

# Incident Assessment

Incident ID	CIV0097
Location	Horizon, Obriy District, Kharkiv, Kharkiv Oblast
Coordinates	<a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/yBV7difXhUrgSXE4A">49.9277, 36.4332</a> <sup>1</sup>
Date	28/02/2022
Time	Likely at around 10:42 EET

## Description of the Events

On 28/02/2022, footage surfaced depicting several explosions taking place on the Velyka Kil'tseva Street of the microdistrict Horizon in Kharkiv. At least three apartment buildings were damaged as a result of these strikes. Individuals could be seen running while the strikes took place, one of whom fell to the ground. Statements by rescuers and eyewitnesses later on mention the death of one person.

Though no open source evidence of a cargo section or rocket motor related to this event was found, the pattern of impacts and statements by the officials indicate that the weapon used was likely a cluster munition delivered by rockets. The direction of fire was likely from the north to north-west of the Horizon microdistrict.

## Key Findings

- On 28/02/2022, a video surfaced of an apartment building and surrounding area being hit by multiple explosions. The video description referred to 'Horizon'.
- These impacts were geolocated to Velyka Kil'tseva St., 128 ([49.9277, 36.4332](https://maps.app.goo.gl/yBV7difXhUrgSXE4A))<sup>2</sup>.
- Other footage posted around the same time as the initial video was geolocated to the adjacent apartment buildings at Velyka Kil'tseva St., 130 and 132.
- There appeared to be no signs of military presence in the area either before or after the strike.
- The incident occurred on 28/02/2022, likely at around 10:42 EET.
- The video(s) show three individuals running in close proximity to the explosions. One person falls to the ground. News reports quote rescuers and eyewitnesses stating that one person was injured, and another died in this area.
- The weapon used is likely a cluster munition launched from the north to north west of the microdistrict.
- No cargo section or rocket motor could be identified.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yBV7difXhUrgSXE4A>

<sup>2</sup> <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yBV7difXhUrgSXE4A>

- The launch site could not be established.

## Description of Searches

The CIVHARM sheet lists a single source [Source 1, Video 1](#) (S1V1)<sup>3</sup> for this incident. The accompanying description of this video pointed towards the Horizon microdistrict in Obriy, Kharkiv. Upon further investigation, it appears that CIV0097 is also the same incident as CIV0084, and as such additional sources were added ([Source 7](#)<sup>4</sup> and [Source 8](#)<sup>5</sup>).

Searches were carried out using terms related to street, (micro)district, city, as well as terms related to shelling, military, and munitions, in English, Russian, and Ukrainian using both Yandex and Google.

## Background Summary of Significant Descriptive Content

### Media Reports

- [GordonUA](#)<sup>6</sup> - Published an article on 28/02/2022 that contains a broad overview of shelling in Kharkiv. The accompanying picture in the article is from the parking lot recorded in S1V1.
- [Kharkiv Today](#)<sup>7</sup> - This news report from 28/02/2022 quotes rescuers that went to the street recorded in S1V1. The rescuers said that “As a result of the shelling, five cars burned in the yard near the high-rise building. Two people were injured, one died.”
- [Vgorode](#)<sup>8</sup> - This news report from 28/02/2022 states that according to eyewitnesses, there is a dead person “on the street on the Horizon”, referring to the microdistrict where S1V1 was recorded.
- [Izvestia](#)<sup>9</sup> - This website on 28/02/2022 reported that one person had died.
- [SQ](#)<sup>10</sup> - This website states on 31/03/2022 that “For a long time, Horizon was the so-called gray zone - on opposite sides of the quarters were the Ukrainian military and

<sup>3</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>4</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1498244855759355905>

<sup>5</sup> [https://twitter.com/karinanguyen\\_/status/1498248288205737990](https://twitter.com/karinanguyen_/status/1498248288205737990)

<sup>6</sup>

<https://gordonua.com/news/war/zelenskiy-ob-obstrelah-harkova-nikto-v-mire-ne-prostit-ubiystvo-mirnyh-lyudey-za-eto-prestuplenie-tochno-budet-tribunal-1597715.html>

<sup>7</sup>

<https://2day.kh.ua/ru/kharkow/v-rezultate-obstrele-mikrorayona-v-kharkove-pogib-chelovek-est-postra-davshie>

