. The men were members of the Russia-backed administration of the self-declared Republic of South Ossetia.⁴⁰ In its opinion in the separate case Georgia vs. Russia (II), the European Court of Human Rights concluded that Russia had effective control over the area in question after the conclusion of hostilities and was therefore responsible for detentions, even when carried out by proxy forces.⁴¹

More than Camps: Filtration as a System

Much of the public discussion of filtration, including in the media, has centered around what are referred to as "filtration camps." For example, the July 2022 report of the OSCE Mission of Experts convened under the second invocation of the Moscow Mechanism describes the existence of filtration centers as an "alarming phenomenon" and focuses on several of the camps described in this analysis.⁴² However, describing filtration as a system, rather than standalone camps, would be more accurate. HRL's findings in this report show that the filtration of civilians and other persons present in areas under the occupation of Russia and its allies is occurring as part of a larger *system* composed of multiple different types of facilities with different purposes, not just camps. HRL has identified four main functions that facilities serve.

Some locations are primarily registration points, where individuals are asked a predetermined set of questions regarding their attitudes about Ukraine and connections to the Ukrainian armed forces, and are required to have their personal data and biometrics collected before being issued a certificate of filtration that allows them a higher degree of freedom of movement. Other locations,

³⁸ Human Rights Watch. "Hundreds of Chechens Detained in 'Filtration Camps,'" February 17, 2000.

<https://archive.ph/EwLfp>. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2000/02/17/hundreds-chechens-detained-filtration-camps>.

³⁹ "'Welcome to Hell!' Arbitrary Detention, Torture, and Extortion in Chechnya - Table of Contents (October 2000) / Human Rights Watch Report." <https://archive.ph/FKStT>. Accessed August 8, 2022.

https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/russia_chechnya4/.

⁴⁰ ICC. "Defendants." <https://archive.ph/Yb9zF>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://www.icc-cpi.int/defendants?f%5B0%5D=accused_states%3A329&f%5B1%5D=situation_name_colloquial%3A682.

⁴¹ Dzehtsiarou, Kanstantsin. "Georgia v. Russia (II)." <https://archive.ph/4GfoB>. Accessed August 8, 2022.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/georgia-v-russia-ii/2B9B61486C215969C7FD63CACCB72A31>.

⁴² OSCE. "Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022)," July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ls8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>.

such as schools and community centers, are camp-like facilities where civilians are held prior to going through registration, often in poor conditions.

The third type of location this report identifies are interrogation centers to which individuals are taken if they do not pass filtration screening at a registration point. In these locations — sometimes located within registration points themselves — individuals are allegedly subjected to harsher interrogation methods which likely constitute cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment under international human rights law, and, in some cases, may constitute torture. Tactics employed include widespread use of beatings and the use of electricity, according to open source reporting.⁴³

Finally, there are detention facilities, typically prisons and jails, in which individuals, most often men, are held for an indeterminate period of time because they are deemed a threat to the DPR and, by extension, to Russia. Jails are often reserved for short-term detention and prisons are reserved for long-term detention. In detention facilities, civilians are often held alongside prisoners of war and there is strong evidence of inhumane conditions and treatment, as well as physical and psychological torture.

Different Experiences and Common Trends

The experiences of those who pass through the filtration system in Donetsk oblast are highly variable; not all people subjected to the process experience each step, and individuals may be subject to certain steps more than once. There are indications that Russian and DPR authorities have divergent approaches to the system and often have different objectives for what the system is intended to achieve. Witnesses have claimed it is often hard to see the logic in who is subjected to more scrutiny and/or detained.⁴⁴ Additionally, location types are not static. There is evidence of multiple types of filtration activities occurring at a single location. For example, at the Bezimenne filtration post, there are accounts of individuals undergoing registration, holding, and secondary interrogation (with physical abuse) at the site.⁴⁵ Further complicating any mapping exercise, this system is characterized by its opacity — often individuals within the system do not know where they are being taken or why.

While the four typologies HRL has identified are helpful for understanding the different layers of the system, they don't fully capture the system as people experience it on the ground. Below are some of the commonly repeating trends that appear throughout the open source material reviewed by the Yale HRL team.

⁴³ Е.г., Барсукова, Олена. "Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Торттури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці." *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>; Лопатіна, Ірина. "Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку — свідчення українця, який вирвався." *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-kolonyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>; Vachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

⁴⁴ Лопатіна, Ірина. "Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку — свідчення українця, який вирвався." *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-kolonyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

⁴⁵ "Telegram: Contact @mod_russia." <https://archive.ph/zFJyS>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://t.me/mod_russia/15022; Vachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

Interactions with Russian and Russia-aligned forces: Across the source material, residents of Mariupol came into contact with the filtration system after they encountered Russian or Russia-aligned forces. For some, it was when Russia forces came into shelters to forcibly evacuate civilians during the hostilities; for others, it was during an independent attempt to make it to safety, particularly when they had no choice but to take an evacuation bus to Russia-controlled territory.⁴⁶ Other individuals were forcibly taken to filtration sites.⁴⁷ In some cases, people waited out the hostilities and went through the filtration process as instructed by occupation authorities in late spring and summer, well after Mariupol had been occupied in March and April.⁴⁸

Checkpoints (in or near Mariupol): Checkpoints appear in many narratives as the initial place where individuals went through preliminary screening, were told where to go for filtration, or were put on buses towards a filtration site.⁴⁹ In many cases, witnesses claimed they were told they would be taken to one village or town, but were then taken to another, or said they weren't told where they were going at all.⁵⁰

Registration sites: These are locations where Russian and Russia-aligned forces process civilians. Some of these are in towns and villages that have been occupied since 2014, while others are in

⁴⁶ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. "Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin's Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out." *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>; Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainar Tiefertäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022, sec. World. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>; Walker, Shaun. "Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia's Assault." *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>; Кугель, Мария. "Мы шли туда, где не стреляют". Из Украины в Европу через Россию." *Радио Свобода*, April 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TyzdL>. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/my-shli-tuda-gde-ne-strelyayut-bezhentsy-iz-ukrainy-edut-v-evropu-cherez-rossiyu/31823254.html>; "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

⁴⁷ "Terrible 40 Days in Ghetto: The Story of a Mariupol Man Who Went Through Russian Filtration Camp." *Vchasno News Agency*, June 30, 2022. <https://archive.ph/limrD>. <https://vchasnoua.com/en/430-terrible-40-days-in-ghetto-the-story-of-a-mariupol-man-who-went-through-russian-filtration-camp>.

⁴⁸ Bacheга, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

⁴⁹ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. "Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin's Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out." *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>;

Кугель, Мария. "Мы шли туда, где не стреляют". Из Украины в Европу через Россию." *Радио Свобода*, April 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TyzdL>. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/my-shli-tuda-gde-ne-strelyayut-bezhentsy-iz-ukrainy-edut-v-evropu-cherez-rossiyu/31823254.html>.

⁵⁰ "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>; "Мариуполь. Побег из ада. Моя история." *Ukrinform*, July 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/8St5G>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-ato/3529801-mariupol-pobeg-iz-ada-moa-istoria.html>.

newly-occupied territory. Individuals report having their photograph and biometrics taken, namely fingerprints and palm prints, phone contacts downloaded, and their phones searched for any pro-Ukrainian content in their photos, on their social media accounts, or in their private messages.⁵¹ Men are often subjected to strip searches, allegedly to check for patriotic Ukrainian tattoos or bruises consistent with weapon use.⁵² Women are also subjected to strip searches, although reports indicate at a lower rate.⁵³ All residents appear to be questioned regarding their connections to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, their opinions on Ukraine and Russia, and their former or current connections to the Ukrainian government.⁵⁴ The threshold for passing filtration sometimes appears to be arbitrary, often relying on interpretation of the symbology of tattoos, the attribution of bruises to rifle straps, or individual caprice.⁵⁵ Individuals who are not deemed

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- ⁵¹ Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainara Tiefenthäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>; Кугель, Мария. "Мы шли туда, где не стреляют". Из Украины в Европу через Россию." *Радио Свобода*, April 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TyZdL>. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/my-shli-tuda-gde-ne-strelyayut-bezhentsy-iz-ukrainy-edut-v-evropu-cherez-rossiyu/31823254.html>; "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>; Bachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>; Грати. "«Берут из Мариуполя людей и насильно вывозят». Монолог жительницы мариупольского поселка, которую принудительно вывезли в Россию." March 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/m6x7Q>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://graty.me/monologue/berut-iz-mariupolya-lyudej-i-nasilno-vyvozyat-monolog-zhitelniczy-mariupolskogo-poselka-kotoruyu-prinuditelno-vyvezli-v-rossiyu/>.
- ⁵² Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainara Tiefenthäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>. "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.
- ⁵³ Nordstrom, Louise. "Interrogatoires, fouilles à nu, brimades... Le calvaire des 'camps de filtration' russes en Ukraine." *France 24*, June 11, 2022. <https://archive.ph/OJa2v>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.france24.com/fr/europe/20220611-interrogatoires-fouilles-%C3%A0-nu-brimades-le-calvaire-des-camps-de-filtration-russes-en-ukraine>; Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Операція «фільтрація». Через що проходять українці, які опинилися під російською окупацією," May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pezJk>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/operaciya-filtraciya-cherez-shho-proxodyat-ukra%20d1%97nci-yaki-opinilisya-pid-rosijskoyu-okupacijeyu/>.
- ⁵⁴ Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainara Tiefenthäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>; "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>; Rasulova, Oksana. "The Russians Send Men from Mariupol to Filtration Camps. They Are Kept There and Not Allowed to Communicate with Relatives. Their Wives Try to Save Them — and This Is What They Say." *Babel*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/gnoCB>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/texts/78606-the-russians-send-men-from-mariupol-to-filtration-camps-they-are-kept-there-and-not-allowed-to-communicate-with-relatives-their-wives-try-to-save-them-and-this-is-what-they-say>.
- ⁵⁵ For example, one man struggled to convince his interrogators that an eight-point star tattoo was related to his zodiac sign, and that a Star of David would have six points. Golod, Gleb. "'I've Never Been so Scared' Ukrainian Refugees Give Firsthand Accounts of 'Filtration Camps' Run by Russian Troops." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/CvDsH>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://meduza.io/en/feature/2022/05/13/i-ve-never-been-so-scared>.

suspicious and “pass” filtration are given a ticket that shows they have been fingerprinted and are sometimes allowed to return home.⁵⁶ In other cases, they are transported to Russia.

Holding sites: Many of the busier registration sites are associated with a camp where people are forced to stay while they await the filtration process. In a majority of cases these are schools, but there are exceptions.⁵⁷ In some cases, men are held in these locations for weeks or even months at a time with no explanation.⁵⁸ Conditions in these places are often poor, with crowding, lack of sanitation, insufficient nutrition, and disease outbreaks.⁵⁹ In some holding sites, freedom of movement is limited.⁶⁰

Secondary interrogation: Individuals deemed suspicious during the registration process are taken for further questioning at the registration site or to a second location. At this point, beatings are often included in the questioning process, with some individuals even reporting forms of torture.⁶¹ While it is primarily men subjected to secondary interrogation, there are reports of women being taken as well.⁶² This stage has been reported to consist of several hours of questioning, after which some individuals are either released, sent onwards to short-term or long-term detention in a jail or a prison, or sent to Russia.⁶³ In some cases, there are reports that detainees had to agree to “cooperation” with Russian and DPR authorities upon their release from detention to pass the filtration process.⁶⁴

Short and long-term detention: Those who are deemed a threat after the initial registration process and interrogation, often military-aged men and those with connections to the Ukrainian armed forces, are detained on a short-term or long-term basis. For those detained on a short-term basis, Russian or Russia-aligned forces may take them to a new location in Donetsk oblast for

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Кугель, Мария. “Мы шли туда, где не стреляют”. Из Украины в Европу через Россию.” *Радио Свобода*, April 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TyzdL>. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/my-shli-tuda-gde-ne-strelyayut-bezhentsy-iz-ukrainy-edut-v-evropu-cherez-rossiyu/31823254.html>.

⁵⁸ Kottasová, Ivana and Oleksandra Ochman. “Ukrainians Must Endure a Brutal ‘filtration’ Process to Escape Russian-Held Territory. Here’s What That Means.” *CNN*, May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/iEdOM>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/23/europe/russia-ukraine-filtration-camps-intl-cmd/index.html>.

⁵⁹ “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию».” *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Gazeta.ua. “Катування Струмом і 20 Людей у Камері ‘Два На Два’: Волонтер Розповів Про 72 Дні Полону,” July 9, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TfYQw>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://gazeta.ua/articles/np/katuvannya-strumom-i-20-lyudej-u-kameri-dva-na-dva-volonter-rozpoviv-pro-72-dni-polonu/1099665>.

⁶² “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию».” *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

⁶³ Ibid; Gazeta.ua. “Катування Струмом і 20 Людей у Камері ‘Два На Два’: Волонтер Розповів Про 72 Дні Полону,” July 9, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TfYQw>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://gazeta.ua/articles/np/katuvannya-strumom-i-20-lyudej-u-kameri-dva-na-dva-volonter-rozpoviv-pro-72-dni-polonu/1099665>.

⁶⁴ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/OONny>. Accessed August 15, 2022.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/819>; “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию».” *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

further interrogation or intimidation and may hold them there for a period of time generally ranging from one night to two weeks before either releasing them or taking them to a prison. Short-term detention locations are often jails in police departments or former Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs branches, pre-trial detention centers, or, in some cases, makeshift detention centers (in one case, people were held in a garage for twelve days).⁶⁵

Those who are still deemed a threat to the security of the DPR (and by extension, to Russia) are transferred to prisons for long-term detention where they are often subject to inhumane treatment. Allegedly, the mandatory minimum imprisonment term for ‘administrative detention’ ranges from 10 to 60 days, with the average being 30 days, but some have been held much longer, even more than 100 days.⁶⁶ In these prisons, there are reports of insufficient nutrition and water, a lack of sanitary conditions, severe overcrowding, and beatings.⁶⁷

Transport to Russia/Forcible Deportations: Some individuals who passed the filtration process report being transported to Russia either voluntarily or forcibly. According to the UN, the definition of ‘forcible transfer’ rests on the absence of consent “and may also include the use of force, coercive measures, and inducement to flee.”⁶⁸ Witnesses describe feeling forced, told they do not have another option, or misled about their final destination, while some go voluntarily.⁶⁹ Kremlin-aligned non-military actors have at times been involved in the transport of Mariupol residents from Ukraine to Russia.⁷⁰ Every available open source account of people from Donetsk

⁶⁵ Gazeta.ua. “Катування Струмом і 20 Людей у Камері ‘Два На Два’: Волонтер Розповів Про 72 Дні Полону,” July 9, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TfYQw>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://gazeta.ua/articles/np/katuvannya-strumom-i-20-lyudej-u-kameri-dva-na-dva-volonter-rozpoviv-pro-72-dni-polonu/1099665>.

⁶⁶ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>; Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини,” July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalay-tri-misyaci-filtracii-v-kativnyax-okupovano-d1%97-donechchini/>; Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” *Медиазона Беларусь*, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>; Лопатіна, Ірина. “Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку – свідчення українця, який вирвався.” *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajinciyami-v-sizo-ta-koloniyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

⁶⁷ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>.

⁶⁸ “Human Rights Dimension of Population Transfer, Implantation of Settlers.” United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, June 30, 1994. <https://archive.ph/yhToB>. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-179611/>.

⁶⁹ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. “Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin’s Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out.” *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>; Ворожко, Татьяна. “Из Мариуполя в Таганрог. Как украинцы, вынужденные эвакуироваться в Россию, выбирают оттуда.” *НВ*, July 10, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eu5aW>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/opinion/voyna-kak-ukraincy-vyvezhayut-iz-rossii-evakuaciya-novosti-ukrainy-50255303.html>; Kyiv Post. “Interview with Svyatoslav Palamar, Azov’s Second in Command in Mariupol.” <https://archive.ph/Ozne5>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.kyivpost.com/multimedia/video/interview-with-svyatoslav-palamar-azovs-second-in-command-in-mariupol>.

⁷⁰ “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию».” *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

oblast who claimed to have been taken to Russia named the location they were purportedly taken to as Taganrog on the Sea of Azov. At least 400 unaccompanied children (only some of whom are orphans) are also housed in a summer camp on the outskirts of the city, from which they are allegedly adopted by Russian families.⁷¹

Many individuals report being put on a train from Taganrog to remote Russian destinations not of their choosing.⁷² Many report being pressured to take Russian citizenship, which would make them unable to leave the region for three years and would expose men to conscription into Russia's military.⁷³ Although this report focuses on the filtration system in Donetsk oblast, evidence is clear that filtration is connected to a variety of cross-border movements of civilians into Russia, which will require further investigation.

⁷¹ Dutczy, Peter. "Hundreds of Children Taken from Ukraine Found in Russia's Taganrog." *Kyiv Post*, June 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/uwXGj>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/hundreds-of-children-taken-from-ukraine-found-in-russias-taganrog.html>; "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/oXq09>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1174>; The Kyiv Independent [@KyivIndependent]. "The Children Have Reportedly Been Transferred in the Direction of Temporarily-Occupied Donetsk and the Russian City of Taganrog." *Twitter*, April 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Zik8H>. <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1515864173678366722>.

⁷² Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainar Tiefertäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>.

⁷³ Грати. "«Берут из Мариуполя людей и насильно вывозят». Монолог жительницы мариупольского поселка, которую принудительно вывезли в Россию," March 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/m6x7Q>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://graty.me/monologue/berut-iz-mariupolya-lyudej-i-nasilno-vyvozyat-monolog-zhitelniczy-mariupolskogo-poselka-kotoruyu-prinuditelno-vyvezli-v-rossiyu/>; OSCE. "Report on Violations of International and Human Rights Law Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity in Ukraine (1 April – 25 June 2022)," July 14, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Is8sR>. <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/3/e/522616.pdf>; Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainar Tiefertäler, and Alessandro Pavone. "Video: Surviving Russia's 'Filtration Camps.'" *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>. <https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/10000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>; Кугель, Мария. "«Мы шли туда, где не стреляют». Из Украины в Европу через Россию." *Радио Свобода*, April 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TyzdL>. <https://www.svoboda.org/a/my-shli-tuda-gde-ne-strelyayut-bezhentsy-iz-ukrainy-edut-v-evropu-cherez-rossiyu/31823254.html>; Special Services. "Special Services Have Identified Russian Filtration Camps," July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/YDyCp>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://www.gov.pl/web/special-services/special-services-have-identified-russian-filtration-camps>.

Section III. Locations in the Donetsk Oblast Filtration System

Below are case studies on four towns and villages (Bezimenne, Dokuchaievsk, Nikolske, and Olenivka) with sites that exemplify each category of filtration facility identified by Yale HRL. Following the four case studies is a summary of findings on filtration activities in each of the other cities, towns, and villages identified by HRL as being part of the filtration system. This section presents detailed evidence for each of the 21 sites identified as being a component in the system of filtration in Donetsk oblast.

Bezimenne

Table 02: Filtration locations in Bezimenne

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Market | Filtration Post “Bezimenne” | Registration, holding, secondary interrogation |
| School | Bezimenne School | Holding |

The village of Bezimenne has two key filtration sites: a registration site on the grounds of what was previously a farmers’ market and a holding site at a school where individuals are held while they await filtration. There are allegations of physical abuse and unsanitary conditions at these locations. The first evidence of Bezimenne being used for filtration activities appeared in early March 2022 and activities consistent with filtration appeared to continue through at least mid-June 2022. This site is well-documented and the large quantity of citations outlined below indicates the role the village plays in the filtration system.

The first appearance of activities in Bezimenne consistent with filtration occurred on 4 March 2022, when a Donbas Telegram channel posted that the DPR’s Ministry of Emergency Situations had set up tents for “refugees” from Mariupol in Bezimenne.⁷⁴ On 21 March 2022, a DPR-affiliated Telegram channel posted a video allegedly taken on 19 March 2022 showing evacuees from Mariupol queuing at the school in Bezimenne that HRL has identified as a holding site.⁷⁵ On 22 March 2022, a user posted in a Telegram channel for residents of Mariupol a short list of people who had been evacuated to Bezimenne.⁷⁶ Later that week, *inews.co.uk* published a story on the filtration “camp” constructed in Bezimenne, including satellite imagery of an array of tents at a former farmers’ market.⁷⁷ Shortly thereafter on 27 March 2022, the *Washington Post* also reported on the site and geolocated a video published by DPR authorities, which was further corroborated by video footage published by the Associated Press on 1 April 2022.⁷⁸ On 16 April 2022, an anonymous source on Telegram reported in a channel about Mariupol that he was taken to

⁷⁴ “Telegram: Contact @donbassr.” <https://archive.ph/DqJPB>. Accessed August 19, 2022. <https://t.me/donbassr/14334>.

⁷⁵ “Telegram: Contact @oddr_info.” <https://archive.ph/1ePOB>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://t.me/oddr_info/32851.

