

# Incident Assessment

Incident ID	CIVo465
Location	Rzhavets, Kharkiv Oblast
Coordinates	<a href="#">49.8652, 36.1408</a> <sup>1</sup>
Date	Exact date of occurrence was not confirmed, but content was likely created on 20/03/2022
Time	Unknown

## Description of the Events

On 20/03/2022, four pictures showing remnants of what appeared to be a rocket embedded on the ground near a building, as well as an unexploded submunition, were posted on the Facebook page of the Interregional Center for Humanitarian Demining and Rapid Response. Specifically, there are two pictures of a rocket motor section embedded into the ground right near a ruined external corner of what appears to be a residential building (further - **“the Incident A”**) and two pictures of an unexploded submunition: one of the pictures depicts the submunition lying on the ground; another picture depicts a man in a uniform holding the submunition in his hands (further - **“the Incident B”**).

The Investigator was not able to identify any other publicly available posts or reports of attacks near the area of the village of Rzhavets (village where Incident B was geolocated, which is described further in this report) on either 19/03/2022 or 20/03/2022, the date of Incidents’ post on Facebook. The closest reported attack in time to the date these Incidents were posted, was an attack on the villages of Rzhavets and Vysokyi, which was [reported](#)<sup>2</sup> to have happened on 11/03/2022.

## Key Findings

- On 20/03/2022 at 18:26 EET/17:26 CET, four images of rocket remnants and an unexploded submunition were posted, which had reportedly impacted a location in Kharkiv Oblast.
- The submunition appears to be unexploded ordnance carried by a 9M55K rocket or a 9M27K rocket.
- The rocket fragment appears to be the rocket motor of a 9M55K rocket

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<sup>1</sup> <https://goo.gl/maps/pvJM81qyUmpsnCPt7>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

- The incident related to the submunition was geolocated to [49.8652, 36.1408](#)<sup>3</sup>, which corresponds to the address: 50 Kharkivska Street, Rzhavets, Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine, 62406.
- The possible area of impact of the submunitions was identified.
- No military objects were identified in the possible area of impact.
- Neither the exact location of launch nor the general direction of origin could be identified.

## Description of Searches

The CIVHARM sheet lists a single source for this incident which is a [Source 1](#)<sup>4</sup>. Searches for more information on both Incident A and B, including more pictures, videos, etc. of possible strikes or submunition explosions were conducted for the period of at least 10 days prior to the date of Source 1 in the area of Kharkiv Oblast. Searches were done in three languages: English, Ukrainian and Russian. These searches did not lead to more information on Youtube, Twitter and Telegram or any other social media regarding these events.

Searches were carried out using terms related to the geolocated place of the Incident B (i.e., Rzhavets, Vysokyi, Pivdenne, Pokotylivka, Khorosheve and other neighbouring villages in the south west of Kharkiv Oblast), as well as terms related to “shelling”, “strike”, “explosion”, “rocket”, “bombing”, “military”, and “munitions” alongside “Kharkiv Oblast” on both Yandex and Google search engines.

Google search led to an online local news outlet named “Objectiv” ([Source 2](#)<sup>5</sup>), which reported that on 11/03/2022 at around 15:30 EET an artillery attack was carried out in the villages of Rzhavets and Vysokyi in Kharkiv Oblast. As a result of the attack, five civilians were reported injured and at least ten residential buildings reported damaged. The news outlet states that information about the attack was provided by the local branch of prosecution authorities. The online media report contains pictures of a cluster munition remnant and a crater on the ground. Pictures are marked with the symbol and name of Kharkiv Regional Prosecution Office. This information is supported by a report dated 12/03/2022 provided by the Office of the Prosecutor general of Ukraine on its official Telegram channel (further - [Source 3](#)<sup>6</sup>), as well as official Telegram channel of the Kharkiv Regional Prosecution Office (further - [Source 4](#)<sup>7</sup>).

Similar to Google, Yandex also provides a link to “Objectiv” report, as well as few other similar reports which do not extend or amend information reported by “Objectiv”.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KgvwM8G7jwPGPBQM6>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ICHDRR/posts/435822061674482>

<sup>5</sup>

<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://t.me/pgov\\_gov\\_ua/3142](https://t.me/pgov_gov_ua/3142)

<sup>7</sup> [https://t.me/prokuratura\\_kharkiv/3010](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3010)



# Background Summary of Significant Descriptive Content

## Media Reports

- <https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/><sup>8</sup>;
- <https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/sbu-rassleduet-obstrel-okkupantami-dvukh-poselkov-v-kharkovskoy-oblasti><sup>9</sup>;
- <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/general/812045.html><sup>10</sup>.

## NGO Reports

- [Intense and Lasting Harm](#) - HRW Report on Cluster Munition Attacks in Ukraine.<sup>11</sup>

## Other

- <https://khpg.org/1608810244><sup>12</sup>;
- [https://t.me/s/pgov\\_gov\\_ua/3133](https://t.me/s/pgov_gov_ua/3133)<sup>13</sup>;
- [https://t.me/prokuratura\\_kharkiv/3010](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3010)<sup>14</sup>;
- <https://helsinki.org.ua/articles/khronolohiia-podiy-u-kharkovi-ta-kharkivskiy-oblasti-pid-chas-rosiysko-ukrainskoi-viyny-11-bereznia-2022-roku/><sup>15</sup>;
- <https://m.allkharkov.ua/news/pro/nasldki-obstrlv-selish-visokii-ta-rjavec-postrajdal.htm><sup>16</sup>.

