

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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Dear subscribers,

We remind you that our newsletter is published in an updated format. Now, at the end of the news review, you will also find a brief overview of Russian propaganda fakes about the war in Ukraine. Maybe these exposés will give you a reason or way to talk with people who are influenced by Russian propaganda, or maybe you will just understand more about the propagandists' logic and will be able to use these insights in your work. Information warfare is part of the hybrid aggression of the Russian state, let's confront it together!

CONFERENCE ON THE POST-WAR RESTORATION OF UKRAINE

On July 4-5, a conference on the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine was held in Switzerland. Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal [said](#) that the corresponding recovery [plan](#) is already estimated at \$750 billion. The main source of funding should be the confiscated assets of the Russian state and the oligarchs, which, according to various estimates, range from \$300 to 500 billion. Deputy Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Kyrylo Tymoshenko [noted](#) that it is already necessary to restore almost 40,000 critical infrastructure facilities in the de-occupied territories. During the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian law enforcement agencies [seized](#) assets worth at least 33 billion hryvnias as part of criminal proceedings.

The platform for the reconstruction of the country [proposed](#) by the Ukrainian side "United in defense - united in recovery" will consist of three levels: the first level is the leaders of states, who determine strategic directions, the second - a general coordination group, consisting of executive authorities and decision makers, from Ukraine, the US, EU, the UK, Poland and other partner countries, and the third - thematic groups in different segments of the economy. More about Ukraine's plan -

[here](#). Ukrainian civil society also released its [recommendations](#) on the issue of restoration of the country.

As a result of the conference, a declaration was [adopted](#), which creates a framework for the long-term process of restoring Ukraine. The European Investment Bank [stated](#) that it is ready to help in the restoration of Mariupol, and France [will focus](#) its efforts on the restoration of the Chernihiv region. Lithuania [will allocate](#) an additional €10 million to the National Bank of Ukraine for urgent restoration work.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also [announced](#) the creation of an EU platform for the reconstruction of Ukraine, through which the European Commission will have the opportunity to offer its extensive experience and ongoing programs that combine reforms and investments. In addition, she [said](#) that the EU is developing a legal basis for the confiscation of assets of the Russian Federation in favor of Ukraine, this is also [supported](#) by British Foreign Minister Liz Truss, but Switzerland [opposes](#) this approach, noting that it violates property rights.

EU TO PROVIDE A BILLION EURO AID TO UKRAINE

The Council of the European Union [approved](#) the allocation of €1 billion of macro-financial assistance to Ukraine to "fund urgent needs." At the same time, the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera, citing officials in Kyiv and Brussels, [writes](#) that Germany has been blocking EU aid to Ukraine in the amount of €9 billion for more than a month.

The Ukrainian budget [received](#) another \$1.7 billion in non-repayable grant [assistance](#) from the Trust Fund of the World Bank and the US Agency for International Development, the funds will be used to pay salaries to doctors.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has [announced](#) an additional £100 million in military aid to Ukraine. The Swedish government [transferred](#) another 1.7 billion hryvnias to help the Armed Forces of Ukraine. US President Joe Biden has [signed](#) the 15th, \$400 million military aid package for Ukraine. Among other things, it will include 4 more of the latest HIMARS missile systems. The Netherlands will [transfer](#) armored vehicles and self-propelled howitzers to Ukraine, [Canada](#) - armored vehicles, and [Germany](#) has found a manufacturer of ammunition for Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft systems, the supply of which to Ukraine had previously been a problem due to a shortage of shells. At the same time, Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó [said](#) that Hungary was not supplying weapons to Ukraine because it did not want Hungarians in western Ukraine to become the target of Russian shelling.

The European Union [plans](#) to take measures to prevent the smuggling of weapons from Ukraine related to the Russian-Ukrainian war, in particular, so that organized crime cannot gain access to them.

UKRAINE NAMED THE NUMBER OF MISSING MILITARY PERSONNEL

As of July 11, approximately 7,200 servicemen and women are considered missing in Ukraine. We are talking about fighters from various institutions, including border guards and special services, [says](#) Oleg Kotenko, the Commissioner for Missing Persons under Special Circumstances.

On July 12, as a result of a [special operation](#), five people were [rescued](#) from Russian captivity in the temporarily occupied territory of the Kherson region.