⁷⁶ The list contains the names of individuals and is therefore not linked in the report.

⁷⁷ Kirby, Dean. “Satellite Images Show Russian Camp for Ukrainians near Mariupol as Deportation Claims Grow.” *inews.co.uk*, March 26, 2022. <https://archive.ph/YTY2r>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://inews.co.uk/news/ukraine-russia-war-putin-mariupol-deportations-filtration-camps-1539050-1539050>.

⁷⁸ AP Archive. “Tents Set up for Mariupol Evacuees in Bezimenne,” April 1, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VwMwX>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKk_2FPSF9c; Lee, Joyce Sohyun, and Hannah Knowles. “Satellite Images Show Russian ‘Tent City’ Built for Ukrainians.” *Washington Post*, March 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eyrVs>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/27/russian-camps-outside-mariupol/>.

Bezimenne and detained there for six days while awaiting filtration.⁷⁹ At the beginning of May, a civilian claimed he was evacuated from Azovstal and taken to Bezimenne for filtration where he was given the option to go either to Russia, DPR territory, or Zaporizhzhia.⁸⁰ He describes being heavily monitored while in Bezimenne.

At the end of May, the advisor to Mariupol's mayor reported that over 300 people were taken from Mariupol to Bezimenne and 175 people were taken from Bezimenne to Russia.⁸¹ Ukraine's then-Ombudswoman for Human Rights similarly reported statistics a week later on 29 May 2022, alleging that almost 3,000 people had been taken from Mariupol to the filtration camps in Bezimenne and Kozatske over the period of one week.⁸² In this same time period (23 May 2022), the Ukrainian Media Initiative for Human Rights published a preliminary report with accounts of civilians who underwent filtration in Bezimenne.⁸³ Multiple sources describe being taken to the filtration camp where they were undressed and examined, had content on their phones scrutinized, and had palm prints taken. Another source in the report describes being sent to the school where he waited before being taken to a filtration point in Starobesheve. In the middle of June, an anonymous user posted in a Mariupol Telegram channel that he just got out of the city after being detained in Bezimenne for over a month.⁸⁴ Around the same time (16 June 2022), the BBC published an extensive article on filtration including information from multiple people who reported undergoing filtration in Bezimenne.⁸⁵ In the article, two sources report being interrogated, beaten, and tortured in Bezimenne, including through the use of electricity.

Filtration Post "Bezimenne"⁸⁶

Registration, holding, and secondary interrogation site

Filtration post "Bezimenne" at a former farmers' market appears to have activities consistent with filtration confirmed beginning 26 March 2022 and continuing through at least mid-June. Open source analysis suggests that registration, holding, and secondary interrogation activities have occurred at this site. Imagery analysis confirms that blue and white tents were put up at the site sometime between 14 March 2022 and 22 March 2022, with tents first visible in very high resolution (VHR) imagery from 22 March 2022. Imagery from 22 March 2022 further confirms the

⁷⁹ "Telegram: Contact @mariupolnow." <https://archive.ph/Uow4U>. Accessed August 5, 2022.

<https://t.me/mariupolnow/6666>.

⁸⁰ Телеканал ДОН. "Эвакуация с 'Азовстали'. Фильтрационный Лагерь РФ в Безыменном. История Сергея Кузьменко," May 3, 2022. <https://archive.ph/KluV8>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0l_fs2LVto.

⁸¹ "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/qjTtA>. Accessed August 5, 2022.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/1010>.

⁸² "Telegram: Contact @mariupol." <https://archive.ph/OJ09s>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/mariupol/7381>.

⁸³ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Операція «фільтрація». Через що проходять українці, які опинилися під російською окупацією," May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pezJk>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/operaciya-filtraciya-cherez-shho-proxodyat-ukra%27nnci-yaki-opinilisya-pid-rosijskovyu-okupaciyevu/>.

⁸⁴ "Telegram: Contact @mariupolnow." <https://archive.ph/x3qYm>. Accessed August 5, 2022.

<https://t.me/mariupolnow/13318>.

⁸⁵ Bachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe.

<https://archive.ph/DXDz1>; <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

⁸⁶ This name of the site was provided by DPR authorities. See Министерство информации ДНР. "БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqqjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

presence of long queues of vehicles measuring approximately 2.5 km, appearing to travel to the site from Mariupol. Possible sizable crowds of people are visible at the site on this date. The presence of tents and possible groups of people are no longer visible in imagery captured on 11 June 2022, while the car queue remains visible. Collectively, visible indicators in imagery between 14 March 2022 and 11 June 2022 are consistent with filtration activities; this finding corroborates the independent open source investigation.

On 26 March 2022, *inews.co.uk*, a UK-based media imprint owned by Associated Newspapers Limited (owners of the *Daily Mail*), published a story showing satellite imagery of the camp, calling the site a former farmers' market. Reporters concluded that the tents were erected between 19 March 2022 and 22 March 2022. They also identified people at the site wearing clothing with the insignia of Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations through open source materials.⁸⁷ With additional satellite imagery, the *Washington Post* confirmed the location using open source materials in an article published 27 March 2022.⁸⁸

Two days later, on 29 March 2022, the pro-Kremlin outlet *Pravda* published an article outlining the experience of "refugees" in Bezimenne, describing them as being well cared for at this site. The author, who allegedly visited the site on 21 March 2022, wrote the following, which has been translated from Russian:

Servicemen of the People's Militia of the DPR carefully inspect vehicles and passengers. Vigilance in this matter is worth a lot: under the guise of refugees, criminal elements, including outright Nazis, often try to penetrate into the territory of the republic, and then into Russia. After the inspection, the refugees are placed in a fairly large tent city, designed for 500 people. The behavior of the DPR servicemen and employees of the Ministry of Emergency Situations from the neighboring Rostov region attracts attention. Their precise and well-coordinated work, high endurance, correctness, patience, and goodwill towards the refugees inspire confidence and balance the stressful state of those arriving from Mariupol.⁸⁹

On 1 April 2022 the Associated Press uploaded a video to YouTube that claimed to show the tents erected in Bezimenne to house evacuees from Mariupol.⁹⁰ The locations of tents, trucks, and buildings in the video matches satellite imagery of the site.

In a video published by Russia's Ministry of Defense on Telegram on 1 May 2022, people alleged to be civilian evacuees from Azovstal are shown arriving at a camp in Bezimenne.⁹¹ Tents and coach buses are visible at the site. On 5 May 2022, the DPR published a bulletin with general information about developments in the region and where residents of Mariupol could receive social support. A

⁸⁷ Kirby, Dean. "Satellite Images Show Russian Camp for Ukrainians near Mariupol as Deportation Claims Grow." *inews.co.uk*, March 26, 2022. <https://archive.ph/YTY2r>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://inews.co.uk/news/ukraine-russia-war-putin-mariupol-deportations-filtration-camps-1539050-1539050>.

⁸⁸ Lee, Joyce Sohyun, and Hannah Knowles. "Satellite Images Show Russian 'Tent City' Built for Ukrainians." *Washington Post*, March 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eyrVs>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/27/russian-camps-outside-mariupol/>.

⁸⁹ Литвинов, Борис. "Возвращение к Жизни." Газета, March 29, 2022. <https://perma.cc/RV8A-FLZD> Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://gazeta-pravda.ru/issue/32-31235-2930-marta-2022-goda/vozvrashchenie-k-zhizni/>.

⁹⁰ AP Archive. "Tents Set up for Mariupol Evacuees in Bezimenne," April 1, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VwMwX>. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKk_2FpSF9c.

⁹¹ "Telegram: Contact @mod_russia." <https://archive.ph/zFJyS>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://t.me/mod_russia/15022.

section of the bulletin is dedicated to “filtration measures”; it explains the process and lists addresses to which people can report to undergo the process. The address listed in Bezimenne is directly across the street from the camp.⁹²

A BBC article published on 16 June 2022 included extensive first-hand descriptions of the camp from a Ukrainian civilian who was processed through this location in Bezimenne. He describes being taken into a tent after initial screening for further interrogation where he was beaten:

A few minutes later, Andriy said, he was ordered to go to a tent where members of Russia’s security service, the FSB, were carrying out further checks. Five officers were sitting behind a desk, three wearing balaclavas. They showed Andriy a video he had shared on Instagram of a speech Zelensky had given, from 1 March. With it was a caption written by Andriy: “A president we can be proud of. Go home with your warship!” One of the officers took the lead. “You told us you’re neutral to politics, but you support the Nazi government,” Andriy recalled being told. “He hit me in the throat. He basically started the beating.”...Back inside the tent in Bezimenne, Andriy noticed two other people with their hands tied behind them, who had been left in a corner while the officers paid attention to him. “They started to beat me way harder,” Andriy told me, “everywhere”. At one point, after a blow to the stomach, he felt as if he was about to faint. He managed to sit on a chair.⁹³

Bezimenne Secondary School Holding site

Bezimenne Secondary School appears to have activities consistent with filtration beginning 21 March 2022 and continuing through at least mid-May 2022. Open source analysis indicates that holding activities occur at this site. Witnesses also describe insufficient food, poor sanitation, beatings from guards, and forced labor. Analysis of available imagery between 22 March 2022 and 26 March 2022 captures a notable increase in the number of vehicles at the site between these dates. Additionally, analysts identified what appears to be consistent with the presence of people in front of the school building in the imagery from 22 March 2022. While these observables alone cannot confirm the suspected filtration activities, they do present visual evidence to support the findings from open source analysis of activities consistent with filtration. All described visual indicators are no longer present in imagery after 26 March 2022 (next available image is from 25 June 2022).

On 21 March 2022, a DPR-affiliated Telegram channel posted a video allegedly showing evacuees from Mariupol in Bezimenne on 19 March 2022.⁹⁴ People can be seen queuing outside a school, which HRL geolocated to the secondary school in Bezimenne. An article published on 29 March 2022 in *Pravda*, a pro-Kremlin outlet, describes how “refugees” from Mariupol are welcomed and cared for in Bezimenne.⁹⁵ The author describes a visit to the village on 21 March 2022, including a

⁹² Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

⁹³ Bacheaga, Hugo. “The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education.” *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

⁹⁴ “Telegram: Contact @oddr_info.” <https://archive.ph/1ePOB>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://t.me/oddr_info/32851.

⁹⁵ Литвинов, Борис. “Возвращение к Жизни.” *Газета*, March 29, 2022. <https://perma.cc/RV8A-FLZD> Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://gazeta-pravda.ru/issue/32-31235-2930-marta-2022-goda/vozvrashchenie-k-zhizni/>.

visit to the school which he says can accommodate up to 550 people and has beds lined up on both the first and second floors.

On 5 May 2022, an advisor to the mayor of Mariupol shared three videos allegedly taken inside a filtration camp, which HRL geolocated to the school in Bezimenne.⁹⁶ The man recording the video says off-camera that the school smells worse than a toilet, that there is only one sink for 350 people, and that at least one person has been isolated with tuberculosis (people are heard coughing in the background of the video). An advisor to the mayor of Mariupol describes people held in the facility being forced to work on public projects under the supervision of Russia’s military.⁹⁷ On 6 May 2022, the *Washington Post* geolocated the same videos to the school, although they were unable to independently verify the claims made in the video.⁹⁸

Dokuchaievsk

Table 03: Filtration locations in Dokuchaievsk

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Dokuchaievsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| Community center | Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure | Holding, registration |

Filtration operations in Dokuchaievsk are well documented in open source materials as occurring at the police station (the so-called Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR) while individuals are held in the adjacent House of Culture. The reports at these locations include allegations of unsanitary conditions and beatings during the interrogation process.

Filtration activities seem to have begun in Dokuchaievsk in late March 2022 and continue through at least the end of May. The first mention of filtration in Dokuchaievsk in open source materials occurred on 24 March 2022. The Department of Intelligence of Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense posted on Telegram about the existence of a filtration camp, alleging civilians were sent there to be investigated and then sent to Russia.⁹⁹ At the beginning of April, a pro-Kremlin news outlet reported on the arrival of “refugees” from Mariupol to Dokuchaievsk, claiming they are accommodated in schools and the local Center of Culture and Leisure.¹⁰⁰ In the middle of April, Ukrainian authorities, including the Mariupol City Council and the advisor to the mayor of Mariupol, reported that 5-10% of men from Mariupol do not “pass” the filtration process and are

⁹⁶ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/vAWeg>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/664>.

⁹⁷ Ukrinform. “Video from inside Filtration Camp for Mariupol Men Released,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/uf5BB>. Accessed August 10, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ato/3475707-video-from-inside-filtration-camp-for-mariupol-men-released.html>.

⁹⁸ Lee, Joyce Sohyun, and Jonathan Edwards. “Video Shows Russian ‘Filtration Camp,’ Mariupol Mayor’s Office Says.” *Washington Post*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/WPA9X>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/05/06/ukraine-mariupol-russian-filtration-camp-video/>.

⁹⁹ “Telegram: Contact @DIUkraine.” <https://archive.ph/tNrqv>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/DIUkraine/193>.

¹⁰⁰ Васильева, Мария. “Эксклюзивные кадры: Докучаевск принимает беженцев с Украины.” *spbdsnevnik.ru*, April 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/U27wa>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://spbdsnevnik.ru/news/2022-04-05/eksklyuzivnye-kadry-dokuchaevsk-prinimaet-bezhentsev-iz-ukrainy>.

sent to Dokuchaievsk in many cases.¹⁰¹ On 22 April 2022, a civilian described the filtration process in Dokuchaievsk in an article in *Meduza*, alleging she got her fingerprints taken, photo taken, and her phone contents reviewed before being sent to Russia.¹⁰² Around the same time, an advisor to the mayor of Mariupol reported to Ukrinform that recently Russia and Russia-aligned forces evacuated multiple busloads of people from Mariupol to Dokuchaievsk, but that the evacuees were not told ahead of time where they would be evacuated to.¹⁰³ In a similar report in the *Kyiv Post* a week later, a leader of the Azov regiment alleged that civilians were evacuated by bus from Mariupol; they were told they would be taken to Zaporizhzhia, but were taken to Dokuchaievsk instead and then to Russia.¹⁰⁴

In the middle of May, *inews.co.uk* published an article including the account of a Ukrainian woman who was taken to Dokuchaievsk for interrogation where she saw prisoners of war being beaten.¹⁰⁵ Similar accounts were reported by the Ukrainian Media Initiative for Human Rights on 23 May 2022; a woman said her eldest son—a former member of the armed forces—was separated from her during filtration in Manhush in mid-March and he was taken to Dokuchaievsk for further interrogation.¹⁰⁶ At the time of publication his whereabouts were still unknown. Ukrainian outlet *Ukrainska Pravda* published alternative accounts around the same time, describing the slow process of filtration in Dokuchaievsk, which was also described by the outlet *Svidomi*.¹⁰⁷ In June and July, additional accounts emerged in Belarusian and Ukrainian media from people who had been

¹⁰¹ Olena Halushka [@OlenaHalushka]. “#Mariupol Town Council: All Men Are Sent to Filtration Camps. Russians Interrogate & Inspect Them, Check Phones. 5-10% Don’t ‘Pass’ & Are Sent to Donetsk & Dokuchayevsk, Their Fate Is yet Unknown. Since Mon, the Movement Btw Districts Will Be Prohibited to Complete the Filtration.” *Twitter*, April 16, 2022. <https://archive.ph/TvIHl>. <https://twitter.com/OlenaHalushka/status/1515301143592722440>; Александров, Алексей. “Фильтрационная процедура продолжается в городе”. Советник мэра Мариуполя о ‘пропусках’ и депортациях жителей города.” *Настоящее Время*, April 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/U9PQH>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/sovetsnik-mera-mariupolya-o-propuskah-i-deportaciyah/31808452.html>.

¹⁰² Голод, Глеб, and Алексей Славин. “Многие жители Украины вынуждены эвакуироваться в Европу через ДНР и Россию. Им приходится проходить «фильтрацию» и сниматься в пропагандистских видео.” *Meduza*, April 22, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VPHgO>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/04/22/mnogie-zhiteli-ukrainy-vynuzhdeny-evakuirovatsya-v-evropu-cherez-dnr-i-rossiyu-im-prihoditsya-prohodit-filtratsiyu-i-snimatsya-v-propagandistskih-video>.

¹⁰³ Ukrinform. “У Мариуполі Росіяни Зірвали Евакуацію Та Вивезли Людей в Окупований Докучаєвськ,” April 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IURjD>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3465540-u-mariupoli-rosiani-zirvali-evakuaciju-ta-vivezli-ludej-v-okupovanij-dokucaevsk.html>.

¹⁰⁴ *Kyiv Post*. “Interview with Svyatoslav Palamar, Azov’s Second in Command in Mariupol.” <https://archive.ph/Ozne5>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.kyivpost.com/multimedia/video/interview-with-svyatoslav-palamar-azovs-second-in-command-in-mariupol>.

¹⁰⁵ Kirby, Dean. “Thousands of Mariupol Survivors Being Detained and ‘tortured’ in Russian-Controlled Prisons.” *Inews.Co.Uk*, May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pv446>. <https://inews.co.uk/news/mariupol-civilians-prison-detained-russia-putin-filtration-1637957>.

¹⁰⁶ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Операція «фільтрація». Через що проходять українці, які опинилися під російською окупацією,” May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pezJk>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/operaciya-filtraciya-cherez-shho-proxodyat-ukra%20%27%27nci-yaki-opinilisya-pid-rosijskoyu-okupaciyeyu/>.

¹⁰⁷ “‘I Was the Only Man of Conscripted Age Who Left the ‘Donetsk People’s Republic’ for Russia’: A Resident of Volnovakha Who Escaped the Occupation Tells the Truth about ‘Filtration.’” *Ukrainska Pravda*, May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VWY2P>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/articles/2022/05/24/7348127/>; Svidomi [@Svidomi_En]. “There Is an Option to Pass Filtration on Its Own in Dokuchaievsk (Donetsk Region), but It Takes More than a Week to Get a Permit to Move inside the City. In Addition, the Russians Almost Dismantled the Mariupol Stele at the Entrance to the City.” *Twitter*, June 9, 2022. <https://archive.ph/UNzP9>. https://twitter.com/Svidomi_En/status/1534877660198981632.

detained in Dokuchaievsk, including volunteers who were kept in “a huge trench covered with tents” and “a garage in the city...sleeping on boards” for almost two weeks.¹⁰⁸

Dokuchaievsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs Registration site

While open source material indicates that activities consistent with filtration were occurring in the town beginning on 24 March 2022, the registration site at the Dokuchaievsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is not mentioned by name until 5 May 2022.¹⁰⁹ Activity at the site continued through at least 4 June.¹¹⁰ Open source analysis suggests that registration activities have occurred at this site, with witnesses claiming to have been strip searched and had their phones searched. Imagery analysis of both this site and the neighboring Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure (discussed in greater detail in the next section) has verified the presence of several indicators consistent with possible filtration activity, including changes in the arrangement and number of vehicles at and near both sites and the presence of two vehicles consistent with coach-style buses in the lot near both sites as seen in imagery captured on 21 March 2022.

On 5 May 2022, authorities of the DPR published a bulletin with general information about developments in the region and where residents of Mariupol could receive social support. A section of the bulletin is dedicated to “filtration measures”; it explains the process and lists addresses to which people can report to undergo the process. This address is listed as one of those sites.¹¹¹

A 26 May 2022 article in *The Guardian* includes the account of a couple who escaped Mariupol and went through filtration. They describe staying in the House of Culture while awaiting filtration, a building that is adjacent to this location. The account describes this location as a police station, which in Dokuchaievsk is the same as the department of the so-called Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR:

After two days [in Dokuchaievsk], it was Vitaly’s turn for filtration. He was taken to the police station, where he was ordered to undress fully and examined for tattoos that might give away a Ukrainian nationalist affiliation. Then he was questioned, photographed and fingerprinted. The process took five hours. After that, the family were put on a bus to the border with Russia. They crossed after another round of questioning, and spent the night at

¹⁰⁸ Translated from Russian and Ukrainian, respectively. Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” Медиазона Беларусь, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022.

<https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

Gazeta.ua. “Катування Струмом і 20 Людей у Камері ‘Два На Два’: Волонтер Розповів Про 72 Дні Полону,” July 9, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/TfYQw>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://gazeta.ua/articles/np/katuvannya-strumom-i-20-lyudej-u-kameri-dva-na-dva-volonter-rozpoviv-pro-72-dni-polonu/1099665>.

¹⁰⁹ Головне управління розвідки Міністерства оборони України. <https://archive.ph/WEr0B>. Accessed August 10, 2022.

<https://www.facebook.com/DefenceIntelligenceofUkraine/posts/pfbid0yBRFaYAhB49xMnBwe4Cepj32iA5AKfMckgw3Lg68hEjfuRdbhPY14wVLoXimXrJl>.

¹¹⁰ Общественное Движение “Донецкая Республика.” “Где пройти обязательную фильтрацию?,” June 4, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/F4z92>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projti-obязatelnuju-filtraciju/>.

¹¹¹ Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMA> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

a camp on the other side, from where the next morning yet another bus drove them to the train station in the city of Taganrog.¹¹²

Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure, named for Pushkin Holding, registration site

The Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure, also referred to as the House of Culture, appears to have been the site of activities consistent with filtration beginning 5 April 2022. It is unclear when, if ever, activity at the site ceased. Open source analysis suggests that holding activities have occurred at this site, with witnesses describing the presence of children and claiming to have lived in crowded and unsanitary conditions.

A report published on 5 April 2022 in the *Petersburg Diary*, a pro-Kremlin news source, confirms the House of Culture as an accommodation point for “refugees” from Mariupol. Yale HRL geolocated a video accompanying the article to the Center of Culture and Leisure. The article connects the location with the filtration process, though they do not use that term. The following quote from the article was translated from Russian:

The city of Dokuchaevsk in the Donetsk region became the center for the evacuation of refugees from the very beginning of the special operation. ... Today, most of the refugees are from Mariupol and its environs. Among them are many children, the elderly, and the wounded. People are placed in schools, but the main point is in the local house of culture. ... Up to 200 people pass through Dokuchaevsk a day. At the same time, the house of culture itself is not adapted for a long-term stay. Dokuchaevsk became a transit point for refugees. Here they fill out questionnaires, and volunteers check their documents. At the same time, some refugees do not have them: they burned in a city engulfed by fire. In this case, the personal data of the refugees are clarified, and the documents are restored. Refugees spend from several hours to several days in Dokuchaevsk. After an interview with the police, they are distributed to rear evacuation points.¹¹³

A CNN article published on 7 April 2022 cites the account of a man who said he was registered for filtration at this location. The article includes satellite imagery from 21 March showing buses parked outside the facility:

On March 21, Andrey said he was taken to Dokuchaevsk, 65 miles north in the Donetsk region, to what he described as a “filtration center,” where Ukrainians were processed. He was fingerprinted, photographed, his phone searched and contacts downloaded. Maxar satellite imagery showed white buses parked outside the Center of Culture and Leisure in Dokuchaevsk, where Andrey said he was registered. The “filtration center” in Dokuchaevsk

¹¹² Walker, Shaun. “Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia’s Assault.” *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

¹¹³ Васильева, Мария. “Эксклюзивные кадры: Докучаевск принимает беженцев с Украины.” *spbnevnik.ru*, April 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/U27wa>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://spbnevnik.ru/news/2022-04-05/eksklyuzivnye-kadry-dokuchaevsk-prinimaet-bezhentsev-iz-ukrainy>.

has been cited by the US ambassador to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Michael Carpenter, among other officials.¹¹⁴

Finally, the article in *The Guardian* published on 26 May 2022 cited previously includes an account from a couple who were taken to Dokuchaievsk and waited in the House of Culture before filtration:

After some days, Svitlana, Vitaly and the two children were again loaded on to buses, and driven to the town of Dokuchayevsk, where they joined hundreds of people waiting in the local Soviet-era House of Culture to undergo what the Russians have termed a “filtration” procedure. Svitlana was allowed into the mothers and children room; Vitaly was held in the main hall, where hundreds of men tried to grab a few hours sleep slumped on chairs. The smell was disgusting. The mothers and children room was hardly any better. Many of the children had diarrhoea or dysentery; Svitlana’s daughter was vomiting frequently. She herself still felt weak. There was almost no food: breakfast was tea, lunch was hot water and a biscuit.¹¹⁵

Nikolske¹¹⁶

Table 04: Filtration locations in Nikolske

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Nikolske Police Department | Registration, secondary interrogation |
| School | Nikolske School № 1 | Holding |

Filtration activities appear to have begun in Nikolske by 24 March 2022 and continued through at least 10 July 2022. The first site in the town is a police station that occupation authorities converted to a department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR.¹¹⁷ The facility has been used for registration and interrogation, and as a waypoint for onward movement to longer-term detention facilities, DPR-controlled territory, and Russia. Civilians interrogated at the police station have been strip searched, had their phones and belongings searched, and have been beaten. A school in the town also serves as a holding facility for men and women.

The first documented activities consistent with filtration in Nikolske appeared on 24 March 2022 when a DPR-affiliated Telegram channel posted a video showing a school in Nikolske that had been turned into a reception point for “refugees” from Mariupol.¹¹⁸ Yale HRL geolocated the school to

¹¹⁴ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. “Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin’s Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out.” *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>.

¹¹⁵ Walker, Shaun. “Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia’s Assault.” *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

¹¹⁶ In 2016, the Ukrainian government renamed the town from Volodarskoye (in Russian, Володарское) to Nikolske in decommunization efforts; the so-called DPR authorities have changed the name of the town back to Volodarskoye since they occupied it in 2022. Верховна Рада України. “Верховна Рада України Ухвалила Постанову ‘Про перейменування окремих населених пунктів та районів,’” February 4, 2016. <https://archive.ph/psc9>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.rada.gov.ua/news/Novyny/124616.html>.

¹¹⁷ “Telegram: Contact @dnronline.” <https://archive.ph/Kyhmk>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/61235>.

¹¹⁸ “Telegram: Contact @dnronline.” <https://archive.ph/zpQk0>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/62281>.

School № 1 in Nikolske. The Telegram post claimed that people are “evacuated” from the school to Russia and approximately 1,700 people move through the point daily.¹¹⁹ In an article by the BBC published on 25 April 2022, a couple that had arrived to Lviv from Mariupol described being taken to a Russian refugee hub at a school in Nikolske while trying to escape the city.¹²⁰

In the middle of May, the advisor to Mariupol’s mayor reported on two separate occasions that civilians had been deported to Russia from Nikolske; he alleged that over 100 people in total had been deported on those occasions.¹²¹ He further alleged that deportations from Nikolske were increasing at the time because of closure of evacuation routes to Zaporizhzhia.¹²² In an article published by *Meduza* around the same time, a Ukrainian man claimed to have undergone filtration in Nikolske at the beginning of April, where he was taken into a trailer and inspected.¹²³

Similar accounts were recorded in Belarusian and Ukrainian outlets in June and July. In an article published on 6 June 2022, a group of volunteers who had been evacuating civilians from Mariupol said they were captured and taken to a school in Nikolske where one in their party had his eyes taped shut and his hands tied.¹²⁴ Another woman in the article describes how she and her adult son were taken to the “commandant’s office” in Nikolske and detained in a “monkey house,” but there are insufficient details to determine if she is referring to the police station.¹²⁵ In an article published on 10 July 2022, a Ukrainian woman asserted that she was taken to a school in Nikolske before being brought to Russia.¹²⁶ In interviews with news outlets, many have reported being interrogated and beaten at the police station in the town (examined in detail below).¹²⁷

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Luckhurst, Toby, and Olga Pona. “‘You Can’t Imagine the Conditions’ - Accounts Emerge of Russian Detention Camps.” BBC News, April 25, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/171kl>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61208404>.

¹²¹ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/qjTtA>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1010>; Главком | Glavcom. “За день окупанти депортували до РФ 340 мариупольців (список),” May 16, 2022. <https://archive.ph/FvdAA>. <https://glavcom.ua/country/incidents/za-den-okupanti-deportuvali-do-rf-340-mariupolciv-spisok--846034.html>.

¹²² “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/qjTtA>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1010>.

¹²³ “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию.» *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

¹²⁴ Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” Медиазона Беларусь, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

¹²⁵ The term “monkey house” (Russian: обезьянник) is a slang term for a detention cell, often in a jail. Викисловарь. “обезьянник,” September 14, 2019. <https://archive.ph/BNfeq>. <https://ru.wiktionary.org/w/index.php?title=%D0%BE%D0%B1%D0%B5%D0%B7%D1%8C%D1%8F%D0%BD%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA&oldid=10802713>.

¹²⁶ Ворожко, Татьяна. “Из Мариуполя в Таганрог. Как украинцы, вынужденные эвакуироваться в Россию, выбирают оттуда.” *HB*, July 10, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eu5aW>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/opinion/voyna-kak-ukraincy-vyezshayut-iz-rossii-evakuaciya-novosti-ukrainy-50255303.html>.

¹²⁷ Bacheaga, Hugo. “The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education.” *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>; “Мариуполь. Побег из ада. Моя история.” *Ukrinform*, July 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/8St5G>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-ato/3529801-mariupol-pobeg-iz-ada-moa-istoria.html>; Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” Медиазона

Nikolske Police Department/Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs
Registration site, secondary interrogation

The registration and secondary interrogation site at the Nikolske police department appears to have activities consistent with filtration beginning 17 March 2022. It is not clear when, if ever, filtration activities ceased at this location. Open source analysis suggests that registration and secondary interrogation activities have occurred at this site, with witnesses claiming to have been beaten and held in overcrowded conditions. Imagery analysis has verified several indicators consistent with possible filtration activity, including the presence of vehicles consistent with buses at and near the site and frequent changes in the array of vehicles at and near the site.

A video posted to Telegram on 17 March 2022 on a DPR-affiliated account announced the opening of an office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Nikolske after the town was occupied.¹²⁸ The listed address is the same as that of the police department when the territory was under the control of the Ukrainian government. This confirms that the police department and the office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Nikolske are at the same location. The narrator of the video states one responsibility of the police is to identify individuals associated with Ukrainian authorities or the armed forces, which is consistent with the DPR's stated purpose for filtration activities. On 5 May 2022, the DPR published a bulletin with general information about developments in the region and where residents of Mariupol could receive social support. A section of the bulletin is dedicated to "filtration measures"; it explains the process and lists addresses to which people can report to undergo the process. This address is listed as one of those sites.¹²⁹

On 7 May 2022, an advisor to Mariupol's mayor posted on Telegram about the guidelines for filtration from the occupation authorities, including a filtration point at the Ministry of Internal Affairs building in Nikolske. It has been translated from Ukrainian:

The occupying authorities officially explained to Mariupol residents the procedure for obtaining permission for movement, including within the occupied part of Donetsk oblast:
- first you need to pass an inspection (filtration) in one of the district departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Manhush, Novoazovsk, or Nikolske, or at checkpoints in Manhush or [Bezimmenne].¹³⁰

In an article published on 16 June 2022 by the BBC, a man claimed to have been taken from Mariupol to the police station in Nikolske and beaten:

Like Andriy, Dmytro had his phone confiscated at a checkpoint as he tried to leave Mariupol in late March. Dmytro, a 34-year-old history teacher, said the soldiers came across the word "ruscist", a play on "Russia" and "fascist", in a message to a friend. The soldiers, Dmytro told me, slapped and kicked him, and "everything [happened] because I used that word."

Беларусь, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

¹²⁸ "Telegram: Contact @dnronline." <https://archive.ph/Kyhnc>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/61235>.

¹²⁹ Министерство информации ДНР. "БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

¹³⁰ "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/rUOYt>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/705>.

Dmytro said he was taken, with four other people, to a police station in the village of Nikolsky [sic], also a filtration point. "The highest-ranking officer punched me four times in the face," he said. "It seemed to be part of the procedure". His interrogators said teachers like him were spreading pro-Ukrainian propaganda. They also asked what he thought about "the events of 2014", the year that Russia annexed the Crimea peninsula and started supporting pro-Russian separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk. He replied that the conflict was known as the Russo-Ukrainian war. "They said Russia was not involved, and asked me whether I agreed that it was, in fact, a Ukrainian civil war." The officers checked his phone again, and this time found a photo of a book which had the letter H in its title. "We got you!" the soldiers told Dmytro. Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, claims his war in Ukraine is an effort to "de-Nazify" the country, and the soldiers, Dmytro said, believed he was reading books about Hitler. The next morning, Dmytro was transferred with two women to a prison in Starobesheve, a separatist-controlled village in Donetsk.¹³¹

Finally, in an article published on 18 July 2022 by the Ukrainian state news agency Ukrinform, a resident of Mariupol claimed to have gone through filtration in the police station in Nikolske. The following has been translated from Russian:

We decided to go to Donetsk, we chose the lesser of two evils. But even here we were deceived. The buses drove 20 kilometers and stopped in Nikolske (formerly the village of Volodarskoye), as it turned out later, for forced filtration. ...

Filtration was carried out at the police station. Opposite, in the building of the Prayer House, they opened a traffic police post. Everyone at least 18 years old fell under strict filtering, regardless of gender.

People waited for their turn for a month and a half. Without a filtration paper in the DPR universe, you are an insect. To return to Mariupol or travel onward, everyone had to go through a humiliating procedure.

Before filtering, I cleaned my phone, translated it into English, closed my Facebook account, deleted instant messengers, leaving only Instagram with neutral photos and Viber with casual correspondence. I went to the filtration like a gallows, any careless word and you could be recognized as unreliable. And this is a direct road to the Yelenovsky [Olenivka] colony, a real concentration camp: torture, a toilet and water once a day, no walks.

'Take off your outerwear, place your bags and personal belongings on a hanger,' commanded the DNR woman in uniform. In a cramped little room - 5 tables with fingerprint and palm scanners, next to cameras on tripods. ... Then, silently, she took my fingerprints and took pictures in full face and profile. The atmosphere in the office was tense. I saw how an adult man's fingers were shaking with fear and his palms were sweating - the device still did not work. The woman got angry and grabbed him by the fingers.

¹³¹ Bachega, Hugo. "The Russians Said Beatings Were My Re-Education." *BBC News*, June 16, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/DXDz1>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61683513>.

We were then sent for interrogation. In a separate room without witnesses, they scanned me with a glance. A hefty bully asked what my job was, how I ended up in Mariupol, where I lived in 2014, whether my relatives serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, whether I have acquaintances in Azov, and how I feel about the Right Sector.¹³² At the same time, he wrote down something on a form. Then he demanded my phone - thumbing through something for about five minutes. Finally he gave it back and forced me to sign on a piece of paper.

I left the police building with a stub of a white sheet with the stamp 'MVS DNR' [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the stamp 'Fingerprinted'.¹³³

Nikolske School №1

Holding site

The holding site at the Nikolske School №1 appears to have activities consistent with filtration beginning by 24 March 2022. It is not clear if this site has ceased operation. Imagery analysis has verified the presence of several observable indicators of possible filtration activity, including tents put up at the school between 3 April and taken down sometime between 2 May and 28 June 2022, queues of people in imagery from 23 March 2022 and 3 April 2022, and increases in the number of vehicles at and near the site.

On 24 March 2022 a DPR-affiliated Telegram channel posted that a school in Nikolske had been turned into a reception point for evacuees from Mariupol. The post included images of the head of the DPR (Denis Pushilin) visiting the site. Yale HRL has geolocated the photos to School №1. The following is translated from Russian:

Denis Pushilin, together with Andrei Turchak and Deputy of the State Duma of the Russian Federation Dmitry Sablin, visited a temporary accommodation center organized on the territory of one of the schools in the settlement of Volodarskoye. Residents of Mariupol, other villages, and cities arrive here, which are subjected to shelling by the armed formations of Ukraine. People are provided with essentials, medical assistance, and then evacuated to the Russian Federation. Every day, an average of about 1,700 people enter and, accordingly, leave the point.¹³⁴

On 31 March 2022 a DPR/LPR-affiliated Telegram channel posted a video allegedly showing the processing of civilians from Mariupol at School №1. The video shows a registration process set up in the school and a table where people can receive hygiene products. The following text from the post has been translated from Russian:

Refugees from Mariupol are housed in a school in the settlement of Volodarskoye – most of all people lack mobile communications to call their relatives, Readovka reports.

¹³² The Right Sector (Ukrainian: Правий сектор) is a radical Ukrainian far-right movement and later political party formed during the Euromaidan protests that started in November 2013. See: Refworld. "Ukraine: Information on the Right Sector, Including Affiliated Groups and Activities; Involvement in Eastern Ukraine; Relations with Authorities (2013-July 2016)." Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, July 22, 2016. <https://archive.ph/ntJ2Z>. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/57b6d7424.html>.

¹³³ An included photograph of her pass shows the words, "DPR Ministry of Internal Affairs / Volodarskyi District Department". "Мариуполь. Побег из ада. Моя история." *Ukrinform*, July 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/8St5G>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-ato/3529801-mariupol-pobeg-iz-ada-moa-istoria.html>.

¹³⁴ "Telegram: Contact @dnronline." <https://archive.ph/zpQk0>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/62281>.

Volodarskoye, a settlement near Mariupol, is a stronghold of hope for many people who have moved from basements and half-destroyed houses to a local school that houses refugees. From here, people go by bus to Rostov-on-Don, receive humanitarian aid, and also call their relatives if the opportunity arises. Such an opportunity appeared the other day, when our special correspondent Kirill Imashev visited the former educational institution, having a mobile phone with a connection.¹³⁵

Finally, In articles published in the BBC, the Ukrainian outlet *NV*, and the Belarusian branch of *Mediazona*, Ukrainians claimed to have been taken to a school in Nikolske: in some cases, before being sent to Russia; in other cases, before being detained elsewhere.¹³⁶ There are insufficient details in the articles to determine to which school the witnesses are referring.

¹³⁵ “Telegram: Contact @swodki.” <https://archive.ph/2fK51>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/swodki/57051>.

¹³⁶ Luckhurst, Toby, and Olga Pona. “‘You Can’t Imagine the Conditions’ - Accounts Emerge of Russian Detention Camps.” *BBC News*, April 25, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/171kl>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61208404>; Ворожко, Татьяна. “Из Мариуполя в Таганрог. Как украинцы, вынужденные эвакуироваться в Россию, выбирают отсюда.” *НВ*, July 10, 2022. <https://archive.ph/eu5aW>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/opinion/voyna-kak-ukraincy-vyezshayut-iz-rossii-evakuaciya-novosti-ukrainy-50255303.html>; Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” *Медиазона Беларусь*, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

Volnovakha Correctional Colony № 120 | near Olenivka, Volnovakha raion *Long-term detention site*

Open source evidence indicates that this prison is used as a long-term detention facility for two populations of detainees: civilians who do not pass filtration and prisoners of war (POWs), namely individuals who surrendered after the siege of Azovstal. Civilians are allegedly kept for “administrative detention” and notable detainees include captured volunteers who were helping evacuate people from Mariupol.¹³⁷ Filtration activities appear to have begun in Volnovakha Correctional Colony № 120 beginning at least in late March and to have continued through the date of publication. Reports include claims of overcrowded cells, insufficient room to lay down, little or no access to water and hygienic facilities, insufficient and irregular nutrition, forced labor, beatings, and torture. Civilians and POWs are housed separately with variable conditions. Civilian detainees are often released abruptly and without a filtration certificate; some claim the minimum length of stay for administrative detention is 30 days, while some civilians were held for over 100 days. There are two particular accounts of note in the open source from this facility: in the first, one detainee claims a fellow inmate spent a work shift digging graves on the territory of the colony in late March or early April.¹³⁸ In the second, a detainee alleges the administration of the prison was taken over by Russian authorities from DPR authorities two days before the mass arrival of POWs from Azovstal.¹³⁹

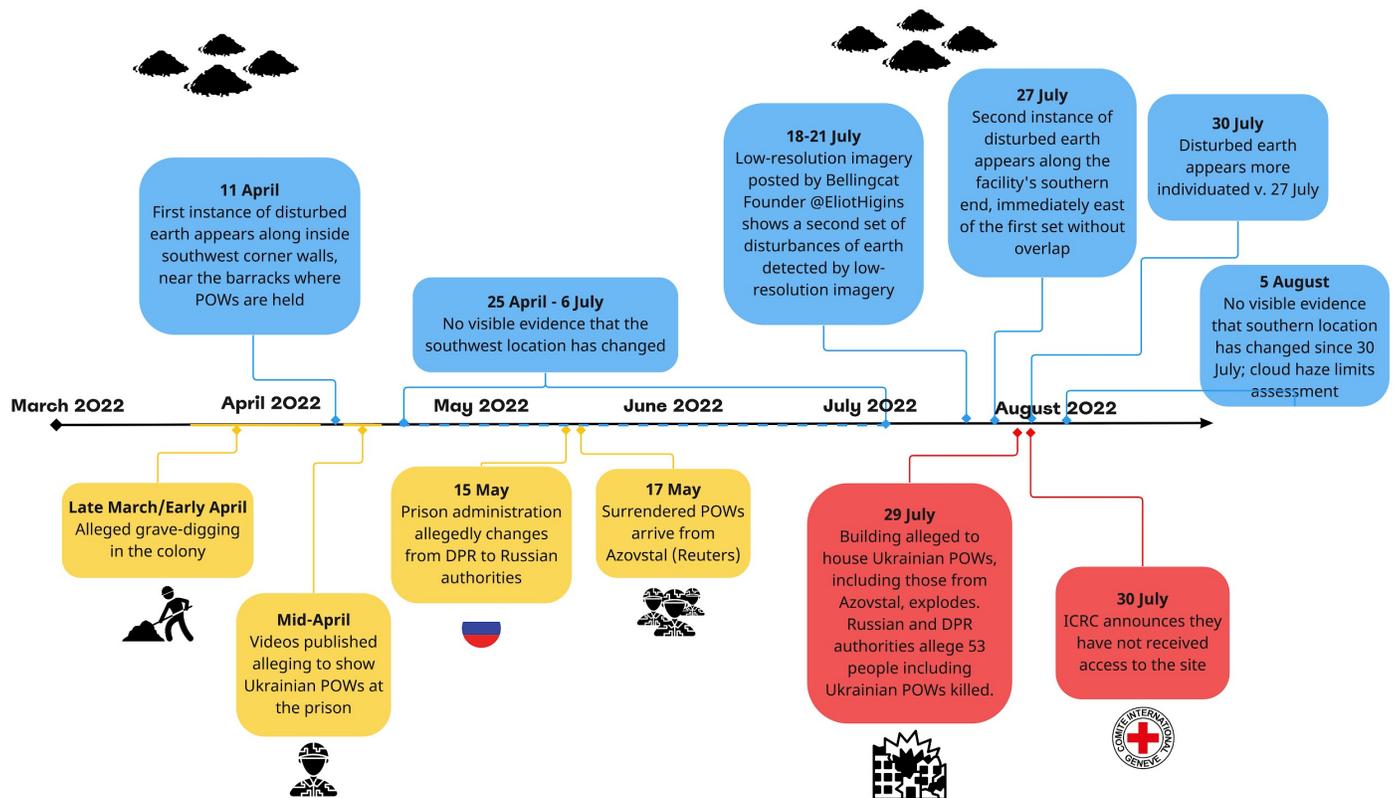
Analysis of available imagery between 11 April 2022 and 27 July 2022 capture two distinct sets of earth disturbances consistent with possible individual and mass graves visible in the southwest corner of the colony. Earth disturbances are still visible in imagery from 30 July 2022.