## Analysis of Examinable Content

- **Source 1:** [Facebook](#)<sup>17</sup>. Four images of a rocket remnant and unexploded submunition posted on 20/03/2022 at 18:26 EET/17:26 CET, two images which depict a rocket tail embedded in the ground near the building and two images depicting unexploded submunition: one image depicts submunition lying on the ground, the other image depicts submunition held by a man in a uniform. Text which accompanies the images states the following: “We continue to perform our duties under conditions of wartime! All calculations of sappers of the division of the humanitarian rating of the Interregional Center for Humanitarian Mining and Rapid Response of the State Emergency Services (SES) of Ukraine are involved in the removal and destruction of explosive objects in the territory of Kharkiv Oblast. Keep in mind security and entrust the case of finding the capability of GNP to specialists. The main thing is, don't panic!”

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<sup>8</sup>

<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

<sup>9</sup>

<https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/sbu-rassleduet-obstrel-okkupantami-dvukh-poselkov-v-kharkovskoy-oblasti>

<sup>10</sup> <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/general/812045.html>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/ru/news/2022/05/11/end-cluster-munition-attacks-ukraine>

<sup>12</sup> <https://khpg.org/1608810244>

<sup>13</sup> [https://t.me/s/pgov\\_gov\\_ua/3133](https://t.me/s/pgov_gov_ua/3133)

<sup>14</sup> [https://t.me/prokuratura\\_kharkiv/3010](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3010)

<sup>15</sup>

<https://helsinki.org.ua/articles/khronolohiia-podiy-u-kharkovi-ta-kharkivskiy-oblasti-pid-chas-rosiysko-ukrainskoi-viyny-11-bereznia-2022-roku/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://m.allkharkov.ua/news/pro/nasldki-obstrlv-selish-visokii-ta-rjavec-postrajdal.htm>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/ICHDRR/posts/435822061674482>



*Left: Source 1 Image 1 (S1I1) of the munition remnant posted on Facebook. Right: Source 1 Image 2 (S1I2) of the munition remnant posted on Facebook.*



*Left - Image Source 1 Image 3 (S1I3) of the unexploded submunition on Facebook. Right - Source 1 Image 4 (S1I4) of an unexploded submunition posted on Facebook.*



- **Source 2:** [Objectiv media](#)<sup>18</sup>. A brief description of events in Kharkiv Oblast posted on 12/03/2022. Specifically, the description mentions an artillery attack of villages Rzhavets and Vysokiy on 11/03/2022, and contains a picture of cluster munition remnants.



Следователи открыли очередное уголовное производство по факту нарушения законов и обычаев войны.

По данным следствия, 11 марта около 15:30 военнослужащими ВС РФ совершили артиллерийский обстрел пгт Высокий и села Ржавец Харьковского района Харьковской области. Об этом сообщили в пресс-центре Харьковской областной прокуратуры.

В результате обстрела 5 мирных жителей получили телесные повреждения. Кроме того, повреждены более 10 жилых домов. Начато досудебное расследование по факту нарушения законов и обычаев войны (ч. 1 ст. 438 УК Украины).



Source 2 contains the description of attacks and an image (S2I1) of remnants of what appears to be a cluster munition and an image of a crater (S2I2) marked by the Kharkiv Regional Prosecution Office.

- **Source 3:** [Telegram](#)<sup>19</sup>. The official page of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, providing information regarding shelling of the villages Rzhavets and Vysokiy in Kharkiv Oblast on 11/03/2022, as well as one picture of what appears to be cluster

<sup>18</sup>

<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

<sup>19</sup> [https://t.me/pgov\\_gov\\_ua/3142](https://t.me/pgov_gov_ua/3142)

munition remnants. The image appears to be the same as S2I1 and also bears a mark by the Kharkiv Regional Prosecution Office.



*Source 3 containing description of events and an image (S3I1) of what appears to be cluster munition remnants.*

- **Source 4:** [Telegram](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3010)<sup>20</sup> - official page of the Kharkiv Regional Prosecution Office providing information regarding shelling villages Rzhavets and Vysokyi in Kharkiv Oblast on 11/03/2022, as well as one picture of cluster munition remnants and a picture of a crater in the ground next to a building. The first image corresponds to S2I1 and S3I1, while the second image corresponds to S2I1.

<sup>20</sup> [https://t.me/prokuratura\\_kharkiv/3010](https://t.me/prokuratura_kharkiv/3010)



#### Харківська обласна прокуратура



◆ За процесуального керівництва Харківської обласної прокуратури слідчими СВ Управління СБ України в Харківській області розпочато досудове розслідування за фактом порушення законів та звичаїв війни (ч. 1 ст. 438 КК України).

✍ За даними слідства, 11 березня 2022 року близько 15:30 військовослужбовцями ЗС РФ здійснено артилерійський обстріл населених пунктів смт Високий та с. Ржавець Харківського району Харківської області.

У результаті обстрілу 5 мирних мешканців отримали тілесні ушкодження, пошкоджено більше 10 житлових будинків.

Досудове розслідування триває.

✕ Харківська обласна прокуратура

*Source 4, which contains description of events and an image (S4I1) of what appears to be cluster munition remnants and an image of a crater (S4I2).*

