

HIGHLIGHTS

PULSE OF PEACE IN DONBAS



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RUSSIA'S OPEN INVASION OF UKRAINE LASTS MORE THAN 100 DAYS

On June 3, the 100th day of Russia's open military invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [delivered](#) an appeal, [noting](#) that Ukraine has done in these 100 days what many thought was impossible – stopped the "second world army", liberated part of its territories and continues to fight back against the occupiers. He thanked all those who help Ukraine stand and continue to defend itself.

Russian presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov [said](#) that during the 100 days of war in Ukraine, Russia achieved "certain results".

[According to Meduza's sources](#), the Kremlin asked Russian state media workers not to emphasize the length of the invasion so that Russian residents would think less of the fact that Russian troops could not make headway in three months.

[According to British intelligence](#), in the 100 days of war against Ukraine, Russia did not achieve any of its original strategic objectives, in particular failing to seize Kyiv and control centers, and having only tactical successes. A brief chronicle of this period is [offered](#) by Meduza.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov [believes](#) that it is not yet possible to predict when the war will end in Ukraine, but concludes that it may happen before the end of the year.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry [named](#) the main tasks for Ukraine's victory after 100 days of full-scale war: it called on international partners to increase sanctions pressure on Russia as much as possible, to provide Ukraine with the necessary

weapons and the status of an EU candidate. In addition, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry called on the international community to support the creation of a special tribunal to investigate the crime of Russian aggression against Ukraine. "Russian criminals should be brought to a tribunal as it was with the authorities of Nazi Germany," the Foreign Ministry stressed.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [noted](#) that Ukraine is not tied to certain dates of de-occupation of the territory and will wait for the transfer of the necessary weapons to keep people alive. German Foreign Minister Annalena Berbock, in her [column](#) for the 100 days of Russia's full-scale invasion, called for providing weapons to Ukraine in order to remove the threat of new Russian aggression.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres issued a [statement](#) to commemorate the date. He called for an immediate end to violence and for unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need, the safe evacuation of civilians from war zones, the urgent protection of civilians and respect for human rights in accordance with international standards. Amin Awad, UN Assistant Secretary General and Crisis Coordinator in Ukraine, [said](#) Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused unacceptable harm to people and affected almost every aspect of civilian life, and there can be no winners in this process.

Sociologist Alexei Titkov [tells](#) how Russian society has changed during this time. And the BBC [describes](#) five scenarios for the end of the war.

FIGHTING FOR SEVERODONETSK

As of the morning of June 6, the situation in this city of Luhansk Region remains difficult, with fighting continuing. Ukrainian defense forces are successfully [detering](#) attempts to encircle their positions in the region, as well as repelling attacks in Severodonetsk.

The American Institute for the Study of War [notes](#) that the capture of Severodonetsk is important for the Russian armed forces because it will allow them to claim the capture of the Luhansk region, while Russian losses are not commensurate with any real benefit from taking the city. The exhaustion of Russian troops benefits Ukraine, which may have a chance to launch a successful counteroffensive.

Defense Intelligence of Great Britain [reported](#) that the June 4 counterattacks by the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Severodonetsk reduced the operational momentum that the occupiers had previously gained due to the concentration of their combat units and firepower. [According to the head of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration Serhiy Gayday](#), Severodonetsk is not of great strategic importance, Lysychansk is much more important. At the same time, he notes that the Ukrainian military was able to liberate [half of Severodonetsk](#) from the Russian occupiers and it is possible to finally dislodge the Russian armed forces from the city, but the Ukrainian military command should make a decision about this.

The head of the Severodonetsk regional state administration, Oleksandr Struk, [stated](#) that the Russian occupiers had forcibly removed to the occupied territory part

of the city's population, where about 13,000 people remained before the beginning of active combat operations.

See [Hromadske's article](#) on the course of the battle for Donbas.