¹³⁷ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини,” July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalay-tri-misyaci-filtraci%d1%97-v-kativnyax-okupovano%d1%97-donechchini/>.

¹³⁸ Лопатіна, Ірина. “Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку — свідчення українця, який вирвавсь.” *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-koloniyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

¹³⁹ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>.

Fig. 03: Timeline of Major Open Source Events and Earth Disturbances at Volnovakha Correctional Colony №120



A Twitter thread posted on 26 April 2022 by an unaffiliated OSINT (open-source intelligence) analyst geolocated two videos published in mid-April alleging to show evacuated Azovstal prisoners of war in a penal colony, concluding the videos were shot at this location.¹⁴⁰

In an article published 6 May 2022 in the independent Ukrainian outlet NV, an anonymous civilian from outside Mariupol described being taken to a prison colony near Donetsk where he was detained in inhumane conditions for 30 days. He says a fellow inmate claims to have dug graves on the territory of the colony. He describes the arrival of a group of volunteers to the colony at the end of March who had documents from the Red Cross, an event recorded by other sources at the same location. The following is translated from Ukrainian:

I stayed in the civilian cell. At the beginning of April, there were already about forty people in it. Inside there were no beds. We slept on the wooden floor. There was no water, and for forty people we were given five to ten liters of water at most. Mainly in our cell were

¹⁴⁰ Karolgoal [@kargolow]. "My First Thread: Around April 18, the Video of Ukrainian Prisoners of War Appeared on Social Media (See First Screenshot). This Was No Surprise That Geolocation of That Object Is Valuable. (1/11) <https://t.co/Nw6qzRjMnt>." *Twitter*, April 26, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ufm71>. <https://twitter.com/kargolow/status/1518920554883035140>.

residents of Mariupol. About a third were those who did not pass the so-called “filtering” at roadblocks.

It was impossible to understand the logic of their detention at all. For example, there was a man who had a photo of the Ukrainian flag found on his phone in deleted photos. Moreover, he got out of the shelling with his wife and two children. However, no one paid attention to this - the woman and her children were left alone, and he was brought to this colony near Donetsk after failing to “filter”. At the end of March, volunteers who took people out of Mariupol and brought the “humanitarian truck” to the city were put in a cell. They even had documents from the Red Cross, but it did not help them - all fifteen people were put in a cell.

I also remember one episode from that time. New captured military personnel were brought to the colony. They started to beat them. The guards turned on the radio for the entire prison and at that moment they beat the prisoners. And every day in the prison some of the detainees did some work in the kitchen or some other tasks. The man who was on similar duty that day, upon returning to the cell, said that today he was digging graves right on the territory of the colony.¹⁴¹

In an interview published by the US-government funded RFE/RL outlet Current Time on 18 May 2022, an advisor to Mariupol’s mayor described the conditions in the prison and alleged that three to four thousand Mariupol residents who did not pass filtration were detained there. He also alleged that both Russian FSB agents and DPR state security agents work there. Footage of buses allegedly bringing prisoners from Azovstal to the prison accompanies the interview, which Yale HRL geolocated to this location.¹⁴² On the same day, a pro-Kremlin Telegram channel shared a video that alleges to show a representative from the Ukrainian armed forces checking on the conditions of the POWs from Azovstal. Yale HRL geolocated the video but is unable to conclude whether or not there are civilians present among the group shown.¹⁴³ Likewise, a video shared by a war blogger on 27 May 2022 on Telegram alleges to show prisoners from Azovstal detained in a prison. Yale HRL similarly geolocated the video but is unable to conclude whether or not there are civilians present among the people shown.¹⁴⁴

An article published on 28 May 2022 by the Ukrainian NGO Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) reports on the experience of a volunteer, Igor, who was evacuating people from Mariupol when he was stopped at a checkpoint by Russia’s forces and detained. Later, a stranger called his mother to say her son was being detained in this prison colony, and in April she saw a video of

¹⁴¹ Лопатіна, Ірина. “Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку — свідчення українця, який вирвався.” *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-kolonyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

¹⁴² Александров, Алексей. “Что известно о колонии в Еленовке, куда доставили украинских военных из ‘Азовстали’.” Рассказывает советник мэра Мариуполя.” *Настоящее Время*, May 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/K3amc>. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/ukraine-russia-war-mariupol-azovstal/31856546.html>.

¹⁴³ “Telegram: Contact @swodki.” <https://archive.ph/oUi6s>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/swodki/98736>.

¹⁴⁴ “Telegram: Contact @RtrDonetsk.” <https://archive.ph/N1Lif>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/RtrDonetsk/6200>.

prisoners in the colony in which she recognized him.¹⁴⁵ Igor later gave an account of his experience in an article published in early July by MIHR. The following has been translated from Ukrainian:

The disciplinary isolation cell, or the so-called DIZO, where Igor was initially placed in Olenivka, is a dark two-story room where it is cold and people sit without water and the opportunity to maintain hygiene. There were 28 people in the cell. They slept on mattresses thrown on the floor. There were not enough mattresses for everyone. Someone would lay on a bench near the table, someone on the table itself. They were fed three times a day, but one portion could fit in the palm of your hand. Sometimes they forgot to feed. After a few days in the DIZO, Igor was transferred to a barrack. This is also a two-story building, but with its own territory where you can walk freely. The convoy watches only from behind the fence. Each barrack had elders who communicated with the colony's leadership. There were 150 people in the first barrack where Igor lived. ... Life in the barracks went according to schedule. At 6 in the morning, everyone lines up and guards count people. Sometimes - by surnames. Breakfast at 11 o'clock. Four people, also prisoners, walk around with a large pot and distribute gruel. There are 30 plates and about 15 spoons for 150 people in the barracks. "There was always a feeling of hunger there, even when you've eaten. You stand, hungry, waiting for your turn to eat, and be hungry again," says Igor Talalay.

He stayed in Olenivka for almost a month — from March 23 to April 20. It is worth explaining that this is not even a punishment, but "administrative detention". In the so-called "DPR", people can be detained for a period of 10 to 60 days, if they have not even violated anything. After that, if no other case is fabricated, the person is released. ... One of the hostages with whom the boy befriended is a military man who fought near the Donetsk airport in 2016. After the full-scale invasion, the man went to fight again, but was captured in Mariupol. After being detained, he was tortured with electric current: his hands and feet were soaked in water, electric wires were attached to them, through which current was passed. ...

In Olenivka, people were often transferred from one barrack to another. Igor was lucky with the last barrack – there was water and soap. For the first time since his detention, he was able to wash his clothes and wash himself. But soon they came for him. They took him to the temporary detention facility – they had to sign an extended administrative protocol, or, as the boy himself calls it: "Re-sign the sanatorium contract."

Then there were two days in the ITT [ізолятор тимчасового тримання – a cell in a police station], during which the protocol was never signed. Then again a short return to Olenivka, which was overcrowded at that time — instead of 1,700 people, which the colony accommodates, there were almost 3,000.

"I ended up in the DIZO for the second time. There were 48 people in a room for six people. You had to sit with your knees under you — that's all your space. There, the toilet was enclosed by two walls – one person was sitting on one, and two were on the other," says

¹⁴⁵ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Вивозив цивільних з Маріуполя і потрапив у заручники: історія волонтера Ігоря Талалая," May 28, 2022. <https://archive.ph/mXsSH>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/vivoziv-civilnix-z-mariupolya-i-potrapiv-u-zaruchniki-istoriya-volontera-igorja-talalaya/>.

Igor Talalay. After a day in such conditions, he was returned to a more comfortable ITT. He did not leave there again, he was there from April 20 to June 14. ... Igor describes the moment of release ironically: “I was at my place of deployment and had a great time playing backgammon, until they came for me and called my last name.”

They put him behind the ITT fence without any belongings and even without a certificate of release. They said to go to UBOZ [Organized Crime Control Department]. Igor got there only in the evening. Since there were no superiors, he was locked in a cell again. In the morning, he was issued an indefinite certificate of passing the filtration with a stamp.”¹⁴⁶

Another account from a civilian detainee published by the same NGO in August corroborates many details about the violence and poor conditions in the prison.¹⁴⁷ He also describes the “reception” for POWs at the prison, in which men in balaclavas would beat the new arrivals as they entered the prison with instruments including shovel handles, batons, and belts with metal plates. Another former civilian detainee at the prison describes a similar “welcome party” in an article in *The Independent*, claiming they were threatened with guns and often heard the screams of people being tortured.¹⁴⁸

In a 2 June 2022 Telegram post, an advisor to Mariupol’s mayor said that the prison is used for detaining civilians who do not “pass” filtration. The following has been translated from Ukrainian: Now it has become known about the second filtration prison on the basis of the former Volnovakha Correctional Colony No. 120. Judging by the information, this is where the “unreliable” are kept until sentencing or undergoing filtration. Those who simply turned out to be suspicious. ... It is here that more than 20 volunteers are kept who carried out the evacuation of Mariupol citizens during the evacuation period. ... An interesting fact about the volunteers. Almost all of them received certificates from the Red Cross of Ukraine. Now it becomes clear why the so-called DPR launched a program to discredit the Red Cross. To avoid accusations of arresting their volunteers.”¹⁴⁹

A video posted on 2 June 2022 on a pro-Russia military Telegram channel claims to show prisoners from the Azov Regiment in a prison in Olenivka. Yale HRL geolocated the video but is unable to conclude whether or not there are civilians present among the people shown.¹⁵⁰ On 2 July 2022 The Mariupol City Council wrote on Telegram that over 10,000 Mariupol citizens had been detained in prisons on the territory of the DPR. The following has been translated from Ukrainian:

More than 10,000 Mariupol citizens are in the “prisons” of the so-called “DPR”. Peaceful, civilian residents were detained by the occupiers and sent to places of deprivation of

¹⁴⁶ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини,” July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalaj-tri-misyaci-filtraci%d1%97-v-kativnyax-okupovano%d1%97-donechchini/>.

¹⁴⁷ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Сто днів в Оленівській колонії: «Вечорами було чути благання про допомогу,” August 13, 2022. <https://archive.ph/tx7KN>. Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/sto-dniv-v-olenivskij-koloni%d1%97-vechorami-bulo-chutno-blagannya-pro-dopomogu/>.

¹⁴⁸ Trew, Bel. “Inside Olenivka, the Russian Prison Camp Where Ukrainians Vanish.” *The Independent*, August 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/53SBs>. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-war-news-olenivka-prison-b2149435.html>.

¹⁴⁹ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/8bXsg>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1217>.

¹⁵⁰ “Telegram: Contact @milinfolive.” <https://archive.ph/TJa6b>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/milinfo/84416>.

freedom. It is known about four such prisons: two in Olenivka, Donetsk SIZO [pre-trial detention center], and Makiivka.¹⁵¹ People are in terrible and inhumane conditions, like in a concentration camp. 10 people are locked in cramped cells 2 by 3 meters each. The people of Mariupol hardly get water and food. They are not taken outside. They have no access to normal medical care and are subjected to various forms of torture, from psychological to physical.¹⁵²

In an article published on 21 July 2022, a police officer from Mariupol claimed to have been detained in this prison, experiencing inhumane conditions including beatings and a lack of drinking water. He claimed civilians were held there in addition to POWs from the Azov Regiment, and said military prisoners were kept in the barracks while most civilians were in disciplinary isolation cells. He also claimed that the prison wardens would rotate in and out of the prison every two to three weeks from other prisons on the territory of the DPR.¹⁵³

In an article published by the outlet *Ukrainska Pravda* on 22 July 2022, three volunteers related their experience in the prison, describing inhumane conditions and the presence of other civilians.¹⁵⁴ One of the prisoners alleges that Russian authorities arrived at the prison two days before the arrival of POWs from Azovstal to take over its administration; prior, the prison had been run by DPR authorities.¹⁵⁵ In the article, the volunteers described their experience as follows (translated from Ukrainian):

“When we were brought to the territory of the colony, we saw a depressing picture: abandoned territories with several two-story concrete buildings. One of these buildings was called DIZO and was a disciplinary isolation cell.

These buildings have not been operated since 2010 and were subject to write-off. This territory could not be intended for the maintenance of absolutely anyone, especially people,” says Hanna Vorosheva.

In the building with 2 floors there were 19 cells, which could accommodate no more than a hundred people.

The occupiers enlisted prisoners in various types of work in the colony – one night, Hanna was called in order to conduct a “census” in the cells.

¹⁵¹ In initial reporting, it was often unclear there are two different prisons used for detaining Ukrainians located near two different villages named Olenivka in Donetsk oblast – Yenakieve Correctional Colony № 52 in Bakhmut raion northeast of the city of Donetsk, and Volnovakha Correctional Colony № 120 in Volnovakha raion southwest of the city of Donetsk.

¹⁵² “Telegram: Contact @mariupolrada.” <https://archive.ph/IG1E5>. Accessed August 5, 2022.
<https://t.me/mariupolrada/10079>.

¹⁵³ Даниленко, Ольга. “Я пройшов концтабір в Оленівці, Азовцям навіть технічну воду не давали – поліцейський з Маріуполя.” *Великий Київ*, July 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IPvsI>. <https://bigkyiv.com.ua/ya-projshov-koncztabir-v-olenivczii-azovczyam-navit-tehnicnu-vodu-ne-davaly-policzejskyj-z-mariupolya/>.

¹⁵⁴ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортурі і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>.

¹⁵⁵ According to Reuters, the POWs arrived on May 17. See: Liffey, Kevin. “Azovstal Fighters Brought to Russian-Controlled Olenivka after Surrender.” *Reuters*, May 17, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Y9Fcd>. Accessed August 15, 2022.
<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/azovstal-fighters-brought-russian-controlled-olenivka-after-surrender-witness-2022-05-17/>.

“That’s how I was able to get to the second floor of the disciplinary isolation cell and see with my own eyes that 55 people were kept at once in a cell that was designed to hold 10 people and had an area of no more than 20 square meters. They slept in turns,” the volunteer says.

All the cells were overfilled, but the number of prisoners increased every day. According to Hanna, up to 800 people were kept at once in a building which was designed for about 100 people.

At first, the captured volunteers were kept in an isolation cell, which the guards called “the pit”. There was no water supply there, says Hanna.

“The sewage was arranged in such a way that everything accumulated in the drain hole and it was always blocked. The first few weeks were especially terrible because we were not allowed to use the toilet and it was a special kind of torture. ...”

The captive women were not given pads and other hygiene products.

“Some of us had to go through 3-4 menstrual cycles without these products. It was separate torture – you can’t call it anything else. It was impossible to obtain these products,” the woman recalls.

Many cells lacked boards to sleep on, so prisoners had to sleep on concrete floors.

“Drinking water was a particular deficiency. We could count on water in the amount of 150-200 ml per person per day. Sometimes we didn’t get even that,” says Hanna.¹⁵⁶

An article published almost two months earlier on 2 June 2022 by the independent Belarusian news source *Mediazona* listed as prisoners the three volunteers who later testified to their experience in the *Ukrainska Pravda* article.¹⁵⁷

In an interview published by *The Guardian* on 6 August 2022, the same volunteer who provided her account to *Ukrainska Pravda* gave further details about conditions in the camp and describes often hearing the screams of POWs being tortured. Another detainee describes the death of a fellow inmate who was “regularly” beaten while imprisoned:

The atmosphere changed when around 2,000 Azov fighters were bussed in on the morning of 17 May, she said. Russian flags were raised and the DNR colours taken down. Guards were initially wary of the new prisoners. Later they talked openly about how they were going to brutalise and humiliate them, she said.

¹⁵⁶ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>.

¹⁵⁷ Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” *Медиазона Беларусь*, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

Conditions for the female inmates were grim. She said they were not tortured but received barely any food – 50g of bread for dinner and sometimes porridge. “It was fit for pigs,” she said. She suspected the prison governor siphoned off money allocated for meals. The toilets overflowed and the women were given no sanitary products. The cells were so overcrowded they slept in shifts. ...

Vorosheva said the Red Cross were allowed into the camp in May. She said the Russians took the visitors to a specially renovated room and did not allow them to talk independently to the prisoners. “It was a show,” she said. “We were asked to give our clothes’ size and told the Red Cross would hand out something. Nothing reached us.”

Other detainees confirmed Vorosheva’s version of events and said the Azov soldiers were treated worse than civilians. Dmitry Bodrov, a 32-year-old volunteer worker, told the *Wall Street Journal* the guards took anyone they suspected of misbehaviour to a special disciplinary section of the camp for beatings.

They emerged limping and moaning, he said. Some captives were forced to crawl back to their cells. Another prisoner, Stanislav Hlushkov, said an inmate who was regularly beaten was found dead in solitary confinement. Orderlies put a sheet over his head, loaded him into a mortuary van and told fellow inmates he had “committed suicide”.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁸ Harding, Luke. “‘Absolute Evil’: Inside the Russian Prison Camp Where Dozens of Ukrainians Burned to Death.” *The Guardian*, August 6, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/Prz8j>.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/aug/06/russian-prison-camp-ukrainians-deaths-donetsk>.

Other Towns & Villages in the Filtration System

The following towns and villages are confirmed nodes in the filtration system in Donetsk oblast with activities including registration, holding, secondary interrogation, and detention.

Buhas

Table 05: Filtration location in Buhas

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Village Administration Building | Buhas Village Administration | Registration |

Registration activities have been reported in Buhas since at least early May 2022 and continued through at least the end of that month. Buhas is a village 60 kilometers north of Mariupol in Volnovakha raion. Russia-aligned forces took control of the village in late February 2022.¹⁵⁹ On 6 March 2022, international journalists were permitted into the town to photograph DNR forces handing out humanitarian aid in front of the village administration building.¹⁶⁰ In early May, this building was reported to be a part of the filtration system by former Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights, Lyudmila Denisova, on Telegram.¹⁶¹ On 5 May 2022, the building appeared listed in a bulletin published by the DPR on a list of locations where residents of “liberated” areas could report to undergo mandatory filtration checks.¹⁶² In late April, a post was made on an online forum that appears to be a public appeal to politician Andrei Anatolyevich regarding conditions in Donskoye, a village approximately 13 kilometers south of Buhas.¹⁶³ It asserts that people in the village are unable to get to Donetsk to see a doctor or obtain medicine until they get a certificate of filtration from Buhas. The author describes a wait of several days to obtain such a certificate. On 24 May 2022, *Ukrainska Pravda* published an account of a student who passed through filtration in Buhas after losing his spot in line in Dokuchaievsk.¹⁶⁴ He suggested the Buhas filtration process was less invasive than in Dokuchaievsk – he was not asked for his phone, for example.¹⁶⁵ Buhas was also

¹⁵⁹ Al Jazeera English. “Ukraine War: Buhas Village under Separatist Control,” March 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/DXV10>. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeCC3udA82o>; “Telegram: Contact @anna_news.” <https://archive.ph/IAU43>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://t.me/anna_news/22537.

