

## March, 09

On the evening of February 24, 2022, the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and all facilities of the **Chernobyl** nuclear power plant were seized by the Russian military. All employees of the station have been held hostage and have been in this state for fourteen days. The military seized spent nuclear fuel storage facilities - SNFSF-1, SNFSF-2; new safe confinement for Shelter units №№ 1, 2, 3 of the Chernobyl NPP, which are at the stage of decommissioning. On March 9, 2022, the Chernobyl NPP and the Exclusion Zone were de-energized, where there are 20,000 spent fuel assemblies that need constant cooling. It should be noted that without electricity, the ventilation system does not work, which leads to significant exposure of personnel, and the fire extinguishing system. If there is no cooling, the temperature will rise, there will be steaming and the release of radioactive substances that can be transferred by wind to Belarus, Russia and the European Union. Due to active hostilities, it seems impossible to carry out repair work. The Chernobyl nuclear material monitoring system has already stopped transmitting data to the IAEA. According to Energoatom Chairman Petro Kotin, under the current weather conditions the situation will be without serious consequences for about seven days, as diesel generators now provide cooling. After the Chernobyl NPP was cut off from electricity, settlements near the exclusion zone were left without electricity, including 25,000 people in the town of **Slavutych**.

Seizure of such an object is a gross violation of paragraph 1 of Art. 56 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which provides: *"Installations and structures containing dangerous forces, namely dams, dams and nuclear power plants, shall not be attacked even in cases where such "Objects are military facilities if such an attack could result in the release of dangerous forces and subsequent heavy casualties among the civilian population."*

Moving through the exclusion zone, Russian tanks and equipment stirred the topsoil, which increased the level of radiation around. It should be understood that the military is also exposed to significant exposure in the exclusion zone. Such actions violate Art. 55 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, according to paragraph 1 of which *"in the conduct of hostilities, care must be taken to protect the natural environment from widespread, long-term and serious damage. Such protection includes the prohibition of the use of methods or means of warfare which are intended to cause or are expected to cause such damage to the natural environment and thereby harm the health or survival of the population "*, as well as paragraph 3 of Art. 35, which prohibits *"the use of methods or means of warfare that are intended to cause or are expected to cause widespread, long-term and serious damage to the environment."*

In the **Bucha district** of Kyiv region, the Russian occupiers continue to keep the civilian population under siege. There is no access and communication with more than 10 settlements. There live women, children, the elderly. The military is covered by them like a human shield. According to locals, the Russian

military is shelling apartment buildings, looting, killing and raping women and girls. Such actions violate the provisions of paragraph 2 of Art. 51 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, according to which "*civilians as such, as well as individual civilians, shall not be the object of attacks. Acts of violence or threats of violence with the main purpose of terrorizing the civilian population are prohibited.*" In addition, in accordance with Art. 57 of the 1977 Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, military operations must be of constant concern for the protection of civilians, civilians and civilian objects.

Evacuation was carried out along humanitarian corridors from the cities of **Izium, Volnovakha, Irpin, Bucha, Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol**. More than 60,000 people were evacuated.

In accordance with paragraph 4 of Art. 51 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 prohibits indiscriminate attacks, which were severely violated on March 9, 2022 in the cities of **Zhytomyr, Izium, Okhtyrka, Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv**, where the occupiers continue indiscriminate shelling of civilian cities. This is also a violation of paragraph 2 of Art. 35 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, which states that "*the use of weapons, shells, substances and methods of hostilities capable of inflicting excessive damage or excessive suffering is prohibited.*" In the city of **Zhytomyr**, an air strike by the Russian military damaged a boiler house that provided a third of the city, smashed windows in hospitals, and destroyed a residential building. St. 57 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 states that "*military operations must be of constant concern for the protection of civilians, civilians and civilian objects... Those who plan or decide to attack ... take all precautionary measures possible in the choice of means and methods of attack in order to avoid accidental loss of life among the civilian population, injury to civilians and accidental damage to civilian objects and, in any case, to minimize them.*"

In the city of **Mariupol**, where a children's hospital was shelled and destroyed, a maternity hospital №2 (17 people were injured, 3 were killed, including one child). It will also be recalled that medical institutions are protected by international humanitarian law and cannot be attacked (Art. 12 of Additional Protocol (I) to the 1949 Geneva Conventions).

One of the buildings of the Azov State Technical University was also destroyed. According to the mayor, 1,300 civilians were killed during the shelling in **Mariupol**. Art. 48 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 stipulates that "*in order to ensure respect for and protection of civilians and civilian objects, the parties to the conflict must always distinguish between civilians and combatants, as well as civilian and military projects and accordingly direct their actions only against military facilities.*"

In the northern districts of **Kyiv region**, there have also been cases of the military changing into civilian clothes and stealing cars from farms and private property. Such actions can be classified as treason, prohibited by Art. 37 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, according to which

*"it is prohibited to kill, injure or capture an enemy by resorting to treachery, in particular, simulating possession of civilian or non-combatant status".*

We will remind also that Para. a) of Art. 53 of Additional Protocol (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 *"prohibits any hostile acts directed against historical monuments, works of art or places of worship which are the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples"*. However, an armed attack on March 7, 2022, destroyed two ancient churches in the **Zhytomyr region** (the village of Vyazivka) and the **Kyiv region** (the village of Zavorychi), and the monastery in **Chernihiv** was damaged by shelling.

*\* The facts described in the analytical information are confirmed by the materials of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine*