

UN Mission Criticizes Probe into Odessa Deaths

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People take part in an event titled "We Remember" in memory of the victims of the 2014 Odessa clashes, outside the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow. **Sergei Karpukhin / TASS**

The Ukrainian government has not duly investigated the dozens of deaths that took place when riots led to a trade union house fire in the port city of Odessa five years ago, the United Nations said Thursday.

Forty-two people died in a fire after pro-Russian protesters were trapped in the trade union building on May 2, 2014, and six others were gunned down in clashes. Moscow blames Kiev and its Western backers for the deaths, while Ukraine says the violence was provoked by foreign demonstrators.

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The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine accused Ukrainian police of failing to find those who started the fire and of selectively investigating the incidents.

“This suggests a lack of genuine interest from the authorities to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators,” the mission said in a report [published](#) Thursday.

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The UN mission recommended Ukrainian prosecutors, police and judges to ensure effective and impartial investigations and trials into the incidents. It advised other countries, including Russia, to review Ukraine’s extradition requests and provide legal assistance if extraditions cannot be processed.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry [accused](#) Ukraine of “persistently impeding” the investigation, leading Moscow to claim that its government is “up to the elbows in blood.”

Around 200 people [gathered](#) in Odessa on Thursday to mark the five-year anniversary of the 48 deaths. Around 50 people [assembled](#) outside the Ukrainian Embassy in Moscow.

The Ekho Moskvyy radio station reported that some of those who gathered outside the Ukrainian embassy did not know what they were protesting.

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