¹⁶⁰ Al Jazeera English. “Ukraine War: Buhas Village under Separatist Control,” March 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/DXV10>. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HeCC3udA82o>; Getty Images. “The Convoy, Carrying Humanitarian Aid Sent by the Russian Emergencies...” <https://archive.ph/QKPsA>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://www.gettyimages.com.au/detail/news-photo/the-convoy-carrying-humanitarian-aid-sent-by-the-russian-news-photo/1238990223>.

¹⁶¹ “Денісова Назвала Місця Розташування «фільтраційних Таборів» На Донеччини і Луганщини.” *Ukrinform*, May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/xSZ00>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3475643-denisova-nazvala-misca-roztasuvanna-filtracijnih-taboriv-na-doneccini-i-lugansini.html>.

¹⁶² Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMA>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

¹⁶³ Лица власти. “Гибнет Освобожденный Поселок,” April 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/jlTDi>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <http://xn--80aafwdnd3cj8a.xn--p1ai/vopros/91987/gibnet-osvobodennyi-poselok.html>.

¹⁶⁴ “I Was the Only Man of Conscription Age Who Left the “Donetsk People’s Republic” for Russia’: A Resident of Volnovakha Who Escaped the Occupation Tells the Truth about ‘Filtration.’” *Ukrainska Pravda*, May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VWY2P>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/articles/2022/05/24/7348127/>.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

listed as a filtration location in another DPR publication from 24 May 2022 and in a recent report on the filtration system published by the Ukrainian Media Initiative for Human Rights.¹⁶⁶

Donetsk

Table 06: Filtration locations in Donetsk

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Donetsk Headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| Prison | Donetsk Pre-Trial Detention Center | Detention |
| Prison | Izolyatsia Prison | Detention |
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Directorate for Combating Organized Crime | Registration, secondary interrogation, detention |

The city of Donetsk has been held by the DPR since 2014 and is its administrative center. Filtration activities have been identified at four locations in Donetsk since at least early April 2022 and continued through at least the end of May. In two of the facilities, witnesses reported overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, beatings, and torture. While there are reports of civilians being taken to Donetsk for more routine filtration, a common theme is that individuals who do not pass previous rounds of screening are taken to Donetsk for further questioning.¹⁶⁷

On 25 April 2022, the BBC published an account of a man who went through filtration in Nikolske, and he claimed anyone suspected of being tied to the Ukrainian cause was sent to Donetsk “for further investigation or murder” and that “everybody was afraid to be taken to Donetsk.”¹⁶⁸ Similarly, on 11 May 2022, *Meduza* reported on a man who went through filtration in Starobesheve and claimed the people he knew who did not make it through filtration were sent to Donetsk and haven’t been heard from since.¹⁶⁹ One man, interviewed by Ukrainian journalist Nikolay Osychenko, described being sent through multiple filtration locations and spending 50 days in a prison in Donetsk.¹⁷⁰

¹⁶⁶ Общественное Движение “Донецкая Республика.” “Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?,” May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/3MzMt>. <http://oddr.info/gde-proiti-proverku-mvd-zhitelej-osvobodennyh-territorij/>; “Filtration’ as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing.” Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE_Filtration_eng_web.pdf.

¹⁶⁷ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. “Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin’s Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out.” *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>.

¹⁶⁸ Luckhurst, Toby, and Olga Pona. “You Can’t Imagine the Conditions’ - Accounts Emerge of Russian Detention Camps.” *BBC News*, April 25, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://archive.ph/171kl>. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61208404>.

¹⁶⁹ “Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию».” *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

¹⁷⁰ Осыченко, Николай. <https://archive.ph/HIMO2>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/n.osychenko/videos/1486881658428501/>.

Similarly, a woman who spoke with *Mediazona* described being taken to multiple sites before being interrogated in Donetsk at the Organized Crime Control Department (Ukrainian: Upravlinnya po borot'bi z orhanizovanoyu zlochynnistyuu – UBOZ).¹⁷¹ While she was then released with a certificate of filtration, her son and others in their volunteer organization were allegedly sent to Olenivka.¹⁷² On 6 May 2022, *NV* interviewed a man who reported being taken to Donetsk UBOZ with a bag over his head and hands taped behind his back.¹⁷³ He described being interrogated for five hours during which time he was beaten and placed in a chair wired to electrical currents, after which he was transferred to the Donetsk pre-trial detention center.¹⁷⁴ He went on to describe beatings, over-crowded cells, and squalid conditions at a prison colony just outside of Donetsk.¹⁷⁵ Another civilian interviewed by the Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) reported being choked and hit with a machine gun while his hands were tied at UBOZ.¹⁷⁶ This is consistent with descriptions from a man interviewed by *Ukrainska Pravda* who described being held at UBOZ, blindfolded with a bag over his head and hands wrapped with tape, and being beaten while former soldiers and other civilians were tortured with electricity.¹⁷⁷ He described the conditions there as being overcrowded with only a bottle for a toilet for 25 people.¹⁷⁸ The allegation that civilians were beaten while blindfolded and bound was also reported by *Big Kyiv* who interviewed a former police officer who was taken to UBOZ.¹⁷⁹

The pre-trial detention center was also listed by the Mariupol City Council and the former Ombudswoman for Human Rights as being part of the filtration system.¹⁸⁰ In a recent report on the filtration system by MIHR, an interviewee claimed, “It’s rare for them to bring you to the temporary detention center of Donetsk and not to torture.”¹⁸¹ He claimed to have witnessed the use of electric shocks against members of the Ukrainian military there.

¹⁷¹ Нестерова, Елизавета, and Михаил Полозняков. “Пленники Еленовки. Что мы знаем об украинских волонтерах, которых с конца марта удерживают в колонии на территории ДНР.” *Медиазона Беларусь*, June 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/y5Ma1>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mediazona.by/article/2022/06/06/olenivka>.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Лопатіна, Ірина. “Як викрадають людей в окупації і що відбувається з полоненими у Донецьку — свідчення українця, який вирвався.” *НВ*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/XrTrr>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukr/ukraine/events/shcho-vidbuvayetsya-z-ukrajincyami-v-sizo-ta-koloniyah-tak-zvanoji-dnr-rozpovid-ochevidcya-50239703.html>.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини,” July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalaj-tri-misyaci-filtraci%d1%97-v-kativnyax-okupovano%d1%97-donechchini/>.

¹⁷⁷ Барсукова, Олена. “Волонтери з Маріуполя Розповіли Про Тортури і Полон у 120 Колонії в Оленівці.” *Українська правда*, July 27, 2022. <https://archive.ph/o5Yiq>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>.

¹⁷⁸ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. “Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини,” July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalaj-tri-misyaci-filtraci%d1%97-v-kativnyax-okupovano%d1%97-donechchini/>.

¹⁷⁹ Даниленко, Ольга. “Я пройшов концтабір в Оленівці, Азовцям навіть технічну воду не давали – поліцейський з Маріуполя.” *Великий Київ*, July 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IPvsl>. <https://bigkyiv.com.ua/ya-projshov-koncztabir-v-olenivczii-azovczyam-navit-tehnicnu-vodu-ne-davaly-policejskij-z-mariupolya/>.

¹⁸⁰ “Telegram: Contact @mariupolrada.” <https://archive.ph/IG1E5>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://t.me/mariupolrada/10079>; Интерфакс-Украина. “На временно оккупированных территориях РФ проводит ‘фильтрацию’ украинцев – омбудсмен,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/mmOMZ>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://ru.interfax.com.ua/news/general/829771.html>.

¹⁸¹ “‘Filtration’ as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing.” Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE_Filtration_eng_web.pdf.

Another site, the prison “Izolyatsia”, is allegedly used to house prisoners considered to be “of a higher ‘level of danger’,” according to an advisor to the mayor of Mariupol.¹⁸² These include POWs as well as local civilian administrators and politicians.¹⁸³ The prison – located in a former arts center – has been in use since 2014 and has allegedly been the site of widespread torture.¹⁸⁴ Finally, in addition to the aforementioned sites, a bulletin released by DPR authorities on 5 May listed the Donetsk Ministry of Internal Affairs building as a point to which civilians can report to undergo the filtration process.¹⁸⁵ It was also listed online on a DPR-affiliated website on 24 May.¹⁸⁶

Kozatske

Table 07: Filtration location in Kozatske

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| School | Chelyuskinska School | Registration, Holding |

Filtration activities have been reported as occurring in Kozatske since at least mid-April 2022 and continuing through at least the end of May. Witnesses who were held at the school reported insufficient food, unsanitary conditions, and beatings.

Kozatske is a village located 34 kilometers northeast of Mariupol. On 4 May 2022, Petro Andriushchenko, Advisor to the Mayor of Mariupol, reported that all of the men from three districts of Mariupol (Huhlyno, Myrny, and Volonterivka) were taken to camps at Bezimenne and Kozatske.¹⁸⁷ On 6 May, the former Ombudswoman for Human Rights, Lyudmila Denisova, also reported the Kozatske camp’s existence.¹⁸⁸ In an article published by *Babel.ua* on 12 May 2022, a woman from Myrni district described her husband being held in a school in Kozatske for four

¹⁸² Дом. “Фильтрацию не проходят 10% мариупольцев, их отправляют в две тюрьмы, — Андриющенко,” May 12, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/Vxwal>. <https://kanaldom.tv/filtracziyu-ne-prohodyat-10-mariupolczev-ih-otpravlyayut-v-dve-tyurmy-andryushhenko/>.

¹⁸³ Kirby, Dean. “Thousands of Mariupol Survivors Being Detained and ‘tortured’ in Russian-Controlled Prisons.” *Inews.Co.Uk*, May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pv446>. <https://inews.co.uk/news/mariupol-civilians-prison-detained-russia-putin-filtration-1637957>;

Дом. “Фильтрацию не проходят 10% мариупольцев, их отправляют в две тюрьмы, — Андриющенко,” May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Vxwal>. <https://kanaldom.tv/filtracziyu-ne-prohodyat-10-mariupolczev-ih-otpravlyayut-v-dve-tyurmy-andryushhenko/>.

¹⁸⁴ Aseyev, Stanislav. “‘Isolation’: Donetsk’s Torture Prison.” *Harvard International Review*, December 4, 2020.

<https://archive.ph/jyoqC>. <https://hir.harvard.edu/donetsks-isolation-torture-prison/>; Kirby, Dean. “Thousands of Mariupol Survivors Being Detained and ‘tortured’ in Russian-Controlled Prisons.” *inews.co.uk*, May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pv446>. <https://inews.co.uk/news/mariupol-civilians-prison-detained-russia-putin-filtration-1637957>.

¹⁸⁵ Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf;

Интерфакс-Украина. “На временно оккупированных территориях РФ проводит ‘филтрацию’ украинцев – омбудсмен,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/mmOMZ>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://ru.interfax.com.ua/news/general/829771.html>.

¹⁸⁶ Общественное Движение “Донецкая Республика.” “Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?,” May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/3MzMt> <http://oddr.info/gde-projti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobodzhennyh-territorij/>.

¹⁸⁷ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/CUVsY>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/665>.

¹⁸⁸ Denisova, Ludmila. “About ‘Filtration’ Camps.” *The Odessa Journal*, May 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/W7oOg>. <https://odessa-journal.com/about-filtration-camps/>.

weeks, while other men were let go within a day.¹⁸⁹ HRL geolocated photos in the article described as being from her husband to the Chelyuskinska school. On 19 May 2022, *inews.co.uk* quoted Kharkiv Human Rights Group alleging that men from Mariupol were being held in a Kozatske school building.¹⁹⁰ The article also quoted a woman who said her partner was held at Kozatske where often inebriated guards would discipline men by putting them in a pit. On 12 June 2022, Telegram channel Mariupol Now shared a message from a subscriber who said they were from Mariupol and had been held in Bezimenne and Kozatske for a total of 41 days.¹⁹¹ On 30 June 2022, *Vchasno* published an account of a survivor of the filtration system who said that all of the men from Myrni district of Mariupol – approximately 200 – were taken to a school in Kozatske.¹⁹² He described staying in a classroom with the men from his street and witnessing beatings. Additionally, he claimed a man died after authorities refused to call an ambulance and his body was left out in the corridor before being put in the sports hall where it stayed for two weeks. He described being allowed to leave the premises with permission and that WiFi worked in the facility at night so he could coordinate his plans for after he was released. Two media sources describe widespread sickness in the camp.¹⁹³

Makiivka

Table 08: Filtration locations in Makiivka

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Location with more than one potential geolocation option | | |
| Prison | Option 1: Makiivka Correctional Colony № 32 | Detention |
| School | Option 2: Western Correctional Colony № 97 | Detention |

Filtration-related activities have been reported at a prison in Makiivka since at least late April 2022, continuing through at least the beginning of July. There are two potential sites for this facility, but open source evidence is insufficient to determine which may be used for filtration.

¹⁸⁹ Rasulova, Oksana. “The Russians Send Men from Mariupol to Filtration Camps. They Are Kept There and Not Allowed to Communicate with Relatives. Their Wives Try to Save Them — and This Is What They Say.” *Babel*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/gnoCB>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/texts/78606-the-russians-send-men-from-mariupol-to-filtration-camps-they-are-kept-there-and-not-allowed-to-communicate-with-relatives-their-wives-try-to-save-them-and-this-is-what-they-say>.

¹⁹⁰ Kirby, Dean. “Thousands of Mariupol Survivors Being Detained and ‘tortured’ in Russian-Controlled Prisons.” *inews.co.uk*, May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pv446>. <https://inews.co.uk/news/mariupol-civilians-prison-detained-russia-putin-filtration-1637957>.

¹⁹¹ Telegram. “Мариуполь Сейчас 🇺🇦.” <https://archive.ph/x3qYm>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/mariupolnow/13318>.

¹⁹² “Terrible 40 Days in Ghetto: The Story of a Mariupol Man Who Went Through Russian Filtration Camp.” *Vchasno News Agency*, June 30, 2022. <https://archive.ph/limrD>. <https://vchasnoua.com/en/430-terrible-40-days-in-ghetto-the-story-of-a-mariupol-man-who-went-through-russian-filtration-camp>.

¹⁹³ Ibid; Rasulova, Oksana. “The Russians Send Men from Mariupol to Filtration Camps. They Are Kept There and Not Allowed to Communicate with Relatives. Their Wives Try to Save Them — and This Is What They Say.” *Babel*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/gnoCB>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/texts/78606-the-russians-send-men-from-mariupol-to-filtration-camps-they-are-kept-there-and-not-allowed-to-communicate-with-relatives-their-wives-try-to-save-them-and-this-is-what-they-say>.

Mariivka is a city located just east of the city of Donetsk. It has been held by the DPR since 2014.¹⁹⁴ On 28 April 2022, a Russian blogger claimed that a Makiivka prison colony was used as a detention facility for prisoners of war of the DPR.¹⁹⁵ Additionally, on 18 May 2022, a Ukrainian journalist alleged that the military prisoners from Azovstal would be detained in Makiivka.¹⁹⁶ While neither of these sources mention civilians, one civilian, interviewed by Ukrainian journalist Nikolay Osychenko, described being sent through multiple filtration locations before being sent to a detention facility in Makiivka.¹⁹⁷ Further, on 2 July 2022, the Mariupol City Council posted on their Telegram channel that Mariupol residents are being held at prison colonies in Olenivka, Donetsk, and Makiivka.¹⁹⁸ They go on to describe extensive mistreatment, but do not specify if this is connected to Makiivka specifically. On 5 May 2022, Ukrinform reported on former Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights Lyudmila Denisova's claim of filtration activities occurring at Makiivka's so-called Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR.¹⁹⁹

Manhush

Table 09: Filtration locations in Manhush

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Manhush District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration, secondary interrogation, detention |
| Checkpoint | Filtration post "Manhush" | Registration |

Filtration activities have been observed in Manhush since at least the middle of March 2022 and continuing through at least the end of July. People filtered at the department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs building described being beaten, held in overcrowded cells, and receiving insufficient food.

Manhush is located approximately 18 kilometers west of Mariupol in Manhush raion. It is mentioned as part of the filtration system by DPR authorities in a video they released on Telegram on 17 March 2022.²⁰⁰ The video shows footage of the Manhush police station (newly designated as the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR) and the narrator of the video states one responsibility of the police is to identify individuals associated with Ukrainian armed forces or authorities, which is consistent with the DPR's stated purpose for filtration activities. An account published by the

¹⁹⁴ "The Towns in East Ukraine Seized by Pro-Moscow Separatists." *France 24*, May 2, 2014. <https://archive.ph/C9I3h>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.france24.com/en/20140502-eastern-ukrainian-towns-seized-pro-russian-separatists>.

¹⁹⁵ Telegram. "Colonelcassad." <https://archive.ph/OsnUb>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://t.me/boris_rozhin/45633.

¹⁹⁶ Соколянская, Ксения. "Люди находятся в плену. Для них подготовили колонию №97 в Макеевке". Экс-участник Трехсторонней контактной группы о военных с "Азовстали." *Настоящее Время*, May 18, 2022. <https://archive.ph/HYqqr>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/31855316.html>.

¹⁹⁷ Осыченко, Николай. <https://archive.ph/НМО2>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://www.facebook.com/n.osychenko/videos/1486881658428501/>.

¹⁹⁸ "Telegram: Contact @mariupolrada." <https://archive.ph/IG1E5>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/mariupolrada/10079>.

¹⁹⁹ "Денісова Назвала Місця Розташування «фільтраційних Таборів» На Донеччини і Луганщини." *Ukrinform*, May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/xSZO0>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-regions/3475643-denisova-nazvala-misca-roztasuvanna-filtracijnih-taboriv-na-doneccini-i-lugancini.html>.

²⁰⁰ "Telegram: Contact @dnronline." <https://archive.ph/Кyhк>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/61235>.

Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR) describes detainees being held in mid-March for a full day on the street outside the police station in Manhush before being put in a three square meter cell with 32 people inside.²⁰¹ As of 6 June 2022, a Telegram user reported that the filtration process through the police department took 1-2 days, given a large queue, with priority given to senior citizens.²⁰²

On 7 May 2022, Petro Andriushchenko, an advisor to the mayor of Mariupol, posted on his Telegram channel that in order to obtain the right to move within Donetsk oblast, residents must pass filtration at a designated point, after which time they will be given a certificate stating they have completed filtration.²⁰³ Andriushchenko listed both sites HRL has identified in Manhush: the police station and the checkpoint. The checkpoint is along a highway and appears on two lists published in May with locations for undergoing filtration, one released by authorities of the DPR and one released by a DPR affiliate.²⁰⁴ In an account published by MIHR, one man describes queues of thousands of people awaiting filtration in Manhush, with his wait at the checkpoint taking ten days.²⁰⁵ Consistent with other accounts, he describes having his photo taken, as well as his fingerprints and palm prints, before being asked standard questions about his connections with the Ukrainian army in order to be granted a certificate. One witness interviewed by the US-government funded RFE/RL outlet *Current Time* similarly described waiting in a large queue to undergo filtration.²⁰⁶ She overheard soldiers talking about losing track of how many people passing through filtration they had shot. The witness was left alone with five armed men who alluded to rape. Her father, who was undergoing filtration at the same time, was beaten until he lost sight in one eye. Another witness interviewed by MIHR described passing quickly through the filtration checkpoint with her daughter, while her husband and son were strip searched.²⁰⁷ When her son undressed, the guards saw that he was wearing a green t-shirt like those worn by Ukrainian soldiers and he was taken away at gunpoint. It has also been reported widely that a military medic,

²⁰¹ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Ігор Талалай: три місяці «фільтрації» в катівнях окупованої Донеччини," July 6, 2022. <https://archive.ph/dmIDJ>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/igor-talalaj-tri-misyaci-filtraciya%20v-kativnyakh-okupovanoj-donechchini/>.

²⁰² This thread contains the handle of an individual user, so it has not been linked in this report..

²⁰³ "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/rUQYt>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/705>.

²⁰⁴ Министерство информации ДНР. "БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMA> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf; Общественное Движение "Донецкая Республика." "Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?," May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projiti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobozhdennyh-territorij/>.

²⁰⁵ Медійна ініціатива за права людини. "Операция «фильтрация». Через что проходят украинцы, які опинилися під російською окупацією," May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pezJk>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/operaciya-filtraciya-cherez-shho-proxodyat-ukra%20nci-yaki-opinilisya-pid-rosijskoyu-okupaciyeyu/>.

²⁰⁶ "'Filtration' as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing." Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE_Filtration_eng_web.pdf; "А не отрезать ли тебе ухо?" Юная жительница Мариуполя – о допросе и проверке в российском фильтрационном лагере." *Настоящее Время*, April 29, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Vij2b>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.currenttime.tv/a/a-ne-otrezat-li-tebe-uho-yunaya-zhitelnitsa-mariupolya-o-doprose-i-proverke-v-rossiyskom-filtratsionnom-lagere-/31825815.html>.

²⁰⁷ "'Filtration' as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing." Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE_Filtration_eng_web.pdf.

Victoria Obidina, was separated from her four-year-old child at filtration in Manhush and has since gone missing; HRL was unable to independently verify this story.²⁰⁸

Novoazovsk

Table 10: Filtration locations in Novoazovsk

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Novoazovsk District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs | Registration |
| Location with more than one potential geolocation option | | |
| School | Option 1: Novoazovsk School № 1 | Holding |
| | Option 2: Novoazovsk School № 2 | Holding |
| | Option 3: Novoazovsk School № 3 | Holding |

Filtration related activities have been reported in the town of Novoazovsk since the end of March 2022 and continuing through at least the beginning of May. There are three potential sites for a school that is allegedly used for holding, but open source evidence is insufficient to determine which school reports are referring to (if not all three).

Novoazovsk is a border town 13.6 kilometers from the Russian border. In mid-April 2022, a user commented on a Telegram post in the Mariupol Now channel describing how he was taken by DPR forces to filtration in Novoazovsk and held for two days without food while anyone who resisted was beaten.²⁰⁹ On 22 April 2022, *Meduza* interviewed a civilian who fled Mariupol and claimed he drove his family to Novoazovsk at the end of March 2022 to register before making it to the Russian border where he was interrogated and had his biometrics taken.²¹⁰ On 27 May 2022, a Mariupol couple interviewed by *The Guardian* stated that they were taken to a school in Novoazovsk before being sent to Dokuchaievsk for filtration.²¹¹ In June, the *New York Times*

²⁰⁸ Oleksandra Matviichuk [@avalaina]. “The Physicians of Harvard Medical School Made an Open Letter Urging to Free Doctor Victoria Obidina Who Was Arrested by Russians after Evacuation from Azovstal in Mariupol. Medical Professionals around the World, If You Want to Join Appeal, Here the Link <https://Forms.Gle/WpvLiDSkc8DC9h698> <https://T.Co/l2qB5HBnys>.” *Twitter*, May 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/bHUul>.

<https://twitter.com/avalaina/status/1529389342925500416>; Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member [@SenateForeign]. “#Putin’s #warcrimes Include Forcibly Deporting Millions of Ukrainians into #Russia & Separating Families. I’m Particularly Concerned about the Children Separated from Their Parents like the Case of Victoria Obidina Who Was Separated from Her 4yr Old Daughter & Remains Missing.” *Twitter*, May 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/rONZP>. <https://twitter.com/SenateForeign/status/1529537903776382977>.

²⁰⁹ “Telegram: Contact @mariupolnow.” <https://archive.ph/Uow4U>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://t.me/mariupolnow/6666>.

²¹⁰ Голод, Глеб, and Алексей Славин. “Многие жители Украины вынуждены эвакуироваться в Европу через ДНР и Россию. Им приходится проходить «фильтрацию» и сниматься в пропагандистских видео.” *Meduza*, April 22, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VPHgO>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/04/22/mnogie-zhiteli-ukrainy-vynuzhdeny-evakuirovatsya-v-evropu-cherez-dnr-i-rossiyu-im-prihoditsya-prohodit-filtratsiyu-i-snimatsya-v-propagandistskih-video>.

²¹¹ Walker, Shaun. “Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia’s Assault.” *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl>.

interviewed a woman who fled Mariupol by foot and was filtered at a camp in Novoazovsk.²¹² Similar to other filtration sites, in Novoazovsk the line between filtration and humanitarian assistance has been blurred by Russia-aligned forces. On 19 February – before the invasion – official DPR Telegram channels were posting about humanitarian checkpoints for evacuees from Donetsk oblast, directly naming one in Novoazovsk.²¹³ Similarly, on 29 March, Russian outlet *Pravda* interviewed the Deputy Head of Administration of the Novoazovsk district who claimed that all schools in the district had been turned into “temporary refugee accommodation centers.”²¹⁴ While it is not known if all of these schools were part of the filtration system, evidence from schools in Bezimenne and Novoazovsk indicate that at least some were.²¹⁵ A Telegram post from 24 March 2022 outlined the process for filtration in Novoazovsk, highlighting that civilians were held at the school but would be bused to a registration center in another town (Donetsk, Avdiivka, Bezimenne) to undergo the filtration process.²¹⁶ In addition to the school, DPR officials and affiliated media repeatedly posted instructions in May that directed Mariupol residents to the Novoazovsk Ministry of Internal Affairs building.²¹⁷ The same building was also listed by Petro Andriushchenko, an advisor to the mayor of Mariupol, in a Telegram post about filtration on 7 May 2022.²¹⁸ In an interview published by *Big Kyiv* on 21 July 2022, a former Mariupol police officer describes being separated from civilians at a filtration center in Sartana — civilians were sent to Bezimenne, while former police, military, and veterans were taken to the Novoazovsk district department (likely the Internal Affairs building).²¹⁹

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

²¹² Ostrovsky, Simon, Ainaro Tiefenthäler, and Alessandro Pavone. “Video: Surviving Russia’s ‘Filtration Camps.’” *The New York Times*, June 20, 2022. <https://archive.ph/ZaWor>.

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/world/europe/100000008396333/russia-filtration-camps.html>

²¹³ “Telegram: Contact @dnronline.” <https://archive.ph/AXqEE>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://t.me/dnronline/57634>.

²¹⁴ Translated from Russian. Литвинов, Борис. “Возвращение к Жизни.” *Газета*, March 29, 2022. <https://perma.cc/RV8A-FLZD>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://gazeta-pravda.ru/issue/32-31235-2930-marta-2022-goda/vozvrashchenie-k-zhizni/>.

²¹⁵ See Bezimenne Secondary School.

²¹⁶ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/DToWU>. Accessed August 8, 2022.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/71>.

²¹⁷ Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa>. Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf; Общественное Движение “Донецкая Республика.” “Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?,” May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobodzhennyh-territorij/>; “Telegram: Contact @oddr_info.” <https://archive.ph/KqkCk>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://t.me/oddr_info/35945.

²¹⁸ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/rUQYt>. Accessed August 8, 2022.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/705>.

²¹⁹ Даниленко, Ольга. “Я пройшов концтабір в Оленівці, Азовцям навіть технічну воду не давали – поліцейський з Маріуполя.” *Великий Київ*, July 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IPvsl>. <https://bigkyiv.com.ua/ya-projshov-koncztabir-v-olenivczi-azovcyam-navit-tehnicnu-vodu-ne-davaly-policzejskij-z-mariupolya/>.

Starobesheve

Table 11: Filtration location in Starobesheve

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Internal Affairs/Police Station | Starobesheve Internal Affairs/Police | Registration |

Filtration activities have been reported in Starobesheve since at least the beginning of April 2022 and continuing through at least the end of May. One person detained in the town describes being held in an overcrowded prison cell.

Starobesheve is a town approximately 33 kilometers southeast of the city of Donetsk. In early April 2022, CNN released a preliminary report on forcible deportations of Mariupol residents in which they listed Starobesheve as a key site on the deportation route.²²⁰ On 22 April 2022, *Meduza* reported the story of a family who was injured in Mariupol and needed to pass through filtration in order to leave the DPR.²²¹ They had been in Donetsk at a hospital but the line at the Donetsk filtration site did not prioritize injured people, so they drove to Starobesheve where they were allowed to pass through filtration quickly.²²² On 5 May 2022, the town's police station (the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the DPR) appeared listed in a bulletin published by the DPR on a list of locations to which residents of "liberated" areas could report to undergo mandatory filtration measures.²²³ A similar list posted on 24 May also lists the location.²²⁴ A Telegram post from a witness who claimed to have passed through filtration at the location asserted that the filtration was cursory, lasting only two or three minutes per person.²²⁵ Experiences in the town varied widely. For example, on 12 May 2022, *Meduza* interviewed a man who went through filtration at Starobesheve and described it as "hellish" (translated). He described women being held in a kindergarten and men being held in a recreation center.²²⁶ A recreation center was also mentioned in a 23 May 2022 report by MIHR in which an interviewee described being held at a "youth home or

²²⁰ Mackintosh, Eliza, Oleksandra Ochman, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Katie Polglase, Teele Rebane and Anastasia Graham-Yooll. "Russia or Die: After Weeks under Putin's Bombs, These Ukrainians Were given Only One Way Out." *CNN*, April 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/oqMHL>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/04/07/europe/ukraine-mariupol-russia-deportation-cmd-intl/index.html>.

²²¹ Голод, Глеб, and Алексей Славин. "Многие жители Украины вынуждены эвакуироваться в Европу через ДНР и Россию. Им приходится проходить «фильтрацию» и сниматься в пропагандистских видео." *Meduza*, April 22, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VPHgO>. Accessed August 5, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/04/22/mnogie-zhiteli-ukrainy-vynuzhdeny-evakuirovatsya-v-evropu-cherez-dnr-i-rossiyu-im-prihoditsya-prohodit-filtratsiyu-i-snimatsya-v-propagandistskih-video>.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Министерство информации ДНР. "БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

²²⁴ Общественное Движение "Донецкая Республика." "Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?," May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projiti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobozhdennyh-territorij/>.

²²⁵ The Telegram post in question was deleted before it could be archived. However, the text (and translation) were saved.

²²⁶ Details are insufficient to include these locations in the count of this report. "Так страшно мне не было никогда: «Медуза» рассказывает, как устроена система «фильтрационных лагерей» для украинцев, организованная российскими военными. И что происходит с теми, кто не смог пройти «фильтрацию»." *Meduza*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/Wi241>. Accessed August 3, 2022. <https://meduza.io/feature/2022/05/12/tak-strashno-mne-ne-bylo-nikogda>.

Vasylivka: Highway Exit Checkpoint

Table 12: Filtration location in Vasylivka

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Checkpoint | Vasylivka Highway checkpoint | Registration |

Filtration activities have been reported at this checkpoint since at least the beginning of April 2022 and continuing through at least the end of July. People registered at the site described being made to wait days to pass through, often in extreme heat, resulting in multiple deaths.²³⁶

The M18 road around Vasylivka is the final checkpoint on the way out of occupied territory for individuals leaving occupied Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. This checkpoint has been included in this report as part of the filtration system because, while differently oriented to other sites, its function is the same: to make a population legible and remove certain individuals and groups from it. All people fleeing the three oblasts who do not wish to go to Russia must pass through this checkpoint.

Vasylivka is a small city on the southern bank of the Kakhovka Reservoir of the Dnipro river, approximately 57 kilometers from the center of the city of Zaporizhzhia. The city was occupied by Russia's forces on 7 March 2022, and the frontline has remained largely unmoved just north of the city since then.²³⁷ Due to its location, the city quickly became a primary border checkpoint for civilians trying to leave occupied areas (including Mariupol) for Ukrainian-held areas.²³⁸ In May 2022, when fighting in the area escalated, the exit checkpoint was closed and over 1,000 cars were stranded on the road, neither able to advance into Ukrainian-held territory nor return to their homes.²³⁹ Imagery analysis verified numerous queues of vehicles awaiting passage through checkpoints along the main highway running through Vasylivka. The location and number of checkpoints along the highway near and within the village varied by date.

Even when operating normally, multiple sources have reported extremely long wait times for people and vehicles attempting to cross. Especially during summer months, these multi-day waits have exposed people to extreme heat, hunger, and danger. For example, in a Telegram post on 25 July, 2022, the mayor of Melitopol wrote that there were then 1,200 cars carrying 5,000 people waiting in line to exit at Vasylivka. He wrote that only 20 to 150 cars were being allowed through on any given day, and that five people had died while waiting in the previous week.²⁴⁰ CNN

²³⁶ "Telegram: Contact @ivan_fedorov_melitopol." <https://archive.ph/QgKCr>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/319.

²³⁷ Baltic News Network. "Ukraine after 11th Night of War: Mayor Killed, Towns Taken, Moscow Promises Civilian Corridors to Russia," March 7, 2022. <https://archive.ph/tXa6i>. <https://bnn-news.com/ukraine-after-11th-night-of-war-mayor-killed-towns-taken-moscow-promises-civilian-corridors-to-russia-233013>; "Ukraine Interactive Map - Ukraine Latest News on Live Map - Liveuamap.Com." <https://archive.ph/xf4KZ>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://liveuamap.com/>.

²³⁸ "Ukraine War: Russia Blocks Buses Heading to Mariupol, Says Ukraine." *BBC News*, March 31, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IGU3D> March 31, 2022, sec. Europe. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60938429>.

²³⁹ Interfax-Ukraine. "Occupiers Blocks over 1,000 Cars with Ukrainians in Vasylivka - Dpty Head of Regional Military Administration," May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/quHwL>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/833403.html>.

²⁴⁰ "Telegram: Contact @ivan_fedorov_melitopol." <https://archive.ph/QgKCr>. Accessed August 8, 2022. https://t.me/ivan_fedorov_melitopol/319.

reported on the delay on 26 July, analyzing video that showed people sleeping in their cars, in tents, or in the open and sheltering from the heat in a gas station. The article quotes the mayor as saying the delay was caused by Russia’s forces moving large amounts of heavy weaponry, and suggests the delay may be intentional as it turns waiting civilians into human shields. He added, “People can’t even go and buy food for themselves. The only condition under which the Russians allow people to go to buy food in the city is to leave all the documents (passport, driver’s license etc) [sic] with them and then collect them after returning.”²⁴¹ Video posted to Twitter on 30 July shows a long line of cars and buses parked along the highway, with passengers sheltering in the shadow of larger vehicles.²⁴²

Finally, France 24 reported on 25 July 2022 that a key element of the exit checkpoint is conducting filtration of people passing through.²⁴³ According to the mayor of Melitopol, removing “those who help the Armed Forces and the Resistance Forces” is the other key cause of the delays.²⁴⁴ On 8 April 2022, for example, the 16-year-old son of the head of the Zaporizhzhia District Administration was taken from a car attempting to pass through the Vasylivka checkpoint and held for three months. While detained he was forced to clean up blood that had been spilled during the torture of other inmates.²⁴⁵

Yenakiieve Correctional Colony № 52 | Olenivka, Bakhmut raion

Table 13: Filtration location in Olenivka

| Original Facility Type | Location Name | Filtration Use |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Prison | Yenakiieve Correctional Colony № 52 | Detention |

Detention has been reported at this prison since the middle of May. It is unclear from open source materials when the prison was first used to detain Ukrainian civilians through filtration, and when, if ever, those activities may have ceased. Reports from both the media and Ukrainian authorities often appear to confuse this location with Volnovakha Correctional Colony or imply they are in the same village; the two prisons are located in or near two different villages named Olenivka in Donetsk oblast. This has made it challenging to discern which prison in Olenivka some sources are referring to if they do not list the prison by name.

²⁴¹ Lister, Tim, and Olga Voitovych. “More than 5,000 Ukrainians Stranded at Zaporizhzhia Checkpoint, Official Says.” *CNN*, July 26, 2022. <https://archive.ph/4RLTs>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/russia-ukraine-war-news-07-26-22/index.html>.

²⁴² Olena Halushka [@OlenaHalushka]. “.@grntmedia Showed the Insanely Long Lines at the Vasylivka Checkpoint on the Way from the Occupied Southern Regions. People Spend 5-6 Days under the Scorching Sun to Evacuate. Those Who Advise Ukraine to Surrender Are Calling to Give up on All of Them #Kherson <https://t.co/C52nqsWDOw>.” *Twitter*, July 30, 2022. <https://archive.ph/nUDHc>. <https://twitter.com/OlenaHalushka/status/1553482756235083777>.

²⁴³ “Ukrainians Flee Occupied Territories through Russian ‘filtration’ Checks.” *France 24*, July 25, 2022. <https://archive.ph/RymSB>. <https://www.france24.com/en/europe/20220725-refugees-in-the-russian-occupied-zaporizhzhia-region-manage-to-re-gain-ukrainian-territories>.

²⁴⁴ Kholodnova, Anna, and Maria Zhartovska. “The Mayor of Melitopol: A Russian Military Base Is on Fire near the City. The Occupiers Blocked the Exit from Melitopol to Zaporizhzhia.” *Babel*, July 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/SJvGV>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/news/81349-the-mayor-of-melitopol-a-russian-military-base-is-on-fire-near-the-city-the-occupiers-blocked-the-exit-from-melitopol-to-zaporizhzhia>.

²⁴⁵ Coydash, Halya. “Abducted 16-Year-Old Was Forced to Clean up after Russian Invaders’ Torture of Ukrainian POWs and Hostages.” *Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group*, July 15, 2022. <https://archive.ph/zNmdl>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://khpq.org/en/1608810859>.

An advisor to Mariupol’s mayor first mentioned use of this facility for detaining Ukrainian civilians in a Telegram post on 11 May 2022.²⁴⁶ He claimed the facility was used to detain those who aroused suspicion and did not “pass” filtration, particularly non-active duty armed forces, National Guard, other law enforcement officers, activists, and journalists. The advisor’s post claimed that three thousand people were being detained there at the time for a minimum of 36 days. He said there is no room to lie down, there is a lack of adequate nutrition, and many people disappear from the prison after undergoing interrogation. A week later, *inews.co.uk* reported on similar claims from Mariupol’s mayor and Ukraine’s Ombudswoman for Human Rights.²⁴⁷ The mayor claims torture takes place at the prison and some people are detained for up to two or three months. At the end of May, US-funded *Radio Liberty* reported on claims made by the Ombudswoman that approximately 10% of Mariupol residents who do not “pass” filtration are sent to the prison (her original Telegram post has since been deleted).²⁴⁸ In an article published on 22 June, the advisor to Mariupol’s mayor provided more detail about the prison, stating that it is more strict than the Volnovakha Correctional Colony and that the DPR pseudo-courts were already beginning to sentence the prisoners.²⁴⁹

Other Towns Mentioned in Filtration Reports

The cities and towns described above include locations where HRL was able to determine, with high confidence, that filtration activities have been occurring. Because of the requirement that locations be supported by multiple sources, some towns had insufficient evidence to make a high-confidence determination. The table below shows these locations, sources, and reasons for exclusion.

Table 14: Other Mentioned Towns Not Meeting Yale HRL’s High-Confidence Threshold

| Location | Sources | Exclusion |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Amvrosiivka | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPR list of filtration sites²⁵⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient number of sources (3) |

²⁴⁶ “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” <https://archive.ph/OONny>. Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/819>; “Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime.” Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/818>.

²⁴⁷ Kirby, Dean. “Thousands of Mariupol Survivors Being Detained and ‘tortured’ in Russian-Controlled Prisons.” *inews.co.uk*, May 19, 2022. <https://archive.ph/pv446>. <https://inews.co.uk/news/mariupol-civilians-prison-detained-russia-putin-filtration-1637957>.

²⁴⁸ “За тиждень окупанти вивезли до «фільтраційного табору» в Безіменне майже 3000 українців – Денісова.” *Радіо Свобода*, May 29, 2022. <https://archive.ph/UrXPU>. <https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-okupanty-filtratsiynyy-tabir-mariupol-denisova/31873778.html>.

²⁴⁹ Куля, Артем. “Жінок за графіком ґвалтують, а чоловіків – б’ють: Андрющенко про ‘фільтрацію’ на окупованому Донбасі.” ФАКТИ ICTV, June 22, 2022. <https://archive.ph/acv6Z>. <https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20220622-zhinok-za-grafikom-gvaltuyut-a-cholovikiv-byut-andryushhenko-pro-filtracziyu-na-okupovanomu-donbasi/>.

²⁵⁰ Министерство информации ДНР. “БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики,” May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf; Общественное Движение “Донецкая Республика.” “Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?,” May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-proiti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobozhdennyh-territorij/>.

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|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPR-affiliated website²⁵¹ ● MIHR report²⁵² | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient diversity of sources |
| Anadol | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quote from a person interrogated here in MIHR report²⁵³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient number of sources (1) ● Insufficient detail ● Unable to confirm a precise location |
| Mykilske | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mention by Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights²⁵⁴ ● Mention in CNN article²⁵⁵ ● Account of a person interrogated here in <i>Focus</i> article²⁵⁶ ● Mention in <i>Big Mir</i> article²⁵⁷ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient number of sources (4) ● Insufficient detail |
| Mytkovo-Kachkari | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Video of the facility posted to Telegram by DPR-affiliated channel²⁵⁸ ● Discussion of facility among Telegram users²⁵⁹ ● Description in Russian state-owned news²⁶⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient number of sources (3) |

²⁵¹ Общественное Движение "Донецкая Республика." "Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?," May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobozhdennyh-territorii/>.

²⁵² "Filtration' as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing." Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE-Filtration-eng-web.pdf>.

²⁵³ "Filtration' as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing." Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE-Filtration-eng-web.pdf>.

²⁵⁴ "Окупанти проводять «фільтрацію» українців на захоплених територіях – Денісова." Слово і Діло, May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/mohlo>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://www.slovoidilo.ua/2022/05/05/novyna/suspilstvo/okupanty-provodyat-filtracziyu-ukrayincziv-zaxoplenyx-terytoriyah-denisova>.