## Questions to Investigate

### Incident A

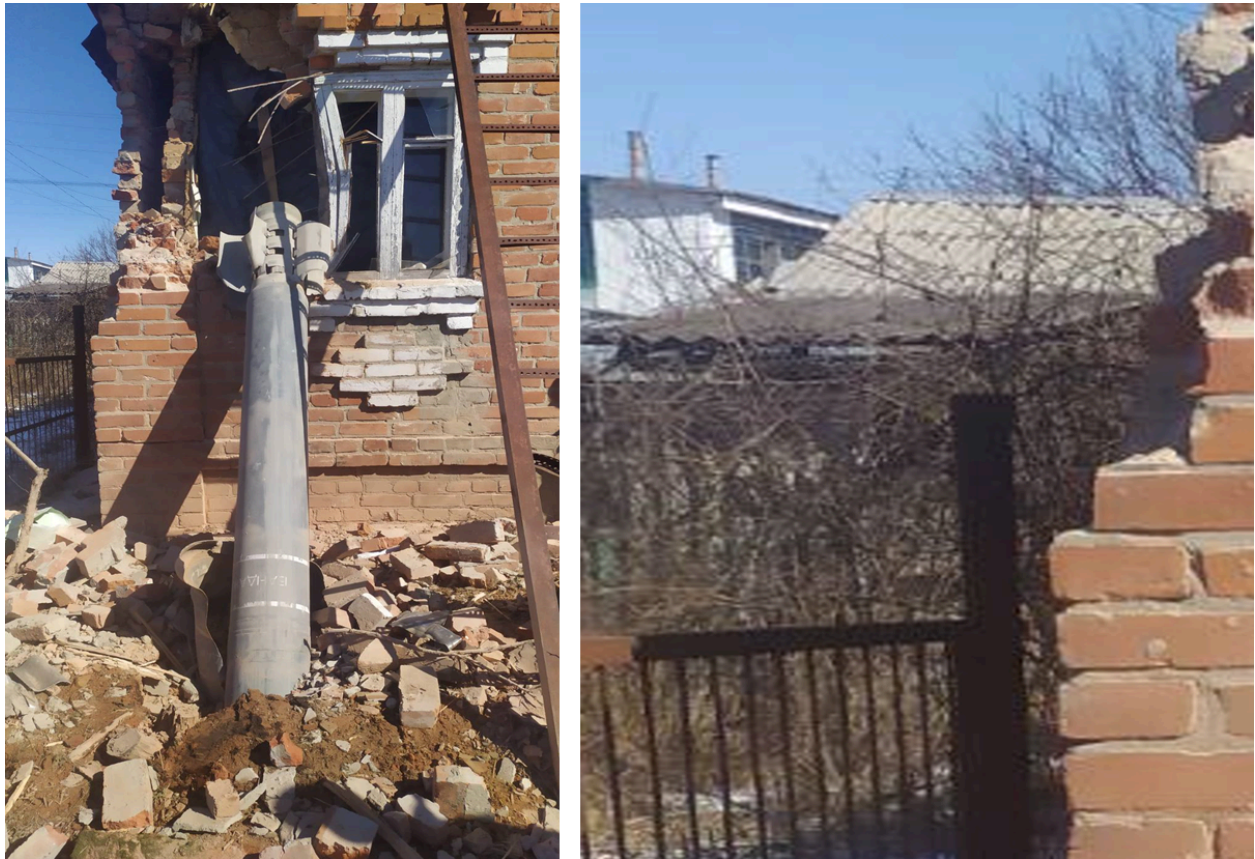
#### Where Was the Incident?

Source 1 does not provide for the location of the Incident A. Nor does the Civharm sheet. Source 1 only mentions that “SES of Ukraine are involved in the execution of the removal and destruction of explosive objects in the territory of Kharkiv region”, thus it could be assumed that the S1I1, S1I2, S1I3 and S1I4 have been taken in Kharkiv Oblast.



## ***Geolocation of the Incident A***

Image 1 provides for an extremely limited view of the surroundings behind the building next to which the munition remnants were embedded in the ground.



*Left: S1I1 as posted on Facebook. Right: S1I1 cropped and enlarged providing a more detailed view of the surroundings behind the damaged building.*

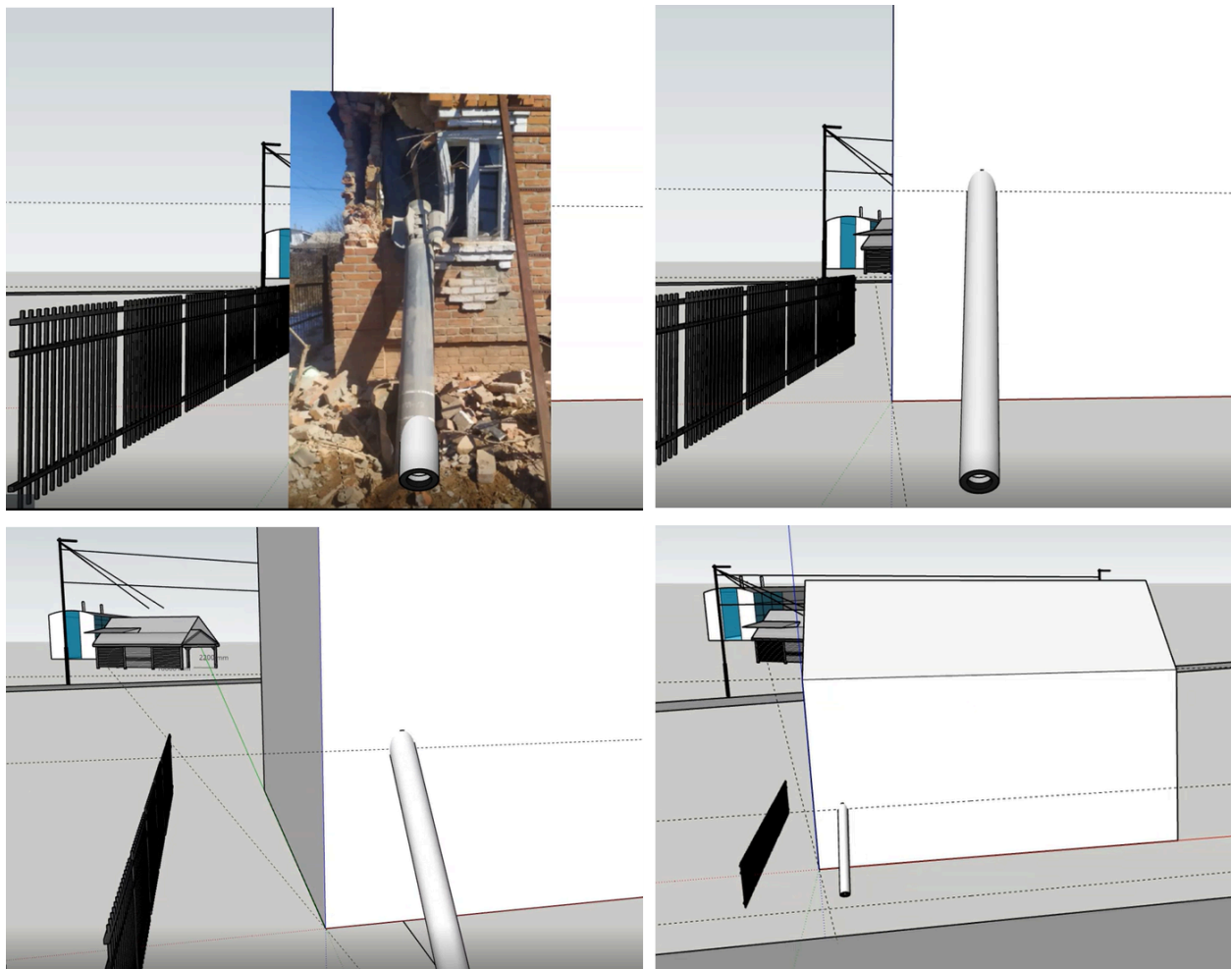
In the background of the building next to which the munition remnants were embedded it is possible to view the following:

- 1) A fence, which presumably separates suburban or rural type households.
- 2) Behind the fence there is a certain area filled with grass, bushes and trees, most likely a type of garden.
- 3) Behind the bushes a green object that can be distinguished. Presumably this could be another fence or a gate or a wicket of another household. Thus it could also be assumed that there may be a road which separates the household where the munition remnants are embedded and the household behind the green fence or gate.
- 4) Behind the green object there is a distinctly visible low rise building with a grey roof. The grey roof appears to be triangular shaped at its higher part, and flat with a slight slope down on its lower part.
- 5) Behind the grey roofed buildings there is a rather high building with a white wall and big window. The roof of the white building is almost flat with a slight slope down, and white fascia over the aforementioned big window. Considering the size of the building and its

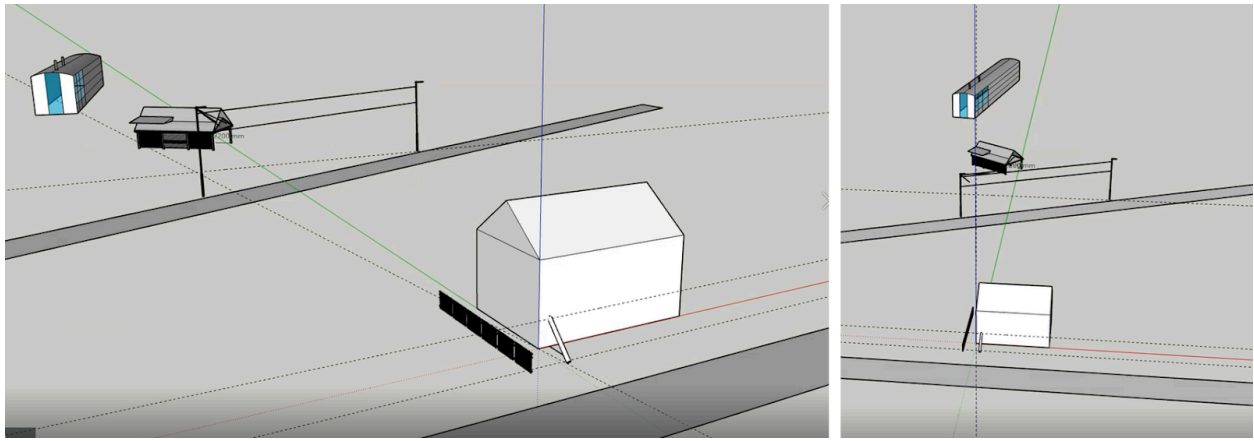
window, it was assessed that the white building was likely to be an industrial or commercial type of building.

- 6) On its left side the white wall appears to be attached to another wall or a window of a dark green colour, although this was not clearly depicted in the image.
- 7) On the roof or behind the roof of the white building there are two chimneys visible. The larger left-hand chimney was assessed as being more likely a separate industrial type of chimney some distance behind the white building rather than part of the white building itself. The right smaller chimney could be either a smaller industrial type or a chimney mounted on the roof of the white building.
- 8) From the original view of the S1I1 it is also possible to observe electricity cables located perpendicular to the building next to which the munition remnants are located. Thus there could be at least two electricity poles located left and right from the building next to the location of munition. This also coincides with the assessment that there could be a road separating the household, mentioned in the point 3) above.

Taking into account all the objects mentioned above, observations and assumptions, the surroundings of the location of munition remnants could be sketched as follows:





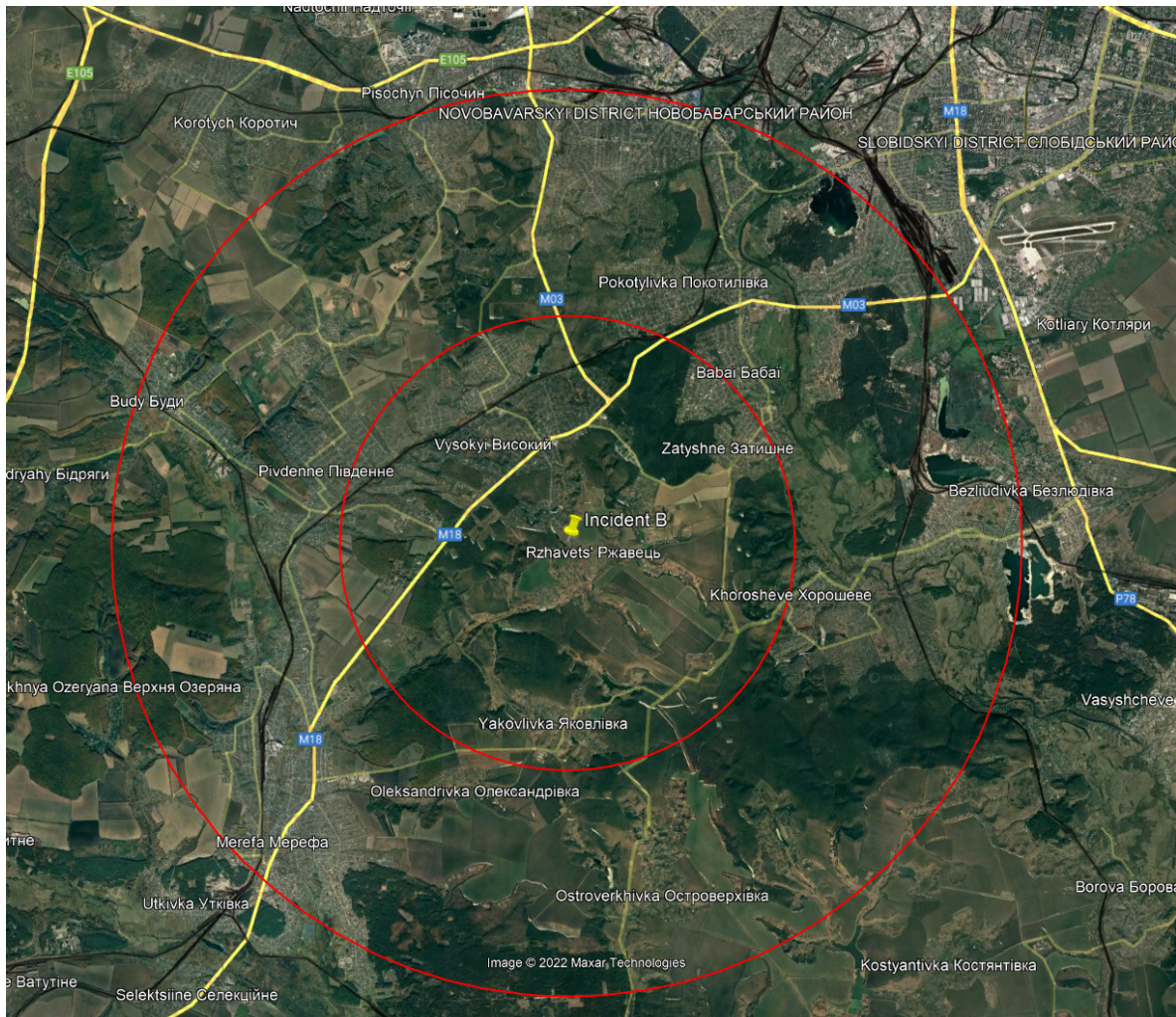


*3D sketch consisting of 6 images of the possible location of the objects viewed from several perspectives, which are initially depicted in the background of S1I1.*

Assuming that Incident A could relate to Incident B since they were included in the same post, the Investigator marked and searched an area of 5 km radius from the geolocation of the Incident B. This assessment is also supported by the information stated in Source 2 that villages Rzhavets and Vysokyi were shelled on the same day. Village Vysokyi is within the 5 km radius from the village Rzhavets, where Incident B was geolocated.

No commercial/industrial buildings with white walls and a big window, as well as industrial chimneys matching the sketch above, were identified within a 5 km radius.

Assuming that pictures of Incident A and B were taken on the same day while the SES of Ukraine worked on the removal and destruction of explosive objects, the search for the geolocation of the Incident A was extended to the area of radius of 10 km of the geolocation of the Incident B.



*A screenshot of satellite view from Google Earth Pro showing the area within a radius of 5 km (smaller red circle) and area within a radius of 10 km from the Incident B (Credit: Google Earth Pro).*

The investigator thoroughly researched the area of Khorosheve, Bezliudivka, Pershotravneve, Rzhavets, Vysokyi, Pivdenne, Merefa, Yakovlivka, Oleksandrivka, Zatyshne, Babai, Pokotylivka, Nova Berezivka, Berezivka, Budy, Korotych, Nadtochii, Pischyn, Podvirky in Kharkiv Oblast, as well as Novobavarskyi district of the city of Kharkiv via satellite images on Google Earth Pro.

It is notable that Google Maps as well as Google Earth Pro do not provide for a street view of the majority of the mentioned villages. Other mapping related sources, including [yandex.com/maps](https://yandex.com/maps); [mapillary.com](https://mapillary.com); [overpass-turbo.eu](https://overpass-turbo.eu); [wikimapia.org](https://wikimapia.org) do not provide for street view of the majority of mentioned villages either.

No commercial/industrial buildings with white walls and a big window, as well as industrial chimneys which could match the observation and sketch mentioned above were identified within a 10 km radius of Incident B.

As such it was assessed as likely that pictures of Incident A and Incident B were taken at different locations and possibly on different days and that the incidents do not relate to each other, but pictures from two separate incidents were placed together in one post on Facebook. In this case the area of search for geolocation of Incident A could be extended up to the whole Kharkiv Oblast, which covers 31,415km<sup>2</sup> and consists of 17 cities, 7 regional cities, 61 urban

settlements and 1683 villages.<sup>21</sup> This was judged to be too large of an area in the time allocated for this task and so Incident A could not be geolocated.

## When Was the Incident?

The earliest identified post regarding this Incident is Source 1, which was posted at 18:26 EET/17:26 CET on 20/03/2022. However, the post description does not directly claim that the Incident occurred on 20/03/2022.