<sup>8</sup>

<https://kh.vgorode.ua/news/sobytyia/a1199673-saltovka-pod-obstrelom-iz-rossii-vyletela-vrazheskaja-aviatsija>

<sup>9</sup>

<https://izvestia.kharkov.ua/proisshestviya/harkiv-zaznav-masovanogo-udaru-gradami-ie-zagibli-video-18/>

<sup>10</sup>

<https://www.sq.com.ua/rus/novosti/31.03.2022/kak-zivet-xarkovskii-mikroraion-gorizont-gde-ne-ostalo-s-ni-odnoi-celoi-mnogoetazki-video>

equipment of the occupiers.” It is unclear how long this was the case, but it might have been so on 28/02/2022.

- [Reuters](#)<sup>11</sup> - Report on 28/02/2022 that civilians were killed as a result of shelling in residential areas where no military targets were present.
- [CNN](#)<sup>12</sup> - Report published on 03/03/2022 showing geolocations of incidents of civilian harm in Kharkiv

## NGO Reports

- None identified.

## Other

- None identified.

## Analysis of Examinable Content

The investigation started with [SIV](#)<sup>13</sup>. This CCTV video showed several explosions taking place in a parking lot next to an apartment building. Three individuals could be seen running, one of whom fell to the ground. This video had text overlaid on top of it.



*A screengrab of [SIV](#)<sup>14</sup> depicting the video overlaid with text in the top-right corner, and the name of the Telegram channel bottom-center.*

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<sup>11</sup>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/dozens-killed-rocket-strikes-ukrainian-city-kharkiv-says-ukrainian-official-2022-02-28/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/03/europe/ukraine-kharkiv-civilian-strikes-intl-cmd/index.html>

<sup>13</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>14</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

This overlaid text indicated that [S1V1](#)<sup>15</sup> (first published at 19:06 EET on 28/02/2022) was not the original version of this video: rather, someone had found the original video and added the overlaid text to it. A search for the original video without overlaid text added to it led to the discovery of [Source 2, Video 1](#) (S2V1)<sup>16</sup> (first published at 18:58 EET on 29/02/2022). S2V1 is identical to S1V1, with the exception of overlaid text. S2V1 was also shared in Telegram groups on 28/02/2022.



*A screengrab of [S2V1](#)<sup>17</sup>, showing detonations, a date and time stamp, as well as two of the three individuals in the top right corner.*

The text posted alongside the video pointed to the ‘Horizon’, a microdistrict in the south-east of Kharkiv. Searches on both Telegram and on search engines led to more images of the same buildings as the ones seen in S1V1 and S2V1, mentioning the same district.

These images included close-up photos of the cars that were damaged in the explosions in S1V2. Several photos and videos provided an overview of the area and depicted adjacent apartment buildings.

For example, [Source 3, Image 1](#) (S3I1)<sup>18</sup> (first published at 11:15 EET, 28/02/2022) depicts the same parking lot and area that was recorded in S1V1 and S2V1, but from the opposite side.

