

Early Signs of War Crimes and Human Rights Abuses Committed by the Russian Military During the Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine

**House Foreign Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber**

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Bonnie Docherty is a senior researcher in the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch as well as the associate director of armed conflict and civilian protection at the International Human Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School.

Docherty has played an active role, as both a lawyer and field researcher, in the campaign against cluster munitions. Her in-depth investigations of cluster munition use in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, and Georgia helped galvanize international opposition to the weapons. She was intimately involved in the negotiations of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which absolutely bans cluster munitions for its states parties, and she has promoted strong implementation and universalization of that treaty since its adoption in 2008.

Docherty has in addition been involved in a broader campaign to curb the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. In 2016, she published research based on field work in eastern Ukraine showing how explosive weapons use in that conflict had interfered with the accessibility, quality, and availability of health care. Docherty has also investigated the conduct of war and civilian casualties in Israel, Gaza, and Libya, worked to strengthen international law on other problematic weapons, and become an internationally recognized leader in the field of humanitarian disarmament.