Initially assessing that Incident A could relate to Incident B, the investigator searched for reports of shelling or explosions related to the area of village Rzhavets in Kharkiv Oblast, where Incident B was geolocated for the dates of 20/03/2022 (when Source 1 was posted) and 19/03/2022. No reports or mentions of any incident in the searched area were identified.

The investigator further checked for reports on the same area for at least 10 days preceding the date when the Source 1 was posted. Local news outlets "[Objectiv](#)"<sup>22</sup> (Source 2) and a mirrored article on "[Kharkiv Today](#)"<sup>23</sup> reported shelling in the villages of Rzhavets and Visokyi on 11/03/2022. Although the dates of Source 1 and Source 2 are nine days apart, it could not be ruled out that Incident A is not related to events described in Source 2 due to substantial amount of [shelling in Kharkiv](#)<sup>24</sup> area in March 2022, which subsequently could have caused delayed reports from SES in the Kharkiv Oblast.

Hence, it appears more likely that Incident A occurred on or before 11/03/2022.

Assuming that Incident A does not relate to Incident B, the investigator checked for the shelling related events in the Kharkiv Oblast. It appears that Kharkiv was shelled with artillery, MLRS and mortars [at least 38 times](#)<sup>25</sup> in the 24 hours before 20/03/2022, mainly in the northern part of the city of Kharkiv.

## Time

The time of the incident could not be accurately established.

## What Kind of Munition Was Used?

The rocket remnants in S1I1 match the rocket motor section of a 9M55K rocket.

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<sup>21</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharkiv\\_Oblast](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharkiv_Oblast)

<sup>22</sup>

<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

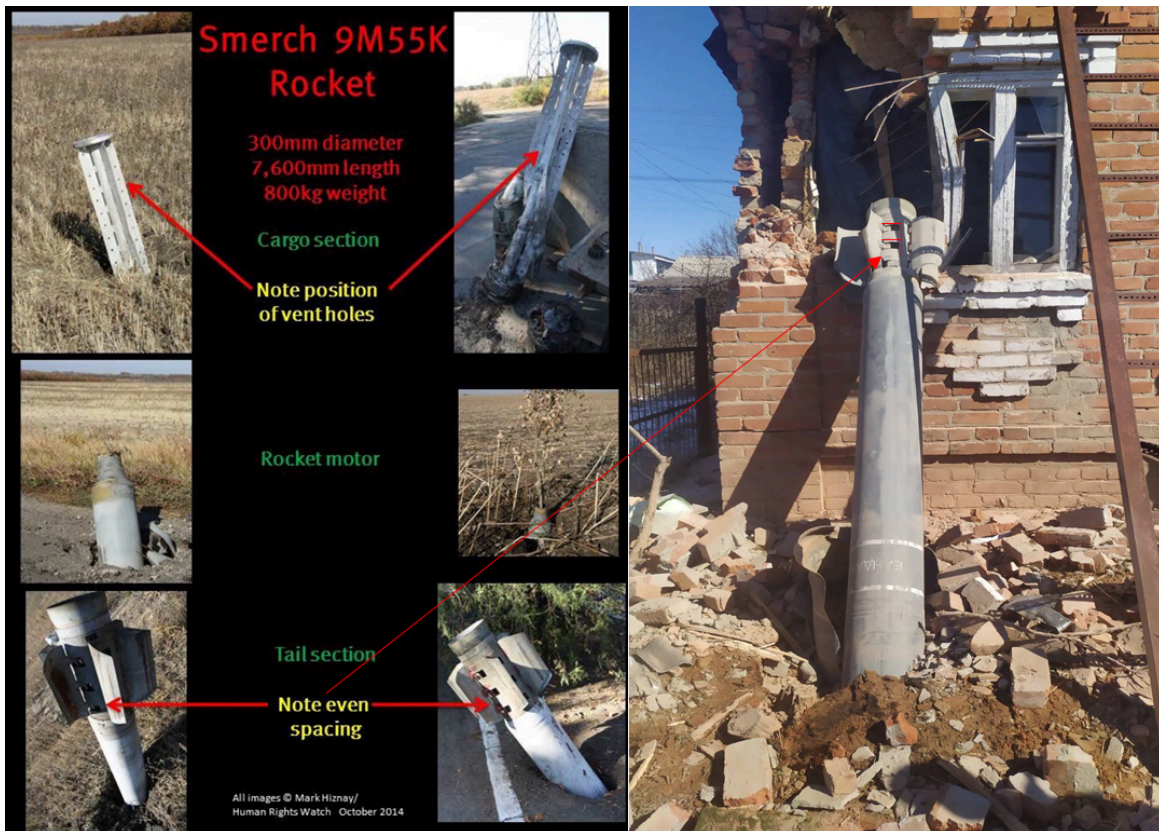
<sup>23</sup>

<https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/sbu-rassleduet-obstrel-okkupantami-dvukh-poselkov-v-kharkovskoy-obl-asti>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/16/ukraine-unlawful-russian-attacks-kharkiv>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.unn.com.ua/ru/news/1968807-okupanti-tsiyeyi-dobi-blizko-40-raziv-obstrilyali-kharkiv>





Left: [reference images](#)<sup>26</sup> from the official Twitter page of Human Rights Watch Associate Arms Director. Right: An enlarged image of rocket motor from S1I1. Red, narrow lines highlight the similarities of the tale sections in the reference image and S1I1.

S2I1, S3I1 and S4I1, all contain the same picture of a munition remnant relating to a shelling event, which reportedly occurred in the area of villages Rzhavets and Vysokyi on 11/03/2022. This munition remnant matches the cargo section of a 9M55K rocket.