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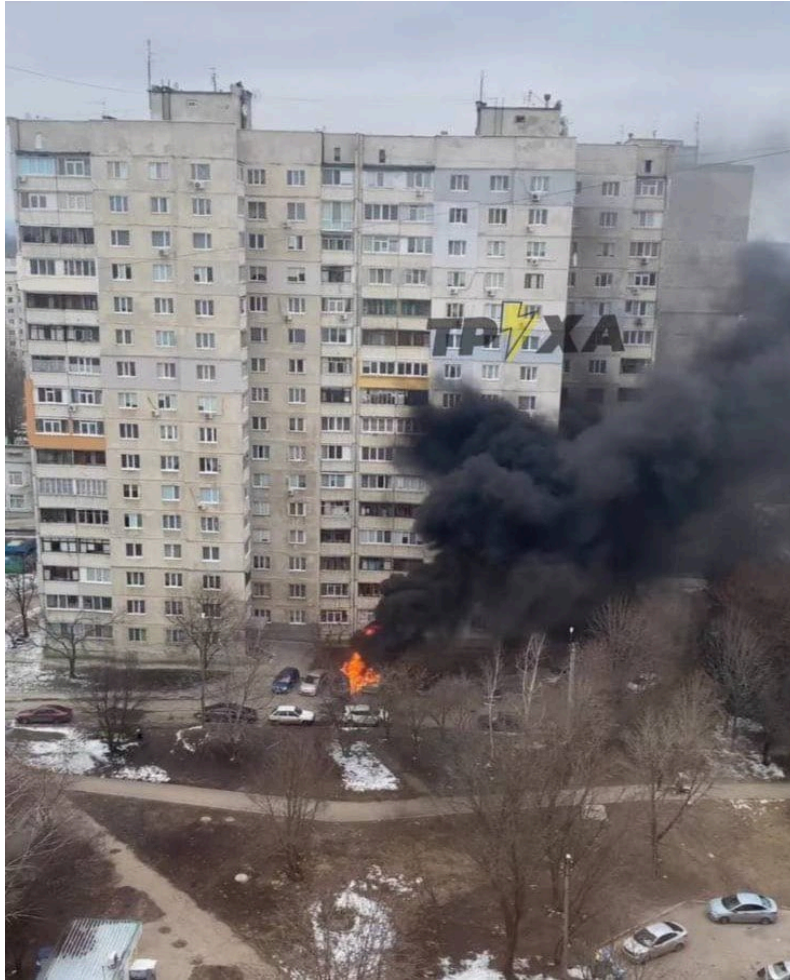
<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>16</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8208>





[S3I1](#)<sup>19</sup> depicts the aftermath of the explosions seen in [S2V1](#), with the same cars in the same places.

[Source 4, Image 1](#) ([S4I1](#))<sup>20</sup> (first published at 16:36 EET, 28/02/2022) and [Source 5, Image 1](#), ([S5I1](#))<sup>21</sup> (16:17 EET, 28/02/2022) were posted shortly before [S2V1](#)<sup>22</sup> (first published at 17:58 EET, 28/02/2022). These images depict another apartment building that appears to have sustained damage around the same time as the event depicted in [S1V1](#), [S2V1](#) and [S3I1](#):

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<sup>19</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8208>

<sup>20</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>21</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26135>

<sup>22</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>



*[S4I1](#)<sup>23</sup> was posted in the same context and around the same time as previous images related to S2V1.*

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<sup>23</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>



[S5I1](#)<sup>24</sup> depicts the same building as [S4I1](#), from a different angle.

And finally, [Source 4, Image 2](#) ([S4I2](#))<sup>25</sup> (first published at 16:36 EET, 28/02/2022) and [Source 6, Video 1](#) ([S6V1](#))<sup>26</sup> (first published at 16:34EET, 28/02/2022) show a third apartment building that was possibly also damaged in the same event:

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<sup>24</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26135>

<sup>25</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>26</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26143>





[S4I2](#)<sup>27</sup> was also posted in the same context and around the same time as previous images related to S2V1.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

When merging this incident with CIV0084 two additional viewpoints of the incident became available.

[Source 7, Images 1 & 2](#) (S7I1, S7I2)<sup>28</sup> (first published at 12:33 EET on 28/02/2022) provided another close up view of the cars visible in S1V1.



[S7I1](#)<sup>29</sup> and [S7I2](#)<sup>30</sup> depicts the aftermath of the explosions seen in S1V1, with the same cars in the same places.

[Source 8, Image 1](#) (S8I1)<sup>31</sup> (first published at 12:46 EET on 28/02/2022) depicts the aftermath of this scene, from above.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1498244855759355905>

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1498244855759355905>

<sup>30</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1498244855759355905>

<sup>31</sup> [https://twitter.com/karinanguyen\\_/status/1498248288205737990](https://twitter.com/karinanguyen_/status/1498248288205737990)





*[S8I1](#)<sup>32</sup> depicts the aftermath of the explosions seen in S1V1 with burnt cars from above.*

The type and level of damage seen in S1V1, S2V1, S3I1, S7 and S8 is indicative of a cluster munition attack, however the damage seen in S4I1, S4I2, S6V1 and S5I1 appears to be of a higher order and as such was likely caused by a different weapon system. This indicates that this location was likely hit by two different weapon systems within several days.