²⁵⁵ Kottasová, Ivana and Oleksandra Ochman. "Ukrainians Must Endure a Brutal 'filtration' Process to Escape Russian-Held Territory. Here's What That Means." *CNN*, May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/iEdOM>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/23/europe/russia-ukraine-filtration-camps-intl-cmd/index.html>.

²⁵⁶ "Побиття і тортури: ЗМІ розповіли, як окупанти проводять 'фільтрацію' українців." *ФОКУС*, June 17, 2022. <https://archive.ph/0m1mC>. <https://focus.ua/uk/ukraine/519319-izbieniya-i-pytki-tokom-smi-rasskazali-kak-okkupanty-provodat-filtraciyu-ukraincev>.

²⁵⁷ "Окупанти Змінили Схему Фільтрації Мешканців Маріуполя, – Андрющенко." *bigmir*, June 9, 2022. <https://archive.ph/P4S3j>. Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://news.bigmir.net/ua/ukraine/6320023-okkupanty-izmenili-skhemu-filtratsii-zhitelej-mariupolya-andryuschenko>.

²⁵⁸ "Telegram: Contact @oddr_info." <https://archive.ph/oa9Q9>. Accessed August 9, 2022. https://t.me/oddr_info/31018.

²⁵⁹ This thread contains the name of an individual user so it has not been linked in the report..

²⁶⁰ Прокудин, Филипп. "«Какой гуманитарный коридор? Его просто не было!» Что рассказал сбежавший из Мариуполя в ДНР." *Украина.ру*, March 6, 2022. <https://perma.cc/9ZYZ-GRZB>. <https://ukraina.ru/20220306/1033458059.html>.

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| Sartana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mention in <i>Babel</i> article²⁶¹ ● Mention in <i>The Guardian</i>²⁶² ● Mention in Russian state media²⁶³ ● Mention in <i>Big Kyiv</i>²⁶⁴ ● Mention in Venezuelan government-funded TV²⁶⁵ ● Mention in <i>Globe and Mail</i> article²⁶⁶ ● Description of confinement from Euromaidan Press²⁶⁷ ● Photograph allegedly showing civilians arriving to Sartana²⁶⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient detail ● Unable to confirm a precise location ● Sufficient number of sources (8) |
| Siedove | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mention by Ukrainian official²⁶⁹ ● Mention in Ukrainian news site <i>Babel</i>²⁷⁰ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient number of sources (2) ● Insufficient detail ● Unable to confirm a precise location |

²⁶¹ Rasulova, Oksana. "The Russians Send Men from Mariupol to Filtration Camps. They Are Kept There and Not Allowed to Communicate with Relatives. Their Wives Try to Save Them — and This Is What They Say." *Babel*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/gnoCB>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/texts/78606-the-russians-send-men-from-mariupol-to-filtration-camps-they-are-kept-there-and-not-allowed-to-communicate-with-relatives-their-wives-try-to-save-them-and-this-is-what-they-say>

²⁶² Walker, Shaun. "Filtration and Forced Deportation: Mariupol Survivors on the Lasting Terrors of Russia's Assault." *The Guardian*, May 26, 2022, sec. World news. <https://archive.ph/XavAl> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/may/26/filtration-and-forced-deportation-mariupol-survivors-on-the-lasting-terrors-of-russias-assault>.

²⁶³ Шведко, Сергей. "Командировка в Донбасс. День первый." *Кубанские Новости*, April 15, 2022. <https://perma.cc/2DXA-SKJ9> <https://kubnews.ru/obshchestvo/2022/04/15/komandirovka-na-donbass-den-pervyy/>.

²⁶⁴ Даниленко, Ольга. "Я пройшов концтабір в Оленівці, Азовцям навіть технічну воду не давали – поліцейський з Маріуполя." *Великий Київ*, July 21, 2022. <https://archive.ph/IPvsl>. <https://bigkyiv.com.ua/ya-projshov-koncztabir-v-olenivczii-azovczyam-navit-tehnicynu-vodu-ne-davaly-policzejskij-z-mariupolya/>.

²⁶⁵ "Ukraine: Sartana Citizens Try to Flee Combat Zone as Situation Worsens." Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://archive.ph/VCK6n> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kC_30iBaD-o.

²⁶⁶ Dickson, Janice. "Ukrainian Civilians Are Being Taken from Their Homes and Interrogated by Russian Soldiers for Weeks." *The Globe and Mail*, July 28, 2022. <https://archive.ph/GdCW> <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-russian-soldiers-rounded-up-and-detained-these-ukrainians/>.

²⁶⁷ Chraibi, Christine. "Stories Too Horrifying to Disclose. Over 80 Ukrainian Medics Tortured in Russian Captivity." *Euromaidan Press*, July 27, 2022. <https://perma.cc/9KPL-HN5E> <https://euromaidanpress.com/2022/07/27/over-80-ukrainian-medical-workers-from-mariupol-remain-in-russian-captivity/>.

²⁶⁸ "Эвакуация Жителей Мариуполя в Поселок Сартана | Библиотека Изображений 'РИА Новости,'" March 28, 2022. https://web.archive.org/web/20220328234519/http://visualrian.ru/story/list_261911477/8147422.html.

²⁶⁹ "Telegram: Contact @andriyshTime." <https://archive.ph/1MAh3>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://t.me/andriyshTime/1714>.

²⁷⁰ Rasulova, Oksana. "The Russians Send Men from Mariupol to Filtration Camps. They Are Kept There and Not Allowed to Communicate with Relatives. Their Wives Try to Save Them — and This Is What They Say." *Babel*, May 12, 2022. <https://archive.ph/gnoCB>. Accessed August 8, 2022. <https://babel.ua/en/texts/78606-the-russians-send-men-from-mariupol-to-filtration-camps-they-are-kept-there-and-not-allowed-to-communicate-with-relatives-their-wives-try-to-save-them-and-this-is-what-they-say>

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stepanivka | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DPR list of filtration sites²⁷¹ ● DPR-affiliated website²⁷² ● Quote from a person interrogated here in MIHR report²⁷³ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient number of sources (3) ● Insufficient detail ● Insufficient diversity of sources |
| Yalta | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mention by Ukraine Crisis Media Center²⁷⁴ ● Mention in a CNN article²⁷⁵ ● Claim by Ukrainian government²⁷⁶ ● Mention in an <i>NV</i> article²⁷⁷ ● Mention by Ukrainian Ombudswoman for Human Rights²⁷⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Insufficient detail ● Unable to confirm a precise location ● Sufficient number of sources (5) |

²⁷¹ Министерство информации ДНР. "БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ ШТАБ ТЕРРИТОРИАЛЬНОЙ ОБОРОНЫ Донецкой Народной Республики," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/A3GMa> Accessed August 5, 2022. https://xn--80ahqgjaddr.xn--p1ai/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/07_bulletin_05.05.2022.pdf.

²⁷² Общественное Движение "Донецкая Республика." "Где пройти проверку МВД жителям освобожденных территорий?," May 24, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. <http://oddr.info/gde-projti-proverku-mvd-zhiteljam-osvobodennyh-territorij/>.

²⁷³ "Filtration' as a Series of War Crimes of Russia: From Collecting Personal Data to Torturing." Media Initiative for Human Rights, 2022. <https://archive.ph/649C8>. Accessed August 6, 2022. https://mipl.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/OSCE_Filtration_eng_web.pdf.

²⁷⁴ "Russian Carry out Large-Scale 'Filtering' of Ukrainian Citizens." Ukraine Crisis Media Center, May 5, 2022.

<https://archive.ph/SGmN7> <https://uacrisis.org/en/rosiyan-provodyat-masshtabnu-filtratsiyu-gromadyan-ukrayiny>.

²⁷⁵ Kottasová, Ivana and Oleksandra Ochman. "Ukrainians Must Endure a Brutal 'filtration' Process to Escape Russian-Held Territory. Here's What That Means." *CNN*, May 23, 2022. <https://archive.ph/iEdOM>. Accessed August 4, 2022. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/23/europe/russia-ukraine-filtration-camps-intl-cmd/index.html>.

²⁷⁶ Куля, Артем. "Жінок за графіком гвалтують, а чоловіків – б'ють: Андрющенко про 'фільтрацію' на окупованому Донбасі." *ФАКТИ ICTV*, June 22, 2022. <https://archive.ph/acv6Z>. <https://fakty.com.ua/ua/ukraine/20220622-zhinok-za-grafikom-gvaltuyut-a-cholovikiv-byut-andryushhenko-pro-filtracziyu-na-okupovanomu-donbasi/>.

²⁷⁷ "Бегство из ада. Женщины Мариуполя рассказывают истории о том, как жили в осажденном городе и выбрались из него." *НВ*, April 28, 2022. <https://archive.ph/84dUR>. Accessed August 15, 2022. <https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/bezhency-iz-mariupolya-nv-pogovoril-s-dvumya-zhitelnicami-goroda-kotorym-udalos-vyehat-50237333.html>.

²⁷⁸ Интерфакс-Украина. "На временно оккупированных территориях РФ проводит 'фильтрацию' украинцев – омбудсмен," May 5, 2022. <https://archive.ph/mmOMZ>. Accessed August 6, 2022. <https://ru.interfax.com.ua/news/general/829771.html>.

APPENDIX I: Methodology

The investigative methodology for this report combines open source investigation with very high resolution (VHR) satellite imagery analysis. The VHR imagery used to support this investigation was commercially available, unclassified imagery captured by Maxar Technologies, BlackSky Global LLC, and Planet Labs PBC. Given the limitations of satellite imagery to gather information on events occurring within buildings, this report primarily rests on extensive open source research, with an emphasis on aggregating, verifying and collating multiple sources to understand the filtration process.

For a site to be included in the final count of this report, it had to be verified by at least five independently corroborated open source reports. Satellite imagery verification was not required, but was used as additional verification when it was relevant and available. The general methodological approach of this research included multiple levels of engagement by both the open source investigative team and the geospatial analysis team. In order to confirm findings with high confidence, each step included two- to three-person concurrence. Where analysts disagreed, no high-confidence rating was issued. The steps are outlined below:

1. **Location Identification:** Potential filtration system sites were identified through extensive primary source research. In particular, this included administrative bulletins issued by DPR authorities instructing Mariupol residents where they should report for filtration. It also involved extensive searches on social media, primarily Telegram, to gather information about the sites from Ukrainian authorities and Mariupol neighborhood groups where civilians discussed filtration. Where images and descriptions of sites did not include coordinates or addresses, geolocation techniques (described below) were used to establish the location and name of sites. Finally, the reporting of other highly reputable organizations such as independent media and human rights organizations was referenced.
2. **Open source investigative analysis:** Each site identified was then investigated to find further reporting of filtration activities in secondary sources. These particularly included media reports from English, Ukrainian, and Russian sources that included interviews with survivors of the filtration system. A key source of ground imagery was Russian state media outlets who were attempting to show what they claimed to be humanitarian operations at some of the identified sites. DPR authorities also shared information, photographs, and videos of filtration sites on their websites and Telegram channels.

Sources were then reviewed for any details regarding the activity occurring at a given site. The details were combined to establish a profile of each site that included a) who passed through it (POWs, women, children, men), b) what the site was used for (registration, holding, interrogation, detention), c) what conditions were like (sufficiency of food, overcrowding, etc.), and d) whether abuses reportedly occurred.

3. **Verification:** The team conducted a review of all open source accounts, location verification, and any claims made about activities at the site. Sites with at least five high-credibility corroborating reports were considered verified and included in the final count.

Verification was conducted according to protocols developed by Amnesty International and the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations.²⁷⁹

- a. **Geolocation** Facilities were geolocated by matching ground photographs and videos of facilities used for filtration with pre-invasion imagery from the buildings in question. Reference images were gathered from, among other locations, online map services (Google Street View, Yandex Street Panoramas, OpenStreetMap, etc.), user-uploaded public image sites (Google Maps, Yandex, Flickr, etc.), social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Telegram) and websites and directories for public institutions (school websites, government directories, etc.).

Once located, photographs and videos were checked for authenticity by examining their metadata, passing them through an image verification software, and identifying elements that confirmed that the image or video was captured when claimed. Once the authenticity of images and videos was established, unique identifiers pictured in the photographs or videos were matched to identical identifiers in the reference material.

- b. **Credibility and sufficiency:** The identity of the poster or publisher was checked to identify potential bias. Verification by large, independent organizations with strong reputations for careful work and ground access, such as the *New York Times* and Human Rights Watch provided additional corroborating information. Primary sources were also checked for expertise, clear proximity to events, political, economic or other ulterior motivations, and reputation for posting authenticated content. The presence of multiple types of sources attesting to the same fact or image lent credibility to assertions made therein.
- c. **Confirmation:** Each collection of sources was finally reviewed by a second analyst to confirm the reliability of sources, findings and conclusions. Any ambiguities or divergent conclusions were reconciled and, where they could not be, sites were excluded from this report.

4. **Geospatial analysis:** Finally, Yale HRL analysts examined remote imagery for objects and patterns consistent with the presence of filtration activity at sites (see Imagery Methodology below). This information proved particularly useful in outdoor facilities and road checkpoints, where changes were visible to satellites. Remote imagery was also used to confirm the spatio-temporal conclusions reached in the verification stage.

The sites identified in this report represent those for which Yale HRL has high confidence. Additional sites were identified, but it was impossible to establish facts about them with high confidence based on the available open source material and imagery. Open source material is limited by a survivorship bias, with people who never leave a facility unable to communicate their

²⁷⁹ “Open Source Investigations for Human Rights: Part 1.” <https://archive.ph/YY5Nq>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <http://advocacyassembly.org/en/courses/57/>; “Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations.” <https://archive.ph/hKZZU>. Accessed August 9, 2022. <https://humanrights.berkeley.edu/berkeley-protocol-digital-open-source-investigations>.

experience in it. These may include people who are held indefinitely or who are killed in detention. The same applies to any people who are unable to communicate their experience after release; internet in occupied areas of Ukraine is now diverted through Russia where it can be censored.²⁸⁰ Other information is inaccessible, often because it has been removed from social media sites. Finally, certain forms of violence or inhumane treatment are less likely to be reported, resulting in a reporting bias. This is particularly true of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which victims may not report due to shame or fear of social censor.²⁸¹

Observable indicators in imagery relevant to filtration operations

Yale HRL imagery analysts developed a list of observable objects and changes in patterns of activity that could be consistent with filtration sites or filtration-related activities. These observable indicators, hereafter referred to as “observables”, are based in part on the *Mass Atrocity Remote Sensing (MARS)-Relevant Observables and Corresponding Typing Methods* published in 2013 by Harvard Humanitarian Initiative’s (HHI) Signal Program for Human Security and Technology.²⁸² The MARS framework is intended to address a lack of widely accepted forensic standards for corroborating alleged mass atrocities with remote sensing. It is employed in this report to show what observable indicators Yale HRL denoted as possibly relevant to filtration operations.

Table 1. Observable indicators consistent with filtration sites in Donetsk Oblast

| Observable indicator | Relevance to filtration operations | Activity that may correlate with indicator | Critical characteristics | Caveats and limitations |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Presence of tents or tent-like structures | Open-source reporting has reported on at least one confirmed filtration camp at which there were temporary blue- and white-colored tents erected; witness | Processing and/or screening of Ukrainian civilians | Appearance of tents, most likely temporary in structure and after Feb. 24, 2022, that were not previously present Presence or absence of | Some tents that have been used at purported filtration sites have no distinctive markings. Non-imagery corroboration is important for confirming that |

²⁸⁰ Satariano, Adam, and Scott Reinhard. “How Russia Took Over Ukraine’s Internet in Occupied Territories.” *The New York Times*, August 9, 2022, sec. Technology. <https://archive.ph/hclXR>
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/08/09/technology/ukraine-internet-russia-censorship.html>.

²⁸¹ Palermo, T., J. Bleck, and A. Peterman. “Tip of the Iceberg: Reporting and Gender-Based Violence in Developing Countries.” *American Journal of Epidemiology* 179, no. 5 (March 1, 2014): 602–12. <https://archive.ph/DGEHz>.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwt295>.

²⁸² Raymond, Nathaniel A., Brittany L. Card, and Isaac L. Baker. “A New Forensics: Developing Standard Remote Sensing Methodologies to Detect and Document Mass Atrocities.” *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* 8, no. 3 (2014): 33–48. <https://archive.ph/pG1pD> <http://dx.doi.org/10.5038/1911-9933.8.3.4>.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | accounts have cited abuse or interrogation taking place in tents | | external markings to narrow identification of tents | these tent sites are sites being used for filtration-related activities. |
| Presence of queues of persons | Open-source reporting has included interviews of Ukrainians who underwent filtration in which interviewees cite having to stand in long queues for long periods of time | Processing and/or screening of people | Appearance of queues not present or of a higher density than in previous and baseline imagery | The identity of persons in queue cannot be easily ascertained even with very high resolution imagery without non-imagery analysis. At locations such as schools, for example, there is a possibility that lines may be crowds of students or parents collecting their children. Information about the operational status of the school is needed to increase confidence that observed queues are indicative of activities consistent with filtration. |
| Presence of buses at filtration site | Open-source reporting has cited Ukrainians being loaded onto buses to be transported to some filtration sites in other | Transportation of people to other filtration sites | Presence of a convoy line of buses consistent with coach-style buses Presence of one or a small | Open-source reporting has discussed the slow pace at which filtration is taking place, suggesting that imagery is |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | villages or cities in the Oblast. Photographic evidence at least one identified filtration camp depicts a line of coach buses. | | number of buses parked or stationed at an identified filtration site | unlikely to observe long lines of buses, but rather small numbers of buses. It is difficult to confidently conclude that the observation of a single individual bus is indicative of filtration, as opposed to routine transportation. |
| Presence of long lines of cars and/or buses | Open-source reporting on one confirmed filtration camp has included reports and photographic evidence of long lines of cars and buses awaiting processing. | Processing and/or screening of people Transportation of people to other filtration sites | Long lines of cars/buses and other ground vehicles on roadways not present in previous imagery Nature of buildings or other locations on the road (supermarkets, petrol stations, | There may also be queues of cars, buses, and other ground vehicles by petrol stations, supermarkets, or checkpoints, among other locations. Non-imagery corroboration of a filtration site is necessary for imagery to conclude that the presence of long lines of vehicles is consistent with a queue for filtration. |
| Presence of military and/or civilian ground vehicles at a | The presence of military vehicles may be consistent with the operation of | Processing and/or screening of Ukrainian civilians | Type of military vehicle, if identifiable by top-down imagery | The presence of military and/or civilian ground vehicles alone does not |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>purported filtration site</p> | <p>filtration sites by military, security and/or emergency forces, while the presence of civilian ground vehicles at a purported site may be suggestive of persons having to report for filtration/processing.</p> | <p>Transportation of people to other filtration sites</p> | <p>Multiple identical vehicles in surrounding area</p> | <p>necessarily indicate filtration and may indicate other possible phenomena, for example as a base for military or security operations or regular vehicle presence consistent with baseline imagery.</p> |
| <p>Sudden increase in the number or density of ground vehicles located in the lot of or near a purported filtration site</p> | <p>Open-source reporting on one confirmed filtration camp has included reports and photographic evidence of long lines of cars and buses awaiting processing. Given the narrow time window in which Ukrainians are being forced to undergo filtration, it is reasonable to identify increases in ground vehicles near purported sites as a possible observable.</p> | <p>Processing and/or screening of Ukrainian civilians</p> | <p>Imagery showing a notable increase in ground vehicles parked in the lot of a purported filtration site</p> <p>Imagery showing a notable increase in ground vehicles stationed on or along the streets adjoining a purported filtration site, ideally against a pre-invasion or pre-event baseline</p> | <p>It is unlikely that imagery can confidently conclude that an increase in vehicles at or near a site is indicative of filtration. Seasonal or event-based variation in traffic density, changes in the overall security situation, and changes in economic standing could all offer alternative explanations for sudden changes in traffic density or pattern. Non-imagery corroboration is necessary to support any conclusion by imagery that an</p> |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | increase in vehicles may be consistent with activity related to filtration. |
| Frequent changes in the arrangement of vehicles at or near the facility | Frequent changes in the arrangement or position of vehicles at or near a purported filtration site indicates that traffic is coming to and departing from lots or other areas near the site. This may be a possible indicator of people coming to the facility for processing (filtration) and subsequently leaving. | Processing and/or screening of people | Changes in compass direction in which vehicles are parked/located Changes in sections of lot/area in which vehicles are parked/located | It is unlikely that imagery can confidently conclude that a change in the arrangement or position of vehicles at or near a site is indicative of filtration. Seasonal or event-based variation in traffic and changes in the overall security situation are among possible alternative explanations for sudden changes in traffic in- and out-flow. Non-imagery corroboration is necessary to support any conclusion by imagery that changes in the position of vehicles is an indicator of filtration. |
| Repeating locations of disturbed earth consistent in | Open-source reporting contains one report from April | Deaths of personnel at the detention facility | Marking size (diameter) | Earth disturbances and other ground markings may |

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| <p>appearance with individual or mass graves not present in previous imagery. NOTE: Disturbed earth not directly attributable to regular seasonal changes, construction, bombardment, etc.</p> | <p>of a man held at that facility claiming his cellmate was placed on a duty shift digging graves contemporaneous to when the disturbed earth locations first appear in imagery.</p> | | <p>Rate and timing of markings' appearance</p> <p>Physical appearance of ground during similar season/time period (eg. comparing March 2021 and March 2022)</p> <p>Degree of change in evenness of ground surface</p> <p>Proximity of area to agricultural or construction sites</p> | <p>alternatively be consistent with craters due to bombardment, shrubbery that has grown leaves, or digging activity not related to any filtration or detention activities. Non-imagery corroboration is necessary to determine that any visible ground markings or earth disturbances are sites for objects such as graves. However, changes in ground coloration or changes in appearance consistent with recent disturbance may also be associated with agricultural or construction activity, seasonal variation, or variation in rainfall, among other possible alternative explanatory factors.</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Caveats and Limitations

There are several limitations to the uses of satellite imagery in identifying and/or corroborating filtration sites. First, satellite imagery is unable to identify or verify filtration activities occurring *inside* buildings. Imagery verification of alleged sites is limited to the analysis of observable indicators visible on the external structure and/or the surrounding area (discussed below).