Left: [reference images](#)<sup>27</sup> from the official Twitter page of Human Rights Watch Associate Arms Director. Right: image of rocket cargo section as depicted by S2I1, S3I1 and S4I1.

<sup>26</sup> [https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1496719886009126912?s=20&t=YjisQbzIlfzMFdp\\_ozOoKw](https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1496719886009126912?s=20&t=YjisQbzIlfzMFdp_ozOoKw)

<sup>27</sup> [https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1496719886009126912?s=20&t=YjisQbzIlfzMFdp\\_ozOoKw](https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1496719886009126912?s=20&t=YjisQbzIlfzMFdp_ozOoKw)

## Is There Any Evidence of the Direction the Munition Came from?

Taking into account that Incident A was not geolocated, it is not possible to establish the direction of where the munition came from.

### Incident B

#### Where Was the Incident?

Source 1 does not provide the location for Incident B. Nor does the Civharm sheet. Source 1 only mentions that “SES of Ukraine are involved in the execution of the removal and destruction of explosive objects in the territory of Kharkiv region”, thus it could be assumed that the images posted in Source 1 have been taken in Kharkiv Oblast.

#### *Geolocation of the Incident B*

S1I3 provides for an extensive view of the surroundings behind the man holding an unexploded submunition which enables geolocation. The view is limited to only the unexploded submunition partially covered in mud and what appears to be a surface covered with dried brown leaves.



*S1I3, cropped and enlarged with objects aiding potential identification of location marked in different colors.*



Within S1I3 in the background of the man holding the unexploded submunition it is possible to view the following:

- 1) Suburban type of a large residential house with a grey roof.
- 2) On the left to it, there is a partially visible smaller residential house with a red roof.
- 3) A partially visible smaller house with the grey roof further at the back.
- 4) A larger residential house with a triangular-shape roof upper from the other three houses.
- 5) At the same height as the later house, there is another, separately standing house, which appears to be to the left from the subsequently mentioned group of the houses.
- 6) Downhill from all the houses, there is an open area with a flat surface covered evenly with the snow, which was assessed to likely be a frozen lake or pond.
- 7) This area is surrounded by bushes and a row of 8 trees growing in a line.
- 8) A man holding the unexploded submunition appears to be standing in an open area, slightly sloping down towards the area assessed to likely be a frozen lake.



*Left: S1I3 cropped and enlarged showing the: 1. Big residential house with grey roof; 2. Partially visible smaller residential house with a red roof; 3. Another smaller partially visible residential house up to the right; 4. Residential building on what appears to be top of the hill; 5. Another grey roofed house on top of the hill; 6. Frozen lake or pond; 7. Sequence of trees; 8. Unexploded submunition marked with a yellow star. Right: screenshot from Google Earth Pro of the area in Kharkiv Oblast, village of Rzhavets, marking the objects in the same sequence as mentioned in description of S1I3 (Credit Google Earth Pro).*

Considering the aforementioned, as well as a note on limited access to street view of villages surrounding the city of Kharkiv, the investigator searched on satellite view of Google Earth Pro for the lakes surrounded by hills with a sequence of houses where at least one of the houses was red roofed.

The location of the unexploded submunition depicted on Image 3 of the Source 1 was geolocated to the following coordinates: [49.8652, 36.1408](#)<sup>28</sup>. These coordinates correspond to the address: 50 Kharkivska Street, Rzhavets, Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine, 62406.

## **When Was the Incident?**

The earliest identified post regarding this Incident is Source 1, which was posted at 18:26 EET/17:26 CET on 20/03/2022. However, the post does not claim that Incident A occurred on 20/03/2022.

The earliest available report on shelling related events in the area around village of Rzhavets was identified on local news outlets [Objectiv](#)<sup>29</sup> (Source 2) and an article on [“Kharkiv Today”](#)<sup>30</sup>. The articles reported on shelling of villages Rzhavets and Visokyi on 11/03/2022. Although the date of Source 1 and Source 2 are 9 days apart, it could not be ruled out that Incident B is not related to the events described in Source 2 due to a substantial amount of shelling in Kharkiv area in March 2022, which could have caused delayed reports from the SES of Kharkiv Oblast.

It appears most likely that this incident from which this munition came occurred on or before 11/03/2022.

## **Time**

The time of the incident could not be accurately established. However, the description of events mentioned in Sources 2, 3 and 4 say that the shelling occurred at 15:30 EET on 11/03/2022.

## **What Kind of Munition Was Used?**

The submunition seen in S1I4 matches the distinct features of a 9N235 or 9N210 submunition, which are externally identical. These types of submunition are delivered by Uragan (9M27K) or Smerch (9M55K) [rockets](#)<sup>31</sup>. This fact may support the earlier assumption that Incident A could be related to Incident B, as well as to the event mentioned on Sources 2, 3 and 4.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://maps.app.goo.gl/feEfHzDyAdTypxZP6>

