

## **Behavior of journalists in crisis situations**

### **Second phase of the war - attack in eastern Ukraine (from mid-April)**

The RUS war of aggression in Ukraine will undergo a fundamental transformation. The previous massive attack from three sides, aimed at quickly capturing the major cities and the main roads, has failed. In early April, RUS changed its strategy and is gathering its troops in eastern Ukraine to target eastern Ukrainian territories from there. In addition, however, the behavior of RUS forces will change. Indications:

- Withdrawal of the RUS army from unsuccessful sections of the front in the North and around Kiev and the massing of these forces in a much smaller area. This significantly increases the RUS force concentration.
- There will be no more unoccupied rear areas in the next phase of the war, since the defeat on the Northern front and the attack on Kiev were mainly due to overstretched military logistics. This mistake will not happen again. In the next phase of the war, the hinterland will be "cleaned" and occupied.
- During the withdrawal from the suburbs of Kiev, massacres of the civilian population were left behind. This is not a coincidence, but RUS intention: All non-Russians should flee from the RUS army out of fear and terror. This simplifies warfare and conquered territories are easier to control.

Therefore, with the beginning of the attack in eastern Ukraine, the behavior towards journalists will most likely change significantly: Ukrainian/Western journalists will be seen as enemies and will be targeted. It can no longer be assumed that the RUS will protect civilian sites in the combat zone (see Mariupol).

The ordinary fighter has experienced in recent weeks that the people of Ukraine are hostile or at least unfriendly to them. Out of fear and insecurity, the fighters will be ready to go after the Western "propaganda" journalists.

The RUS military leadership is under enormous pressure to succeed and its reputation is at stake. The performance shown so far on the battlefield is shameful. Hardly any tactical objectives have been achieved. For the political and military leadership, Russia's future is at stake. A military defeat to Ukraine ends Russia's role as a "global player" in the long run. It can be assumed that this will be reflected in the approach of the RUS army. Any resistance will be broken with massive artillery fire superiority and then the debris will be rolled over by tanks. Anyone who gets in the way, or even close, will suffer.

## Conclusion

- In front proximity (below 20 km), full protective equipment should be worn.
- Attacks can be expected at any time in the vicinity of military targets. Due to the inaccuracy of artillery ammunition and its explosive effect, the danger zone is at least 500 meters.
- PRESS markings are no longer likely to have a protective effect against RUS forces.
- In case of capture by RUS forces, there is an acute danger to life. Interrogations and searches will be conducted ruthlessly and brutally. De-escalating and cooperative behavior are essential for survival.
- Possibilities of *embedded journalism* with UKR forces are to be examined and used if necessary. This does not reduce the danger, but it increases protection (armored vehicles, knowledge of the tactical situation, rapid medical care).