

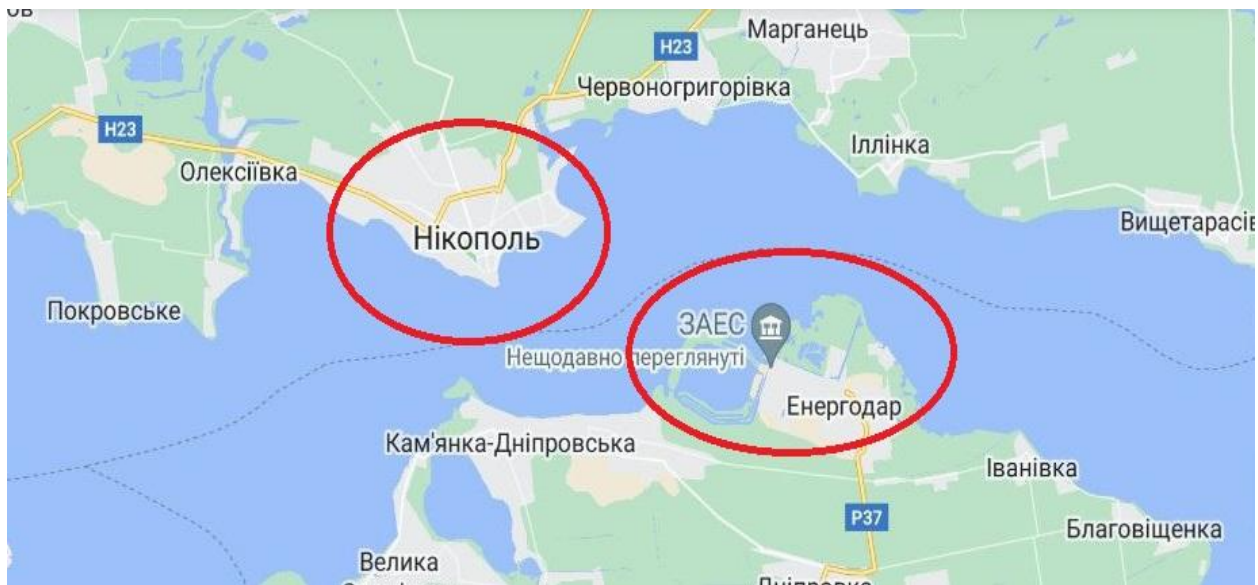
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The life of Nikopol residents during the daily artillery shelling

I am a first-year student at Grinchenko University. I am studying Law. I want to share with you my story of survival during the Russian-Ukrainian war 2014 – 2024.

I want to tell you about my town of Nikopol, which is located in the South of the Dnipropetrovsk region, and about the life of its inhabitants under the daily artillery shelling of the Russian invaders.



Nikopol and Enerhodar. <https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/mi-drugiy-mariupol-k-zhive-nikopol-pid-obstrilami-1667310310.html>
(Revised: 10.07.2024)

My Nikopol is a small town, was founded in 1639, its area is 50 square kilometers. Nikopol had 106,000 inhabitants at the beginning of 2022.

I spent my entire childhood there with my grandmother and my brothers, and sisters.

Currently, a full-scale war is ongoing in Ukraine, many cities, towns, and villages are constantly under artillery fire from Russian invaders.

Nikopol is not occupied. However, the life of its inhabitants is under the daily artillery shelling of the Russian invaders.

What is artillery shelling? Artillery shelling is one of the most dangerous types of fire impression during military conflicts, because of which a large number of accidental victims among the population is possible (the launch of missiles that reach their targets in a few seconds). You can learn about the start of shelling by hearing the distant sounds of gunfire, the roar, and the flashes of rockets. If you hear the whistle of a projectile, there will be an explosion in 2-3 seconds, you must immediately fall to the ground.

Nikopol is located 5 km from the coast of the Dnipro River and Enerhodar, which was occupied on March 4, 2022, from where the russian terrorists conduct massive artillery shelling of Nikopol and its coastal areas every day. Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, the largest NPP in Ukraine and Europe, is located in Enerhodar.



Enerhodar residents went to the road leading to the city to stop the russian troops. 2.03.2022. Photo: Dmytro Orlov.
<https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3417816-meskanci-energodara-trimaut-oboronu-mista.html> (Revised: 10.07.2024)

On March 3, the russians finally opened fire on protesters and entered Enerhodar, shelling civilian buildings in the center of Enerhodar along the way. In the evening, they went to the ZNPP.

Almost all residents of Nikopol see ZNPP on the street because it is located 5-7 km from the city and from there you can always watch how the enemy is preparing artillery and shelling Nikopol. Shelling is quite brutal, not selective, and flies over residential areas and any objects.

Nikopol is in mortal danger every day. One day it can become unlivable. Nikopol would be the first city that, God forbid, would receive a large layer of nuclear radiation in the event of an explosion at the ZNPP.

The russian occupiers placed multiple rocket launchers and other weapons on the territory of the ZNPP, using nuclear blackmail. Daily the russian occupiers conduct massive artillery fire

from there on Nikopol and the coastal areas of this city. They mined the ZNPP and installed explosives on the station's cooler: there is a threat of detonation or an accident.

My grandmother, brothers, and sisters were in the city when the first shelling of Nikopol by russians troops took place on July 12, 2022. According to them, it was very scary: they saw “rain” of fire (that is, shelling from hail). On the very first day, the windows in my grandmother's apartment were broken. A pile of broken shells was found in the courtyard of my brother and sister's house. Almost the entire courtyard of the house was damaged.



Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in occupied Energodar, seen from Nikopol, April 2022. Image: Ralf1969, Wikimedia Commons. https://www.oecd-nea.org/jcms/pl_66130/ukraine-current-status-of-nuclear-power-installations
(Revised: 10.07.2024)

On the same day, my grandmother and her relatives left for a safe place, but after they left, real hell began in the city: the shelling did not stop for a minute, and there were more and more victims.

Schools, kindergartens, and residential and administrative buildings were under enemy fire. All this continued and continues to this day.

In September 2022, my grandmother and relatives, after consulting with my parents and me, made a difficult decision to return home to Nikopol under daily shelling from Enerhodar. The purpose of returning to the city was that both my grandmother and relatives had work that could not be left.

Then there was a period of blackouts, which Nikopol endured very hard. Imagine that you have no light for 12 hours and at the same time, there is heavy shelling outside your window, you sit, pray and think that these could be the last minutes of your life. This is very scary.



A house destroyed by russian shelling in Nikopol, August 2022. Photo: Konstantyn Liberov (AP).

<https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/novyny-pryzovya-nikopol-na-liniyi-vohnyu-intervyu-yevtushenko/32825549.html>

(Revised: 10.07.2024)

Nikopol is located on the banks of the Kakhovka Reservoir of the Dnipro River. The Dnipro River near Nikopol almost dried up after the russians blew up the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant Dam on June 6, 2023. The water supply disappeared in Nikopol. The occupiers turned off the light and water and blew up the canal, through which Nikopol citizens were deprived of drinking water.

The situation at the ZNPP was greatly aggravated due to the water drought because the reactors work at the expense of this river (it cools them, and they do not overheat to the point of explosion). Otherwise, the station will explode even without any shelling or mines.



Shelling of Nikopol by the russian army, August, 11, 2022. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-ato/3547944-u-nikopoli-distali-zpid-zavaliv-tilo-se-odnogo-zagiblogo-cerez-vorozij-obstril.html> (Revised: 10.07.2024)

We communicate with my grandmother and my relatives every day. Shelling continues.

Every day there are wounded and dead. Nikopol is the most frequently shelled city in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

During the shelling, my parents and I went to visit our grandmother. There was a lot of destruction and suffering.

The destruction caused by russian shelling in Nikopol is quite significant. About 800 apartment buildings and more than 5000 private residential buildings were damaged.

My relatives are used to shelling, it sounds terrible, but these are the realities of our lives.

I am happy when we call my grandmother and just hear her voice.

I am very proud of my grandmother's courage, she is well done, and for the sake of safety, she tries to come to us more often, to a safe place.

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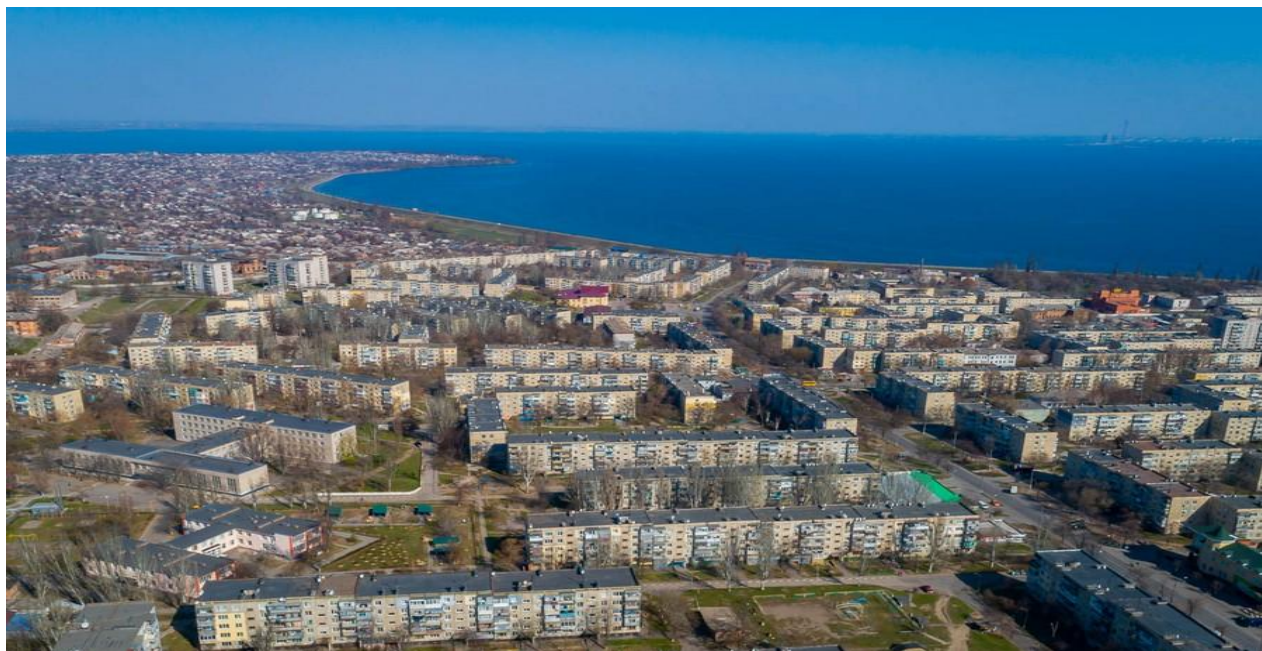


André Luis Alves (RFE/RL)

The dried-up Kakhovka Reservoir from the Nikopol side. Author: Andre Luis Alves (RFE/RL)

<https://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news-kakhovske-vodoskhovyshche-artefakty/32721119.html> (Revised: 10.07.2024)

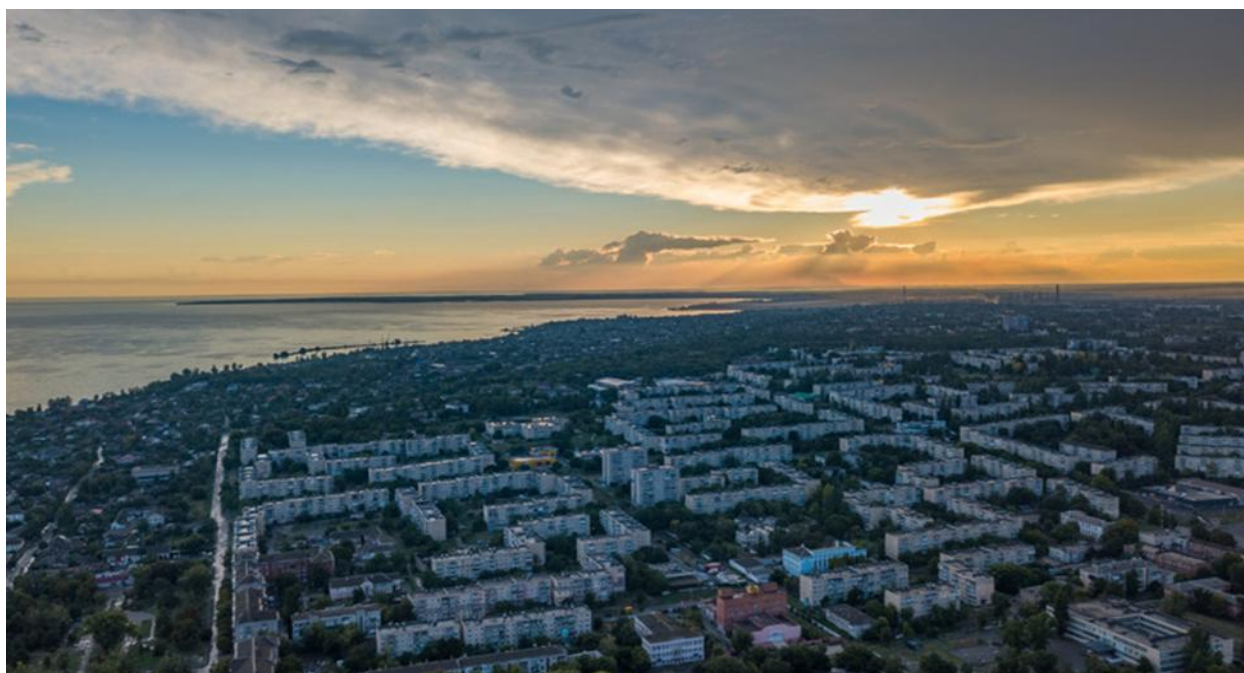
I want to share with you some photos of Nikopol on the shore of a “sea” that no longer exists, what Nikopol looked like before the russian-Ukrainian war.



Nikopol before the russian-Ukrainian war. <https://nikopol.nikopolnews.net/nikopol/do-sliz-meshkanets-nikopolia-prysviatyv-virsh-ridnomu-obstrilianomu-mistu/> (Revised: 10.07.2024)



Nikopol before the russian-Ukrainian war. <https://nikopol.city/articles/102274/10-interesnyh-faktov-iz-istorii-nikopolya>
(Revised: 10.07.2024)



Nikopol before the russian-Ukrainian war. <https://nikopol.city/articles/102274/10-interesnyh-faktov-iz-istorii-nikopolya>
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I will do everything in my power so that my native town remains in the center of people's attention. Glory to Ukraine!