RUSSIA SHELLED KYIV FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE APRIL

On June 5, for the first time since late April, Kyiv was [shelled](#) and [infrastructure](#) was damaged. Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov [said](#) that Ukrainian armored vehicles were the target of the strike on Kyiv. The head of Ukrzaliznytsya, Oleksandr Kamyshyn, [denied](#) claims that the missile strikes on Kyiv destroyed armored vehicles supplied by Europe. The factory that suffered from the shelling was [repairing grain carriers](#) used to export products. In addition, Energoatom [noted](#) that one of the missiles flew at a critically low altitude over the South Ukrainian nuclear power plant.

[According to British intelligence](#), the missile strike on Kyiv was an attempt by Russia to disrupt arms supplies from the West.

A few days earlier, the head of the Kyiv city military administration, Mykola Zhirnov, [noted](#) that there were no signs of preparations for a repeat offensive against Kyiv, but that the danger of such a development would persist until the war was over.

Because of the focus on attempts to seize the Donbas, Russian military forces are [vulnerable](#) in the Kherson region, where there is a counteroffensive by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA EXCHANGED THE BODIES OF SOLDIERS

The exchange took place on June 2 on the front line in Zaporizhzhia region. The Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine [reports](#) that the agreement on the exchange of bodies according to the "160 by 160" formula was reached as a result of negotiations with the participation of the Commissioner for Missing Persons in Special Circumstances. [According to the Ukrainian Armed Forces General Staff](#), as of the morning of June 6, Russia had already lost about 3,250 of its soldiers on Ukrainian territory. Ukraine does not disclose information about losses among its military, but President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier [noted](#) that 60 to 100 Ukrainian soldiers are killed on the battlefield every day and about 500 are wounded.

Hromadske [tells](#) the story of three Ukrainian paramedics.

For an article about where Russian soldiers wounded in the war in Ukraine are evacuated and treated, click [here](#).

RUSSIA SIMPLIFIES THE ISSUANCE OF CITIZENSHIP TO UKRAINIAN ORPHANS BY EFFECTIVELY LEGALIZING THEIR ABDUCTION

June 1 was Children's Day in Ukraine. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, more than 689 children have [been affected](#): 243 have been killed and 446 injured, while 145 more have been reported missing. According to UNICEF, two children are killed and four injured every day in Ukraine, and "100 days of war in Ukraine have had a devastating impact on children at a scale and pace not seen since World War II."

66 children [died](#) from bombing and shelling of civilian infrastructure by the Russian armed forces, 49 from car bombing during evacuation attempts, including through "green corridors," and six from missile detonations.

The [youngest victims](#) of the Russian aggression were 23 days old, one and a half and three months old. Eleven Russian servicemen have already been reported on suspicion of committing crimes against children.

[According to the Ukrainian Interior Ministry](#), at least 234,000 children were forcibly removed to Russian territory. On May 30, Russian President Vladimir Putin [simplified](#) the procedure for orphans from Ukraine to acquire Russian citizenship. A statement by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry stressed that this decree is actually an attempt to legitimize the abduction of Ukrainian children, and that Russia's actions are in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Ukraine will take all possible measures, including at the international level, to ensure the protection of the rights and interests of the abducted Ukrainian children and their return to the country.

On the hundredth day of the war, Yegor and his family [managed to evacuate](#) from Mariupol to Zaporizhia, an eight-year-old boy who described in his diary the horrors of the war and the blockade of the city.

Hromadske [tells](#) how Ukrainian residents who were evacuated to Russia are trying to get out of it.

THE OCCUPANTS ARE TRYING TO PERSUADE THE RESIDENTS OF UKRAINE TO COOPERATE

According to the head of the Kherson Regional Military Administration, Hennadiy Laguta, the situation in the region remains [difficult](#), in particular, the occupants block the delivery of humanitarian goods from the territory under Ukrainian control. Russian forces have blocked [access to Ukrainian cell phone operators](#) and the Internet in almost all of the occupied territories, continue to restrict the movement of their residents, conduct filtration activities, and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis. Residents of the occupied territories are being forced to cooperate or acquiesce to the occupation. At the same time, residents continue to resist, for example, teachers [refuse](#) to switch to the Russian educational system.