Second, many singular observables are ambiguous and cannot be deemed indicators of filtration activities through imagery alone. For example, an observed change in the number of vehicles located near or outside a purported filtration site could possibly be an indicator of people waiting in line to report to a facility in order to undergo filtration, but it could also be an indicator of non-farious activity that happens to be taking place in the observed facility, or a particular moment of the day at which there is higher-than-average traffic flow. Similarly, instances of soil disturbance adjacent to a purported site could be a potential indicator of digging, possibly consistent with individual and mass graves, but may alternatively be due to lack of rainfall, seasonal change, or other activities such as agricultural cultivation or construction. While pre-war imagery can be used to determine baseline traffic or average parking density in order to conclude whether or not a change in the array or volume of vehicles or a change in vegetation pattern appears to diverge from some sort of baseline level, it is nonetheless difficult to definitively attribute that change to filtration activity and conclusively eliminate possible alternative explanations for the observed change without non-imagery reporting and analysis that supports the existence of a filtration site or activities. On imagery alone, most sites will lack unambiguous observables. As a result, open source reporting and corroboration is heavily relied upon to support findings and verification of reports.

Third, the ability of imagery to detect or verify filtration sites is limited by the volume, frequency and quality of imagery captured at a given location. Probabilistically, if a satellite passes over a given village with low frequency, the likelihood of capturing mobile observable indicators like convoys of buses or queues of people and the ability to establish a sufficiently narrow time window for attributing an observable to a filtration site or process with any level of confidence are low. Therefore, the percentage of purported sites for which there is corroborating satellite imagery is relatively small. Thus, while imagery may enhance the confidence of Yale HRL in confirming the existence of a filtration site, lack of available imagery or lack of imagery capable of definitively corroborating non-imagery findings does not reduce the degree of confidence in the existence of a filtration site.

Finally, measurements of features such as ground markings and vehicles can be distorted because of the off-nadir angle of the imagery, resulting in measurements that may diverge from actual ground dimensions. For example, at a site for which imagery was captured from an angle south of the site, measurements of length may be at risk of distortion while measurements of width are unaffected by the off-nadir angle. In addition, measurements may have a margin of error, particularly in measuring earth disturbances or other ground markings less than 5 meters in length or width due to: (1) the resolution of imagery available; (2) measurements on the digital platform in which the available imagery is housing is restricted to 1 meter increments being restricted to 1 meter increments; and (3) blurred or fuzzy boundaries of disturbed earth shapes, unlike the sharper edges observed on vehicles or building roofs. In order to mitigate this potential measurement error, three imagery analysts independently measured each marking of interest. The three length

and width measurements for each marking were then averaged together to assess the magnitude of differences in measurement between analysts. After concluding there were no outliers in measurement across analysts, an average length and width across all markings was calculated to determine the average earth disturbance size on a given date's imagery.

APPENDIX II

System of Filtration: Donetsk Oblast Satellite Imagery Overview

PREPARED FOR THE CONFLICT OBSERVATORY BY

Yale SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Humanitarian Research Lab

To view an interactive StoryMap of these locations
and the data associated with them, go to

<https://conflictobservatory.org>

Defining Filtration

Russia and aligned forces have created a filtration system that is more than camps alone. Facilities in this system can serve the following purposes:



Holding



Registration



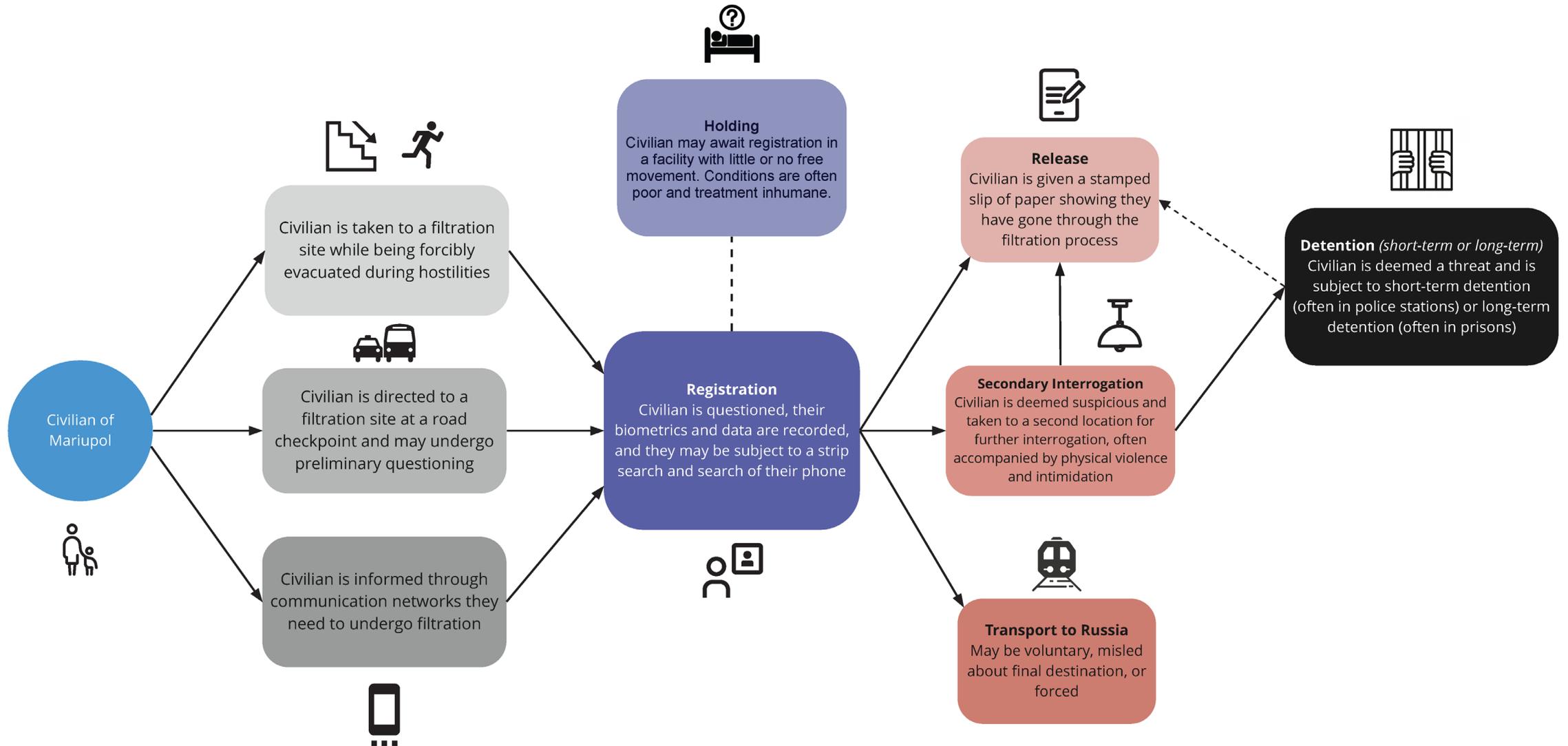
Secondary Interrogation



Detention

Note: A location can serve different functions over time.

Donetsk Oblast Filtration System



Methodology



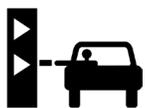
1. Open source data analysts combed primary sources, including Telegram and official Donetsk People's Republic bulletins, to establish a list of potential locations.



2. Analysts checked secondary sources, including international, Ukrainian, and Russian media to collate existing reports.



3. Publicly available photographs, video footage, and commercial unclassified satellite imagery were collected and analyzed to cross-reference and geolocate the potential locations identified through primary and secondary sources.



4. Additional visual identifiers (e.g., buses, checkpoints, tents) were noted in discovery and assessed as part of the geolocation and verification processes.

Yale HRL has identified 21 sites with high confidence

| | ID | LOCATION NAME |
|----|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Bezimenne_filt_01 | Bezimenne Filtration Post |
| 2 | Bezimenne_filt_02 | Bezimenne School |
| 3 | Buhas_filt_01 | Buhas Village Administration |
| 4 | Donetsk_filt_01 | Donetsk Headquarters of the Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| 5 | Donetsk_filt_02 | Donetsk Pre-Trial Detention Center |
| 6 | Donetsk_filt_03 | Izolyatsia Prison |
| 7 | Donetsk_filt_04 | Directorate for Combating Organized Crime |
| 8 | Kozatske_filt_04 | Chelyuskinska School |
| 9 | Novoazovsk_filt_01 | Novoazovsk District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| 10 | Olenivka_filt_01 | Yenakiiye Correctional Colony N°. 52 Bakhmut Raion |
| 11 | Olenivka_filt_02 | Volnovakha Correctional Colony N°. 120 Volnovakha Raion |
| 12 | Manhush_filt_01 | Manhush District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| 13 | Manhush_filt_02 | Filtration post "Manhush" |
| 14 | Dokuchaievsk_filt_01 | Dokuchaievsk Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| 15 | Dokuchaievsk_filt_02 | Dokuchaievsk Center of Culture and Leisure |
| 16 | Starobesheve_filt_01 | Starobesheve Internal Affairs/Police |
| 17 | Nikolske_filt_01 | Volodarskoe District Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs |
| 18 | Nikolske_filt_03 | Nikolske School N°. 1 |
| 19 | Vasylivka_filt_01 | Vasylivka Highway checkpoint |
| 20 | Makiivka_filt_X | Makiivka Prison (2 location possibilities) |
| 21 | Novoazovsk_filt_X | Novoazovsk School (3 location possibilities) |

Evidence was not sufficient to include potential sites at Anadol, Amvrosvivka, Mykilske, Sartana, Siedove, Stepanivka, and Yalta at this time.

Checkpoints in Mariupol were not added to this count.

Challenges & Limitations



1. Heavily reliant on open source data over satellite imagery.



2. Persons in the filtration system have their phones' content downloaded and devices are sometimes confiscated. These persons are likely to be under surveillance once they enter the system.



3. Open source data is biased toward the accounts of those released and willing to report their experiences.



HOLDING & REGISTRATION

DOKUCHAIEVSK CENTER of CULTURE & LEISURE, MINISTRY of INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Date: 2022.03.21
Source: WV01
Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm
Off-Nadir: 38.9230°

Two vehicles consistent with buses are located on the southern side of the lot. There are also apparent changes in the array and number of vehicles located near the filtration site. Video footage captured by LenTV24 and

posted to spbdnevnik.ru on 5 April reported filtration activity at this location, including corroboration of large vehicle traffic (e.g., buses).





REGISTRATION
HOLDING
SECONDARY DETENTION
BEZIMENNE FILTRATION POST

Date: 2022.03.14
Source: WV02
Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm
Off-Nadir: 35.9670°

Activity appears normal at the site. No tents or additional structures appear. Vehicle traffic around and proximate to the site appears consistent with typical activity and concentration for this location.

The site does not appear to be used for filtration purposes at this time.





REGISTRATION HOLDING SECONDARY DETENTION

BEZIMENNE FILTRATION POST

Date: 2022.03.22
Source: WV03
Ground Sampling Distance: 39 cm
Off-Nadir: 29.7534°

Twenty (20) blue-colored tents and 9 white-colored tents have been erected. There is also a long queue of vehicles, measuring about 2.5 kilometers; the queue ends at the site, with most vehicles coming from the

direction of Mariupol (west). People appear to be around the site, including a gathering around a small structure consistent with a possible aid distribution site.





**REGISTRATION
HOLDING
SECONDARY DETENTION**

BEZIMENNE FILTRATION POST

Date: 2022.06.16
Source: BlackSky
Ground Sampling Distance: 91 cm
Off-Nadir: -°

The 20 blue-colored and 9 white-colored tents no longer appear present. Some vehicles remain concentrated proximate to and near the site, appearing parked in lots and a possible queue.

No aid distribution site is visible consistent with that seen on 22 March.





HOLDING

BEZIMENNE SCHOOL

Date: 2022.03.14

Source: WV02

Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm

Off-Nadir: 35.9670°

The site does not show apparent external activity or concentrated vehicle traffic. Lack of such activity is consistent with the pre-filtration period.





HOLDING

BEZIMENNE SCHOOL

Date: 2022.03.22

Source: WV03

Ground Sampling Distance: 39 cm

Off-Nadir: 29.7534°

Vehicle activity consistent with filtration accounts (holding) during this time period appears at the site. Possible human activity visible on steps leading from street to site entrance.





**REGISTRATION
SECONDARY INTERROGATION**

**NIKOLSKE POLICE DEPT &
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Date: 2022.03.19
Source: WV03
Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm
Off-Nadir: 44.9168°

A video posted to Telegram on 2022.03.17 on a DPR-affiliated account announced the opening of a Ministry of Internal Affairs department in Nikolske, listing the address as the same as the police department when

the territory was under the control of the Ukrainian government. References to the police station and the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Nikolske consistently appear to be at the same location.





**REGISTRATION
SECONDARY INTERROGATION**

**NIKOLSKE POLICE DEPT &
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Date: 2022.04.19
Source: GE01
Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm
Off-Nadir: 31.9730°

Vehicles volume increase visible in lots and stretching approximately 80 meters along the road (approximately 35m due north and 45 meters due south of the site). Some vehicles consistent with white-roofed buses

approximately 6-7m long appear in lots and along road. Lots appear at full or near-full capacity. Vehicle types and positions appear consistent with accounts of filtration activities during this time period.





HOLDING

NIKOLSKE SCHOOL N°1

Date: 2020.08.12

Source: WV03

Ground Sampling Distance: 39 cm

Off-Nadir: 29.0214°

Viewed prior to the reported filtration activity period, this site shows light vehicle presence in lots and on the east-side street proximate to the school.





HOLDING

NIKOLSKE SCHOOL N°1

Date: 2022.03.23

Source: WV02

Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm

Off-Nadir: 36.0711°

A probable queue of people leading into the school appears. Increased vehicle presence is visible along the road and in proximate lots. All activity appears consistent with filtration accounts at this site at this time.





HOLDING

NIKOLSKE SCHOOL N°1

Date: 2022.04.03

Source: GE01

Ground Sampling Distance: 50 cm

Off-Nadir: 31.9730°

The probable queue of people continues to appear 11 days after last Maxar capture (03.23). Vehicle concentration appears higher than previously observed in lots and along the proximate road (east).



Satellite imagery ©2022 Maxar.



DETENTION

VOLNOVAKHA CORRECTIONAL COLONY Nº. 120

This barricaded location is shown prior to and during observable changes consistent with reported filtration events related to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine (as of 24 February 2022).

According to a civilian released from the prison, Russian administration arrived to the prison 2 days* before the arrival of the Ukrainian military from Azovstal. He alleges that prior the administration was run by the DPR authorities. (Source: <https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>)

<https://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2022/07/22/249663/>

*17 May 2022, Reuters, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/azovstal-fighters-brought-russian-controlled-olenivka-after-surrender-witness-2022-05-17/>



DISTURBED
EARTH

COLUMN
CONSISTENT WITH
GROUP OF PEOPLE

2021.07.13 | WV02 48CM 10.4694° | PRIOR TO FULL INVASION

2022.04.11 | WV01 50CM 39.6217° | DISTURBED EARTH APPEARS

2022.06.10 | GEO1 50CM 29.9023° | ACTIVITY VISIBLE



DETENTION

VOLNOVAKHA CORRECTIONAL COLONY Nº. 120

The penal colony is shown prior to and during observable changes consistent with reported filtration events related to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine (2022.02.24). As of March 2022, no earth disturbance is atypical

of seasonal variation at the site. As of 11 April, disturbed earth appears in multiple locations at various sizes (1-5m, avg 2m length) and with varied regularity.

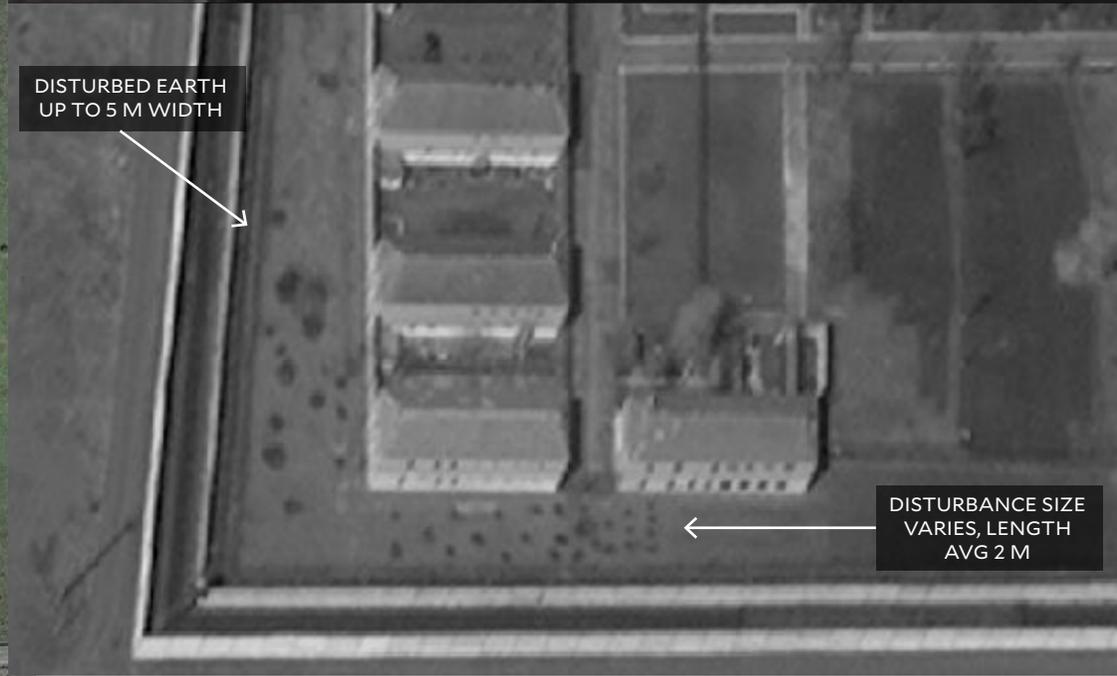
This analysis contrasted current imagery with archival images and open source data, including one open source allegation of grave digging during this time period at the facility. This report assesses that the sites of disturbed earth are consistent with potential individually dug gravesites.



2021.07.13 | WV02 48CM 10.4694° | PRIOR TO FULL-SCALE INVASION



2022.03.26 | WV02 50CM 36.0729° | NO EARTH DISTURBANCE CONSISTENT WITH GRAVES



2022.04.11 | WV01 50CM 39.6217° | DISTURBED EARTH CONSISTENT WITH PITS, GRAVES



DETENTION

VOLNOVAKHA CORRECTIONAL COLONY Nº. 120

A second set of earth disturbances is noted along the facility's southern fence. There are 7 rows of disturbed earth, each measuring approximately 15-16 meters long.

Some of the rows of disturbed earth are relatively straight, while other rows appear to be more inconsistent in shape. The lines of disturbed earth measure approximately 2-4 meters in width. Some are ditch-like in appearance, while others appear individuated.

No overlap appears between these disturbed earth sites and previous observed sites (2022.04.11).



NO OVERLAP FROM
PREVIOUS DISTURBED
EARTH SITES APPARENT

7 ROWS, 15-16M LONG
DISTURBED EARTH
SECTIONS 2-4M WIDTH



INDIVIDUATED
DISTURBANCES
AVG 2M LENGTH

2022.07.27 | GEO1 41CM 58.7036° | NEW DISTURBED EARTH APPEARS



2022.07.30 | GEO1 22.1102° | DISTURBED EARTH CONSISTENT WITH PITS, GRAVES

2022.07.27 | GEO1 41CM 58.7036° | NEW DISTURBED EARTH APPEARS