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# Swiss Red Cross Worker Killed by Shelling in Ukraine's Donetsk

By The Moscow Times

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A Red Cross vehicle parked near the damaged office of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, Oct. 2, 2014.

DONETSK — A Swiss Red Cross worker has been killed by a shell that landed near the international organization's office in Ukraine's separatist-held city of Donetsk.

Both the pro-Russian separatists and the Ukrainian government forces they have been fighting blamed each other for the attack,, which smashed windows, scattered shrapnel and left a crater in the pavement.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, or ICRC, said Laurent DuPasquier, a 38-year-old administrator in its Donetsk office, had been in Ukraine for six weeks before he was hit on Thursday.

"We understand that there were other civilian casualties in Donetsk today. Indiscriminate

shelling of residential areas is unacceptable and violates international humanitarian law," ICRC Director of Operations Dominik Stillhart said in a statement.

The agency's other staff, including about 20 Ukrainian and international employees based in Donetsk, were "now in safety," the statement said. "We're deeply distressed by this loss," ICRC spokesman Ewan Watson added.

The ICRC offices in Donetsk are in a three-story building less than one kilometer from the state security headquarters, which has been occupied by separatist rebels along with other strategic points in the city since April.

The incident will bring fresh strain to bear on a fragile cease-fire called by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, which came into force on Sept. 5.

Poroshenko said last week the cease-fire was holding. But it has become increasingly frayed in the past few days with increased fighting going on around the main international airport of Donetsk, from where separatists are trying to dislodge government forces.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavel Klimkin blamed the separatists for Thursday's attack. "I have only one question: Do the terrorists have any idea of what humanity is all about when they shell the Donetsk office of the ICRC, whose only aim is to help people?" he said.

Rebel leader Andrei Purgin said the Ukrainian government forces shelled Donetsk constantly and that the attack had come from one of their areas.

"The Red Cross worker was killed by a rocket from a multiple rocket launcher," he said.

Seven Ukrainian soldiers were killed in a single strike by tank fire on their armored personnel transporter on Monday.

On Wednesday, at least 10 people were killed when shelling hit a school playground in Donetsk and a public transit mini-van in a street nearby.

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