<sup>29</sup>

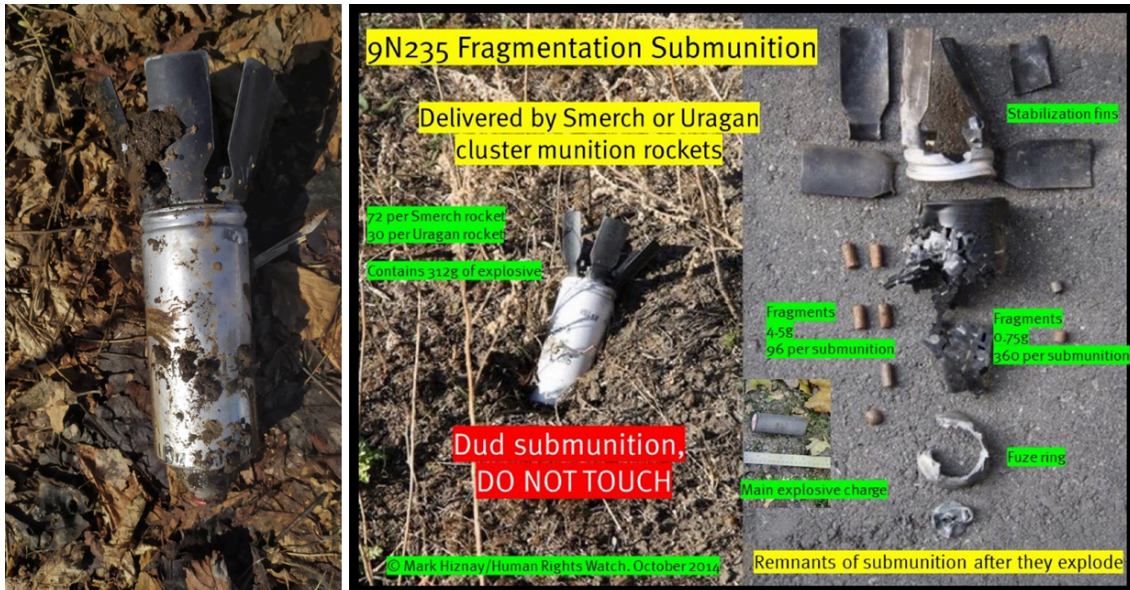
<https://www.objectiv.tv/objectively/2022/03/12/okkupanty-obstrelyali-dva-poselka-na-harkovshhine-postradali-5-chelovek-foto/>

<sup>30</sup>

<https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/sbu-rassleduet-obstrel-okkupantami-dvukh-poselkov-v-kharkovskoy-oblasti>

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1496719886009126912?s=20&t=iS8HM2ZZQ8KrIyJillyigg>





Left: enlarged image of the submunition as seen in S1I4. Right: [Reference imagery](#)<sup>32</sup> from the official Twitter page of Human Rights Watch Associate Arms Director.

The submunition held by the man in S1I3 can be identified as the same munition pictured in S1I4 based on the mud splatter and scuff marks on the tail.

<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/MarkHiznay/status/1501608650015657994?s=20&t=koIYV4qj1xM1ag38RzoFTg>



*Comparison of submunition seen in S1I3 and S1I4.*

## **Area of Impact**

High resolution satellite image covering the area around the villages of Rzhavets and Vysokyi on 21/03/2022 was ordered from the satellite imagery provider Planet Labs. Several areas, which appear to have been impacted by explosions, were identified. Identified impacted areas were overlaid on the map within the radius of 5 km of the location of Incident B as shown on the series of images below.





*A screenshot of satellite view from Google Earth Pro showing the area impacted by submunition explosions (white rectangles 1; 2 and 3) within a radius of 5 km (red circle) from the location of Incident B (yellow pin) (Credit: Google Earth Pro/ Planet Labs).*





*Rectangle 1. Enlarged screenshot of a satellite imagery obtained from Planet Labs of the area around the location of Incident B, dated 21/03/2022. Brown circles which were assessed as likely to be craters are visible and encircled in white (Credit: Planet Labs).*



*Rectangle 2. Enlarged screenshot of a satellite imagery obtained from Planet Labs of the area around the location of Incident B, dated 21/03/2022. Brown circles which were assessed as likely to be craters are visible and encircled in white (Credit: Planet Labs).*





*Rectangle 3. Enlarged screenshot of a satellite imagery obtained from Planet Labs of the area around the location of Incident B, dated 21/03/2022. Brown circles which were assessed as likely to be craters are visible and encircled in white (Credit: Planet Labs).*

### **Were There Military Structures, Installations or Other Assets in the Area?**

The villages of Rzhavets and Vysokyi, mentioned in Sources 2, 3 and 4, consist mostly of residential areas. There are also rather small objects of transportation (e.g., bus stops on the road), as well as petrol stations and supermarkets.

For the purposes of a detailed investigation of potential military presence in the possible target area, a search was conducted within a 5 kilometre radius of the location of Incident B.





*Screenshot of a satellite view from Google Earth Pro. The location of Incident B is marked with a yellow pin. The red circle indicates a 5 km radius area around Incident B location (Credit: Google Earth Pro).*

For further investigation of a possible military presence at the time of Incident B, a high-resolution satellite image of the area around the Incident from 21/03/2022 was ordered from Planet Labs.





*Screenshot of the part of a satellite image obtained from Planet Labs depicting the area in a 5 km radius from the location of Incident B, dated 21/03/2022.*

As of 21/03/2022, no objects of military infrastructure or other military presence could be identified within the radius of 1 km from the place of Incident B using this imagery.

## **Timeline of the Incident**

No later than on 20/03/2022 but likely on 11/03/2022, a 9N210 or 9N235 submunition, possibly from a 9M55K rocket, impacted into an area near a household in Rzhavets village, Kharkiv Oblast.

## **Statements from Parties of the Conflict**

### **Ukraine**

The Prosecutors office in Kharkiv Oblast has opened an investigation in the shelling event in Rzhavets village, which occurred on 11/03/2022 (Sources 3 and 4).

### **Russia**

Research has not identified any report or mention of these incidents by Russian authorities.



## **Conclusion**

Although the post depicting a 9M55K rocket motor section and 9N235/9N210 unexploded submunition was posted on 20/03/2022, it was not possible to establish the exact date these incidents took place. Based on posts and videos on social media, it appears that the villages of Rzhavets and Vysokyi came under artillery attack, likely by cluster munitions, on 11/03/2022.

The likely area of origin of this rocket was not identified.

No military installations, equipment or positions could be identified in this area in high resolution satellite imagery from 21/03/2022.

## **Further Action**

Conduct further research to identify the location of the Incident A