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<sup>32</sup> [https://twitter.com/karinanguyen\\_/status/1498248288205737990](https://twitter.com/karinanguyen_/status/1498248288205737990)



## Questions to Investigate

### Where Was the Incident?

The other sources, S1V1 S2V1, S3I1, S7I1, S7I2, and S8I1, can be geolocated to Velyka Kil'tseva St, 128 Kharkiv.



*Top: A Google Earth image of Velyka Kil'tseva St, 128 Kharkiv (Credit: Google Earth/Maxar Technologies). Bottom: A still from [S2V1](https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191)<sup>33</sup>. The angle of the video and matching elements are highlighted.*

<sup>33</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

[S4I1](#)<sup>34</sup> and [S5I1](#)<sup>35</sup> can be geolocated to Velyka Kil'tseva St, 132, which is roughly 100 meters to the east of Velyka Kil'tseva St, 128. This is consistent with the mentioning of 'Horizon' in [S1V1](#)'s<sup>36</sup> description on Telegram.



*Left: A Google Street View image of Velyka Kil'tseva St, 132 Kharkiv (Credit: Google Maps). Right: [S4I1](#)<sup>37</sup>, showing the damaged building. Matching elements have been highlighted.*

Finally, [S4I2](#)<sup>38</sup> and [S6V1](#)<sup>39</sup> can be geolocated to a building situated between #128 and #132 at Velyka Kil'tseva St, 130, approximately 90 meters away from the scene of [S1V1](#)<sup>40</sup> and [S2V1](#)<sup>41</sup>.

<sup>34</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>35</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26135>

<sup>36</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>37</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>38</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>39</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26143>

<sup>40</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>41</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>





Top: A Google Earth view of Velyka Kil'tseva St, 130, Kharkiv (Credit: Google Earth/Maxar Technologies). Bottom right: [S4I2](https://t.me/s4l2)<sup>42</sup> showing the damaged building. Bottom left: [S6V1](https://t.me/s6v1)<sup>43</sup> shows the same building from a different angle. Key matching elements have been highlighted.

<sup>42</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8269>

<sup>43</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26143>

The recorded explosions and resulting damage that were shared on 28/02/2022 are located in close proximity to each other, all within a distance of approximately 180 meters. Buildings 128, 130, and 132 on Velyka Kil'tseva St, Horizon microdistrict of Obriy, Kharkiv were all hit on the same day.

## When Was the Incident?

### Date

All media reports indicate that this event occurred on 28/02/2022. All relevant photos and videos were shared no earlier than 28/02/2022. The timestamp on the CCTV video ([S1V1](#)<sup>44</sup> and [S2V1](#)<sup>45</sup>) also indicates that it was recorded on 28/02/2022.

### Time

The CCTV video ([S1V1](#)<sup>46</sup> and [S2V1](#)<sup>47</sup>) is clearly timestamped, beginning at 10:42 EET in the morning of 28/02/2022. Several other images and videos were shared between 16:14 and 16:36 EET. S1V1 was first shared on Telegram at 17:06 EET. S2V1 was first shared on Telegram at 17:58 EET.

There is a gap of around 6 hours between the recording of S1V1 and when it was shared on Telegram at 17:58 EET. This is likely the result of the fact that the video came from a CCTV camera, rather than a cellphone camera.

The timestamp on S1V1/S2V1 of 10:42 EET is likely correct, because [S3I1](#)<sup>48</sup> was first shared at 11:15 EET, and depicts the aftermath of the scene recorded by S1V1/S2V1.

As such it is assessed that 10:42 EET is likely the time this incident occurred.

## What Kind of Munition Was Used?

[S1V1](#)<sup>49</sup> and [S2V1](#)<sup>50</sup> showed multiple relatively small explosions taking place over a period of at least fifteen seconds, indicating that the weapon was likely a cluster munition. [Media reports](#)<sup>51</sup>, quoting local officials, mention that on this day Kharkiv was targeted with “rocket strikes.”

