

UDC 355.01:32(477.411)

Dmytro Kolomiists,
Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University
ORCID ID: 0009-0006-3607-1689

Kyiv in the first days of full-scale russian invasion of 2022

I am Dmytro Kolomiists, a first-year PhD student in History at Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University. I will try to describe my impressions of what I saw and felt in the first year of a full-scale invasion of russian aggressors on Ukrainian land (from the end of February 2022 to the end of 2022).

The main thing I want to convey to you today is that we, Ukrainians, continue to live and fight. The year 2022 had been the longest for us, Ukrainians, as the usual life of the whole country ended (or better to say – paused) on February 24th due to the full-scale invasion.

You have all seen the pictures from the news. Destroyed and burning houses, traces of downed missiles in the sky, etc. I would like to show you my photographs taken in Kyiv during the war, mostly between the Spring and Winter of 2022. Through my photographs, I would like to expand your perception of this war through the personal experiences of an ordinary Ukrainian.

In the first two photos, which you can see below the text, I want to show you how I have seen civilian buildings destroyed in one of the districts of Kyiv. These are not the first houses to be hit by missiles, but they are the first ones I have seen with my own eyes and the ones that have made the biggest impression on me. When it happens for the first time, you take it very personally. However, after two year of the full-scale invasion of russian invaders, unfortunately, you get used to the fact that it is around you.

Next, the third photo shows photos of one of the many houses in the suburbs that were destroyed by direct artillery fire. Instead of two floors of the house, only ruins remained. The fourth, fifth, and sixth photos are a reflection of Kyiv in the autumn, of 2022.

Russia constantly attacked Kyiv with drones and missiles. One of Kyiv's skyscrapers, a children's playground, and one of the city's walking streets were damaged.

When you look at these photos, it makes you want to ask: do these things look like military targets? I went to see these hits the next day (after the attacks). I no longer felt the shock that I had at the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

Many people around me were taking pictures, discussing what they had seen as if it were their everyday life. Nevertheless, it was their everyday life. And what is even more horrifying to imagine is that people around me, looking at these ruins, immediately went on to discuss routine, household chores, work issues, etc.

To conclude, I want to say it again. Do not give up on us.

We will continue to live and fight. We are living in a very difficult time for our country.

However, we live, study, work, volunteer, and help the Armed Forces of Ukraine.



A burnt-out residential building in Kyiv after an indirect missile hit. March 15, 2022 (photo taken in April 2022). Photos of wartime Kyiv. Author: Dmytro Kolomiets



**Remains of cars and a residential building damaged by a missile. March 20, 2022 (photo taken in May 2022).
Photos of wartime Kyiv. Author: Dmytro Kolomiets**



A house in Kyiv suburbs destroyed after a direct BM-21 missile hit in the end of March 2022 (photo taken in June 2022). Photos of wartime Kyiv. Author: Dmytro Kolomiets



**Damaged skyscraper. October 10, 2022 (photo taken in October 2022).Photos of wartime Kyiv.
Author: Dmytro Kolomiets**



**A missile crater where a children's playground used to be. October 10, 2022 (photo taken in October 2022).
Photos of wartime Kyiv. Author: Dmytro Kolomiets**



Place of a direct missile hit on one of the slopes of the Dnipro River, downtown Kyiv. October 10, 2022 (photo taken in October 2022). Photos of wartime Kyiv. Author: Dmytro Kolomiets