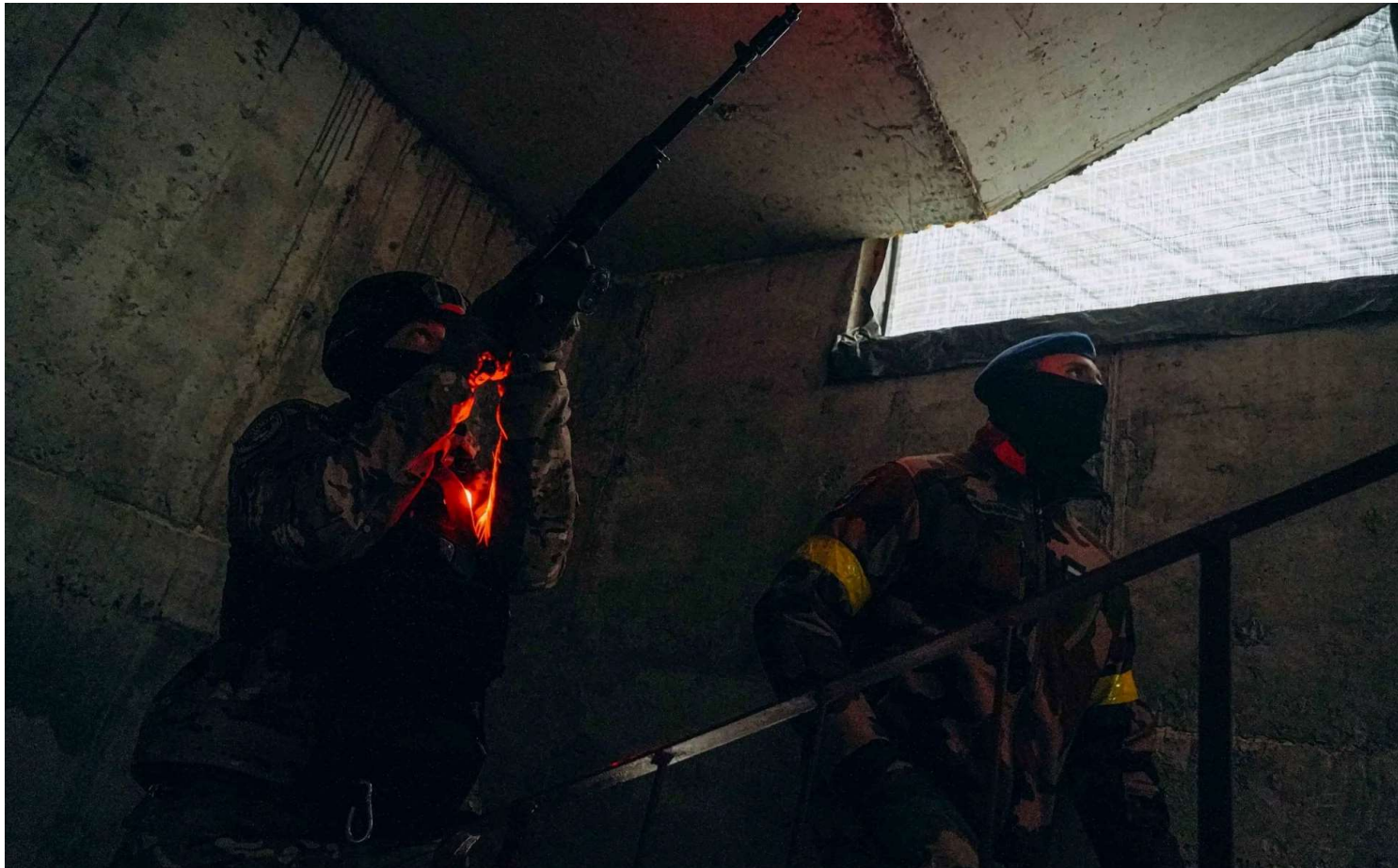


EU: Russia must immediately stop atrocious treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war

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“Russia’s atrocious treatment of Ukrainian prisoners of war is inexcusable and it must stop immediately,” EU High Representative Josep Borrell said in a speech, delivered at the European Parliament on his behalf by Commissioner for Justice, Didier Reynders, on 23 October .

Borrell reminded that last week reports had said that nine Ukrainian prisoners of war had been shot by Russian troops in Kursk. On 1 October, the Office of the Prosecutor-General also opened an investigation into the reported execution of another 16 prisoners having surrendered to Russian troops in Donetsk. So far, at least 177 Ukrainian prisoners have been reported to have died in Russian captivity. *“This is unacceptable,”* Borrell said.

Borrell also cited a report of the UN Office for the High Commissioner for

Human Rights published on 1 October. It says that the use of torture against prisoners is “systematic”. *“Prisoners of war are subjected to different types of torture, from severe beatings to sexual violence, humiliation and starvation at all stages of captivity,”* Borrell said.

Borrell demanded that independent monitors also be granted access to the prisoners, and called on Russia to uphold its commitments to international humanitarian law and ensure that the brutal executions and torture of Ukrainian prisoners should cease.