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<sup>44</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>45</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

<sup>46</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>47</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

<sup>48</sup> <https://t.me/suspilnekharkiv/8208>

<sup>49</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>

<sup>50</sup> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/26191>

<sup>51</sup>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/dozens-killed-rocket-strikes-ukrainian-city-kharkiv-says-ukrainian-official-2022-02-28/>

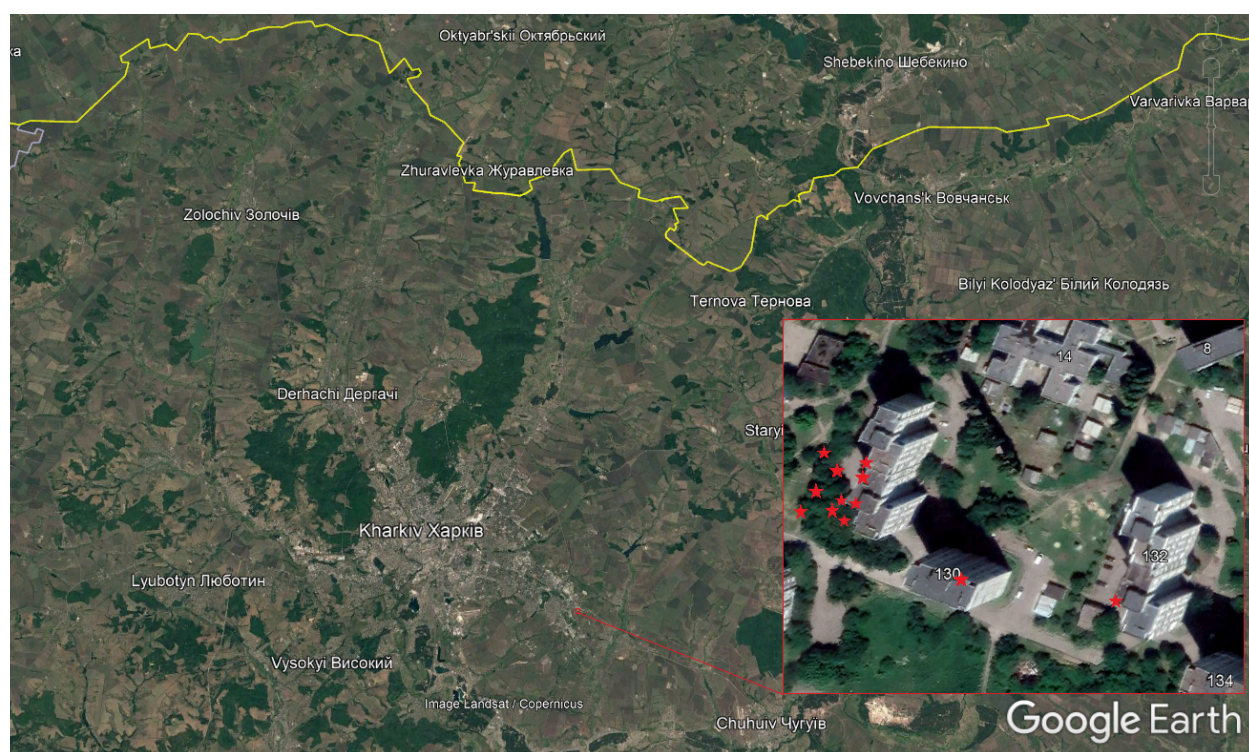


No cargo sections or rocket motors were visible in the imagery related to this incident, however, the number of explosions, the size of the area hit, as well as the period of time during which the explosions took place all indicate that this was a cluster munition, likely launched by a multiple launch rocket system.

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

The general direction of origin is estimated to be roughly from the north-west. The impact of submunitions were recorded on the ground immediately north-west of one highrise building. The two other highrises also showed damage on their north and west sides, respectively.