It is [reported](#) that Russian soldiers are disguised in the uniforms of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and are taking the residents of the region to an unknown destination. The BBC [gathered](#) evidence of torture in Russian-occupied Kherson. In the north of Kherson region, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have already [liberated](#) more than 20 settlements; a report from the de-occupied part of the region can be found [here](#).

In Mariupol, residents are deprived of access to drinking water and food, effectively [being held hostage](#) by the occupation forces. Drinking water is distributed to residents in exchange for forced debris removal work. Because of this and the mass graves, the situation in the city is [critical](#).

It is [reported](#) that the Security Service of Ukraine obtained access to propaganda "methodological manuals" of the Russian special services on the "correct coverage of the special operation" in Ukraine. They point out that the Russian population does not understand why the war was the only possible way to achieve the country's goals, and it is necessary to find new arguments to explain it. In the temporarily occupied territories, it is planned to turn off broadcasts of Ukrainian TV channels and broadcast Russian programs with the following thesis: "We are fighting for you so that later we can hand over these territories to you".

NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

The sixth package of EU sanctions was [approved](#) by the Council of the European Union on 3 June. It involves reducing Russian oil imports by more than $\frac{2}{3}$, disconnecting Russian banks, including Sberbank, from SWIFT, and banning the broadcasting of a number of state media. It was decided to [exclude](#) the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, from the sanctions package. Bloomberg [noted](#) that Hungary lobbied for the decision.

The Washington Post [quoted](#) sources among Chinese officials as saying that Russia has asked China at least twice for new forms of economic support, and China is trying to determine a way to provide assistance without violating Western sanctions.

A new package of sanctions has also been [adopted by the U.S.](#) And Turkey [has said](#) it will neither support Western sanctions against Russia nor help it circumvent the restrictions.

The European Union has begun work on a seventh package of sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Poland proposes to extend sanctions to gas and industry, Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Pawel Jablonski [said](#). In his opinion, in addition to formal sanctions, it is also necessary to confiscate, rather than freeze, all Russian assets in Europe. At the same time, a [number](#) of [EU leaders](#) said that the gas embargo will not be discussed as part of the next package of European Union sanctions. Also, Britain and the EU [have agreed](#) on a coordinated ban on insurance of ships carrying Russian oil; this ban will be part of the new sanctions package.

An international working group led by Andrei Yermak and Michael McFaul [presented](#) the Individual Sanctions [Roadmap](#), which defines the objectives of such sanctions, the principles of their application, the categories of individuals against whom personal sanctions should be imposed, and a strategy for increasing sanctions pressure. The number of potential candidates for sanctions is at least 12 thousand individuals and 3 thousand legal entities. Immediate priority is given to the 100 richest people from the Forbes list. Special attention is proposed to those oligarchs who were able to avoid sanctions in most or all jurisdictions.

U.S. SAYS READY TO SUPPLY UKRAINE WITH MULTIPLE ROCKET LAUNCHERS; RUSSIA THREATENS TO ATTACK NEW TARGETS

US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken [said](#) at a joint briefing with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg that the USA was allocating a new [package](#) of defence assistance for Ukraine worth 700 million dollars. Among other things, this will include the [supply of multiple rocket launchers](#), which Ukraine has asked for. Blinken noted that the purpose of providing the new weapons is not only to protect Ukraine from Russian aggression, but also to strengthen its position during the negotiations.

According to the secretary of state, Ukraine assured the United States that it would not use the new MLRS for targets on Russian territory.

In addition, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden plans to sell four advanced large drones to Ukraine, Reuters [reported](#), citing sources.

[The United Kingdom](#) will follow the U.S. in handing over to Ukraine American multiple rocket launchers capable of hitting targets at a distance of up to 80 kilometers.

The German government has been criticized for delaying deliveries of heavy weapons to Kyiv.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, during his speech in the Bundestag on June 1, [promised](#) to give Ukraine modern air defense equipment to protect major cities. German Foreign Minister Annalena Berbock [said](#) that it would take months to deliver them to Ukraine. In addition, Germany will [deliver](#) infantry fighting vehicles to Greece so that it can transfer Soviet-type weapons to Ukraine.

