



MOCK TRIAL PROGRAMME

Specialised Judicial Training Series

Civilian Detention-Related Crimes: Qualification, Evidence and Judicial Reasoning in Ukrainian Cases

3rd edition, 9-10 July 2026

Kyiv, Ukraine



Participants

- 20 Ukrainian judges, legal assistants and court staff were selected based on the completion of assessments and attendance of an online training series.
- Onysiia Syniuk, Head of Research Department, ZMINA Human Rights Centre
- Nick Waters, OSINT Expert
- Judge Mykhailo Zimin, Pokrovsk District Court of Kryvyi Rih
- Alma Taso Deljkovic, Psychologist, Expert on Witness/Victim Support in International Crimes Cases
- Valerie Gabard, Co-director, UpRights
- Gabriela Radu, Researcher, Asser Institute
- Cécile Heijnen, Project Officer, Asser Institute
- Roman Shurin, Actor

Day 1: Thursday, 9 July 2026

Time	Session	Speakers	Objectives
09:00–09:30	Registration (& per diems & travel reimbursement)		
9:30–10:30	Welcome & Round of Introductions	○ Gabriela Radu, Researcher, Asser Institute ○ Ivan Balaklytskyi, Head, Training for Judges Department, National School of Judges of Ukraine ○ All participants & experts	○ Round of introductions. ○ Overview of the 'Restoring Dignity and Justice in Ukraine' programme and the Specialised Judicial Training Series.



10:30-11:30	Case File Recap & Team Groupings	○ All participants & experts	○ Recap key facts, actors and charges in the case file. ○ Clarify any points of confusion from the pre-reading/online session. ○ Align expectations about how the case will be used during the Mock Trial.
11:30-12:30	Expert Panel: What to look for in the case study (facts, evidence, arguments, questioning, judgment)	○ Valerie Gabard: <i>Substantive law & elements of crimes</i> listed in the case study ○ Nick Waters: <i>OSINT evidence and expert testimony</i> ○ Alma Taso Deljkovic: <i>Trauma awareness & witness handling</i> ○ Judge Mykhailo Zimin: <i>Key procedural and evidentiary standards from Ukrainian practice</i> ○ Onysiia Syniuk: <i>Case theory and evidence</i>	○ Help participants identify the key factual issues and types of evidence in the case study. ○ Clarify how to build case theory and arguments using both documentary and OSINT material. ○ Highlight good practice for questioning witnesses and experts, including trauma aware approaches. ○ Identify and discuss what to look for in terms of procedural fairness, evidentiary standards, and the structure of the judgment.
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-14:30	Prosecution & Defence & Judges Preparation	○ Valerie Gabard ○ Nick Waters ○ Alma Taso Deljkovic ○ Judge Mykhailo Zimin ○ Onysiia Syniuk ○ Gabriela Radu	For Prosecution and Defence: ○ start structuring opening statements. (theory of the case, key facts, legal characterisation, requested outcome). ○ identify and prioritise key lines of questioning for the OSINT expert and the victim (what each side needs to establish or challenge). For Judges: ○ begin drafting an issues list (factual and legal questions to be addressed at the end of the mock trial). For Experts to support team preparations with: ○ targeted feedback on case theory, evidence use, and questioning strategy. and key lines of questioning.
14:30-15:00	Coffee Break		



15:00-16:00	Opening Statements & Judicial Questions	20 min – Prosecution Opening Statements 20 min – Defence Opening Statements 20 min – Judicial questions	- Prosecution and Defence to present their case theories and main arguments in opening statements. - Judges to test the clarity and coherence of the parties' positions through questions. - Practice courtroom communication and time management in their assigned roles.
16:00-17:00	Questions from Participants & Feedback from the Experts & Wrap up	- Valerie Gabard - Nick Waters - Alma Taso Deljkovic - Judge Mykhailo Zimin - Onysiia Syniuk - Gabriela Radu	- Participants have the opportunity to ask follow-up questions to experts based on the openings and judicial questions. - Clarify any outstanding issues concerning evidence, questioning, and standards of assessment. - Summarise key points from Day 1 and outline expectations for Day 2.

Day 2: Friday, 10 July 2026

Time	Session	Speakers	Objectives
09:00-9:30	Team Preparation for OSINT Specialist Witness Examination	Nick Waters	Participants get final chance to ask clarifications from OSINT specialist and finalise examination plans for OSINT.
09:30-10:30	Testimony of OSINT Specialist Witness: Alex Ward	20 min – Presentation of OSINT findings 20 min – Direct Examination (Prosecution) 20 min – Cross-Examination (Defence) 20 min – Judicial Questions	
10:30-11:00	Expert Feedback on OSINT Examination	- Nick Waters - Valerie Gabard - Alma Taso Deljkovic - Judge Mykhailo Zimin - Onysiia Syniuk - Gabriela Radu	- OSINT expert and other experts give focused feedback on how OSINT was used, quality of questions, evidentiary issues. - Participants may ask 2–3 clarifying questions.



11:00-11:20	Team Preparation for Victim Examination: Oleksandr K.	- Alma Taso Deljkovic - Roman Shurin	Participants get final chance to ask clarifications from witness and trauma expert and finalise examination plans.
11:20-12:30	Testimony of Prosecution Witness Victim: Oleksandr K.	10 min - Judicial Instruction of Witness 20 min - Direct Examination (Prosecution) 20 min - Cross-Examination (Defence) 10 min - Judicial Questions 10 min - Expert Feedback: Alma Taso Deljkovic and other experts	
12:30-13:30	Lunch		
13:30-14:30	Preparation Closing Statements	- Nick Waters - Valerie Gabard - Alma Taso Deljkovic - Judge Mykhailo Zimin - Onysiia Syniuk - Gabriela Radu	- Prosecution and Defence integrate feedback from the morning into case theory and closings; - Judges revise the factual and legal questions they drafted at the start of the mock to check whether they were addressed by the parties to make their findings.
14:30-15:10	Closing Statements	20 min - Prosecution Closing Statements 20 min - Defence Closing Statements 10 min - Judicial Questions	Parties may only rely on evidence already before the court; no new arguments or evidence may be raised.
15:20-15:40	Coffee Break		
15:40-16:00	Judicial Deliberation & "Drafting" of Verdict	- Judges - Nick Waters - Valerie Gabard - Alma Taso Deljkovic - Judge Mykhailo Zimin - Onysiia Syniuk - Gabriela Radu	- Judges deliberate on facts, legal qualification, and evidentiary assessment. - Apply relevant standards of proof and fair trial guarantees to the case. - Draft the core reasoning and outcome of the verdict to be presented in open court.
16:00-16:30	Judgement Reading / Presentation by the Judges	Judges' Team	Present the verdict and key reasoning orally to Prosecution, Defence, and experts.



			Model clear and structured judicial communication (facts, law, reasoning, and outcome).
16:30-17:00	Feedback & Reflection with All Experts and Participants	All participants & experts	- Provide structured feedback from judges and experts on openings, examinations, evidence use, and closings. - Invite participants to reflect on what they would do differently in real cases or future exercises. - Identify key practical lessons for handling similar cases in Ukrainian practice.
17:00-17:30	Closing Remarks & Certificate Ceremony	All participants & experts	- Summarise the main substantive and procedural takeaways from the two-day training. - Offer closing remarks from organisers and experts and participant representative(s). - Hand over certificates of participation and formally close the programme.