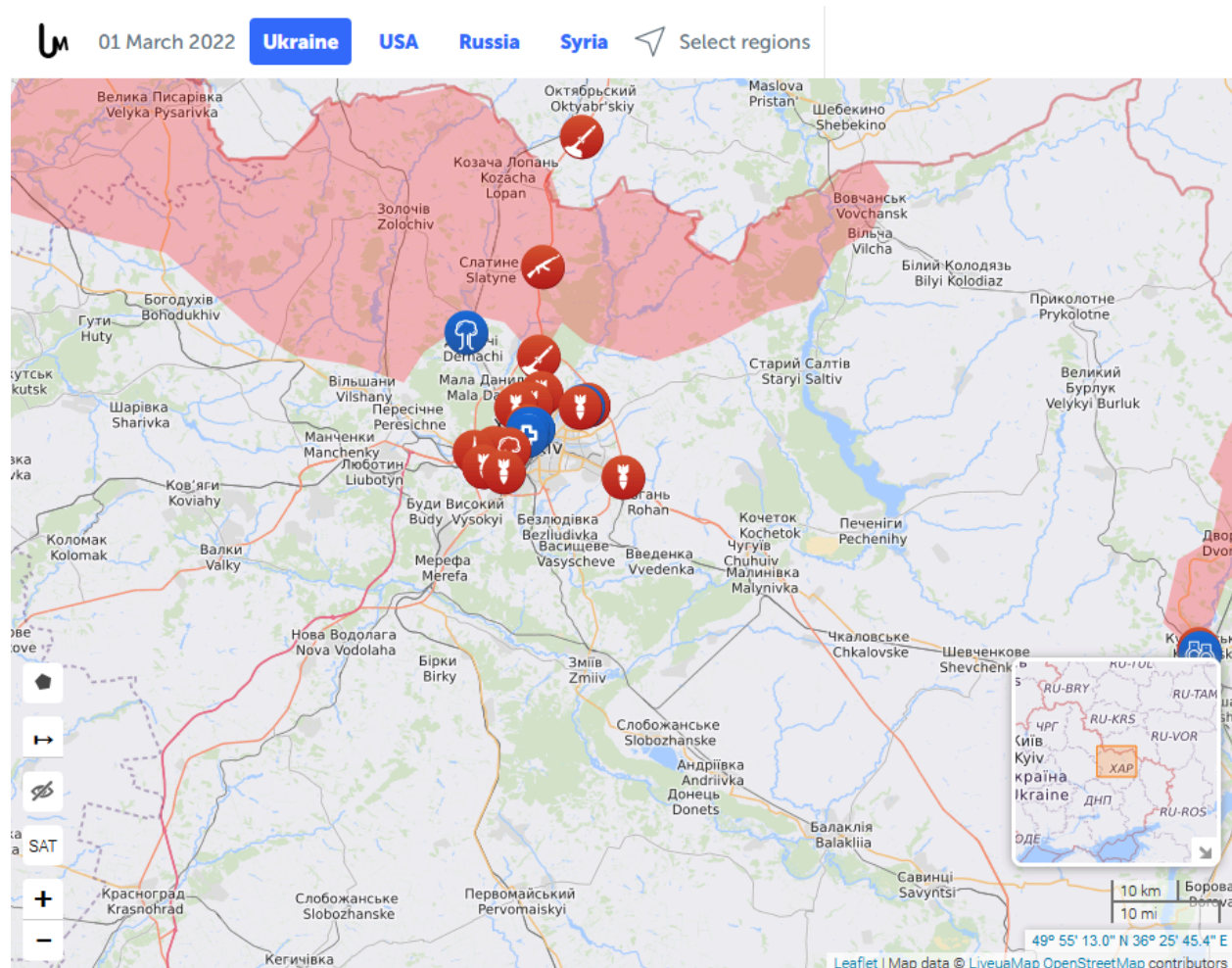
Due to the proximity of impacts on the ground on the northern and western sides of the highrises, it would have been unlikely for the munitions to have come from the south or the east, as they would have impacted the south-east faces of the buildings. However, the lack of a cargo section or rocket motor associated with this incident makes it difficult to determine the direction of origin with greater accuracy.



*A Google Earth image of Velyka Kil'tseva St 128, 130, and 132 overlaid with recorded impacts of submunition and other damage, inset into a larger overview of the Kharkiv area (Credit: Google Earth/Maxar Technologies).*

According to rough estimates of areas of control provided by LiveUMap<sup>52</sup>, on the same day that the Horizon district was hit from the north-west, Russian forces were present in a large swath of territory to the north of Kharkiv.