The German government is not supplying Ukraine with tanks because it fears that Ukrainian troops might use them to invade Russia, the Spiegel [has said](#), citing sources. According to the sources, there is an informal agreement between the US, French, German and British governments on not supplying Ukraine with tanks. However, this issue has never been discussed at the NATO level.

Slovakia [will transfer](#) Zuzana 2 self-propelled artillery units with a range of up to 40 kilometers to Ukraine.

Sweden [announced](#) a new aid package for Ukraine, which will include anti-ship missiles.

Russian President Vladimir Putin [said](#) that if the West starts transferring more long-range weapons to Ukraine, Russia will strike targets it has not attacked before.

As of June 4, the European Union [lifted](#) duties on all goods from Ukraine. In addition, the head of the European Council, Charles Michel, [said](#) that the EU and G7 members had agreed to allocate 9 billion euros for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

UKRAINIAN NGOS PROPOSE SAFE APPROACH TO THE PROCESS OF UKRAINE'S ACCESSION TO THE EU

President Volodymyr Zelensky [stressed](#) during an address to the European Council on May 30 that Ukraine wants EU candidacy status and rules out "any attempts to find any alternatives". In mid-June, the European Commission is expected to send

member states its opinion on Ukraine and its readiness for the candidate status, and this opinion will be decisive for the [decision](#) of the EU summit. However, there is still no consensus on the issue among European politicians. The situation at the moment is described in an analytical article by [Evropeyskaya Pravda](#).

On June 2, the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, [noted](#) that the EU should support Ukraine's accession to the bloc, while maintaining compliance with all standards and requirements. She added that support for Ukraine was a historical responsibility of the EU. At the same time, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi [says](#) that all major European Union countries, except Italy, are against granting Ukraine candidate status. Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer [believes](#) that Ukraine's complete quick accession to the EU is not possible yet, as the country is fighting for its political and territorial survival. In his opinion, the EU should create a European preparatory zone, which would allow countries wishing to join it to strengthen cooperation and better adapt to EU standards. German Foreign Minister Annalena Berbock [spoke in favor of granting the status](#), noting that Ukraine would not get special treatment during further EU accession. [And according to Irish Prime Minister Michal Martin](#), Ukraine should join the EU as soon as possible.

Over 200 Ukrainian non-governmental organizations have issued an unprecedented joint [appeal](#), in which they offered a safe approach to the process of Ukraine's accession to the EU, allowing the country to reject the idea of interim statuses such as "potential candidate. It emphasizes that Ukraine already meets the criteria for candidate status, and a likely decision by the European Council not to recognize Ukraine as such, even if disguised by another status, would only strengthen eurosceptics, weaken reformers in government, parliament and society, and hit pro-European forces in other states. At the same time, recognition of candidate status with the establishment of ambitious requirements for further steps would create a powerful tool for reforming Ukraine, avoid disappointing politicians and society, and strengthen the European Union and its credibility in the world.

DOCUMENTATION OF WAR CRIMES IN UKRAINE AND ASSISTANCE FROM FOREIGN INVESTIGATORS

On June 3, the CivilMPlus civil society platform together with the DRA e.V. held a briefing on documentation of war crimes in Ukraine.

During the event renowned Ukrainian civil society leaders Sasha Romantsova (Center for Civil Liberties), Oleksandr Pavlichenko (Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union), Oleksandr Solontay (Institute of Political Education), Serhiy Burov (Human Rights House Chernihiv) and a representative of Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine Yuriy Belousov urged German partners to:

- facilitate stronger cooperation and experience exchange between German and Ukrainian prosecutors
- launch capacity-building programs for Ukrainian NGOs that are developing their expertise in war crimes documentation

- give more technical and financial assistance to those who are actively engaged in the process of documentation, including personal protective equipment
- provide opportunities for psychological assistance to victims of war crimes and those who work with them.