<sup>52</sup> <https://liveuamap.com/>



*Liveuamap view of 28/02/2022 showing other recorded impacts in Kharkiv, as well as the area occupied by Russian forces in red (Credit: [Liveuamap](https://liveuamap.com/)<sup>53</sup>).*

## Are There Any Indications of What the Location Was Being Used for?

Velyka Kil'tseva St 128, 130, and 132, and its immediate surrounding area is a residential area. These residential buildings are next to a hospital (Velyka Kil'tseva St. 124) and a kindergarten (Velyka Kil'tseva St. 14).

[S1V1](#)<sup>54</sup> shows three individuals walking at the time of the strike. They do not appear to be wearing military outfits, load carrying equipment or carrying weapons. One individual can be seen falling down to the ground after explosions take place in close proximity. News reports quote eyewitnesses and rescuers stating that one person had died as a result of the shelling.

<sup>53</sup> <https://liveuamap.com/>

<sup>54</sup> <https://t.me/voynareal/11026>



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

No military objects were identified through open source research. Satellite imagery of this area taken on the day before, 27/02/2022 by Planet Labs, does not appear to show any military structures, installations or other assets.



*Planet Labs SkySat imagery taken on 27/02/2022 (Credit: Planet Labs).*

## **Any Other Relevant Information?**

No other relevant information could be identified.

## **Timeline of the Incident**

On 28/02/2022, at approximately 10:42 EET in the morning, several explosions took place over a period of 12 seconds, in the Horizon microdistrict of Kharkiv, Ukraine. Between half an hour and 8 hours later, several photos and videos were shared depicting the damage done to three apartment buildings in this district.

## Statements from Parties of the Conflict

### Ukraine

There is no specific statement from Ukraine regarding this incident. In broader terms this incident refers to the use of cluster munitions in residential areas, which has been covered by UA media:

- 1) <https://news.obozrevatel.com/society/rossiya-primenyaet-v-ukraine-kassetnyie-boepripasyi-venediktova-nazvala-regionyi-kotoryie-uzhe-postradali.htm><sup>55</sup>;
- 2) <https://focus.ua/voennye-novosti/509124-v-oon-poluchili-dokazatelstva-primeneniya-rossiye-kassetnyh-bomb-v-ukraine><sup>56</sup>;
- 3) <https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-regions/3454014-rf-sbrasyvaet-na-harkov-kassetnye-bomby-s-parasutov-eto-prestuplenie-protiv-celovecnosti.html><sup>57</sup>;
- 4) <https://www.reuters.com/world/dozens-killed-rocket-strikes-ukrainian-city-kharkiv-says-ukrainian-official-2022-02-28/><sup>58</sup>;
- 5) [https://t.me/DSNS\\_Kharkiv/1092](https://t.me/DSNS_Kharkiv/1092)<sup>59</sup>.

### Russia

- 1) Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denies cluster munitions use in Ukraine: <https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/2022/03/01/14589073.shtml><sup>60</sup>.

## Conclusion

On 28/02/2022, footage surfaced showing several explosions taking place on the Velyka Kil'tseva Street of the microdistrict Horizon in Kharkiv. The explosions damaged at least three buildings. Although the explosions were likely a result of cluster munitions carried by rockets, no cargo section or rocket motor could be identified. Furthermore, the exact launch site was not identified.

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<sup>55</sup>

<https://news.obozrevatel.com/society/rossiya-primenyaet-v-ukraine-kassetnyie-boepripasyi-venediktova-nazvala-regionyi-kotoryie-uzhe-postradali.htm>

<sup>56</sup>

<https://focus.ua/voennye-novosti/509124-v-oon-poluchili-dokazatelstva-primeneniya-rossiye-kassetnyh-bomb-v-ukraine>

<sup>57</sup>

<https://www.ukrinform.ru/rubric-regions/3454014-rf-sbrasyvaet-na-harkov-kassetnye-bomby-s-parasutov-eto-prestuplenie-protiv-celovecnosti.html>

<sup>58</sup>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/dozens-killed-rocket-strikes-ukrainian-city-kharkiv-says-ukrainian-official-2022-02-28/>

<sup>59</sup> [https://t.me/DSNS\\_Kharkiv/1092](https://t.me/DSNS_Kharkiv/1092)

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.gazeta.ru/politics/2022/03/01/14589073.shtml>

## **Further Action**

Conduct further research to determine if a rocket motor or any cargo section can be found in the vicinity of the recorded impacts.