Russia is holding captive about a hundred military medics, including those from Azovstal (Mariupol), while officially refusing to acknowledge this fact. One of the reasons for this, [according](#) to the Media Initiative for Human Rights, is their forced involvement in the treatment of Russian military personnel.

The story of one of the prisoners is [told](#) by "Ukrainska Pravda. Life".

RUSSIA LOST OFFENSIVE POTENTIAL IN LUHANSK REGION, SUCCESS OF UKRAINIAN FORCES IN THE SOUTH

Russian President Vladimir Putin [ordered](#) Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to give "rest" to the troops involved in the occupation of the Luhansk region and "build up combat capabilities." By this, he actually admitted that the Russian army during the fighting in the Luhansk region [lost](#) its offensive potential and could no longer conduct military operations. At the same time, Russian troops are creating conditions for a possible [offensive](#) against Kramatorsk in the Donetsk region, which can take place in parallel with the offensive against Sloviansk. Earlier occupied [Severodonetsk](#) is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe, and in the occupied Lysychansk, Luhansk region, there are 10-12 thousand residents who, for various reasons, [refused](#) to evacuate. According to Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk, they are taken to filtration camps, where they are subjected to cruel and inhuman treatment. The US [notes](#) that Russia uses at least 18 such camps, the establishment of them was planned even before the start of a full-scale invasion. The British newspaper The Times, in an editorial on the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from Lysychansk, [called](#) for supporting Ukraine with weapons, and not pushing it towards peace on unfavorable terms.

The head of the military-civilian administration of the Donetsk region of Ukraine Pavlo Kyrylenko [called on](#) residents to evacuate in order to save lives and better protect the region from advancing Russian troops. The Associated Press [notes](#) that the governor's appeal to residents could be one of the largest evacuations since the beginning of the war, as it may mean the transfer of 350,000 people.

At the same time, the situation is opposite in the south of Ukraine. On July 10, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov [said](#) that President Volodymyr Zelensky had ordered the Armed Forces to de-occupy regions of the south of the country. Minister for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine Iryna Vereshchuk also [called](#) on Ukrainians to leave the occupied parts of Zaporizhia and Kherson regions so that the Armed Forces of Ukraine would not endanger the civilian population during the counteroffensive.

On July 11, in the temporarily occupied Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region, the Armed Forces of Ukraine [destroyed](#) the occupants' ammunition depot. The Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense [notes](#) that the Russians regularly burn the bodies of their fallen soldiers to cover up losses. The resistance movement covered all the territories occupied by Russia, how it works - in the [material](#) by Hromadske. Ukrayinska Pravda [tells](#) about Ukrainian artillerymen involved in the de-occupation of the Kherson region. Reports on the situation in the occupied cities of southern Ukraine are published by the [BBC](#) and the [ZMINA](#) Human Rights Center.

PUTIN SIGNED A DECREE ON GRANTING RUSSIAN CITIZENSHIP TO UKRAINIANS VIA A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a [decree](#) allowing all citizens of Ukraine to apply for Russian passports through a simplified procedure - previously this only applied to residents of the occupied territories.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine [condemned](#) such a move, emphasizing that the passportization of Ukrainian citizens is legally null and void and will not have legal consequences for Ukraine. According to the [Institute](#) for the Study of War (ISW), in this way Russia is preparing the ground for an attempt to annex Ukrainian territories outside the Donbas. President of the Center for Research on Social Prospects of Donbas Sergey Garmash [analyzed](#) how such a move by Russia affected the temporarily occupied territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions and spoke about its prospects now.

SANCTIONS

Canada [will return](#) to Germany Russian turbines needed to service the Nord Stream 1 gas pipeline, which it repaired, but plans to expand sanctions against the gas, oil and chemical sectors, as well as Russian [propagandists](#). Earlier, German Economy Minister Robert Habeck [said](#) that this equipment, which fell under sanctions against Russia, is critical for gas flows to Europe, and if Canada refuses to return the turbines, the sanctions will hit Germany harder than Russia. Ukraine has [opposed](#) Canada's transfer of the turbines, [noting](#) that it is a test of the Canadian government's willingness to maintain sanctions and continue isolating Russia.

Japan has [imposed](#) new sanctions against Russia.

The head of European diplomacy, Josep Borrell, [wrote](#) a text about the impact of sanctions on Russia and the possibilities for their further use.

RUSSIA CONTINUES EXPORT OF STOLEN GRAIN

One of the targets of Russian attacks continues to be Ukrainian grain exports. The fire that arose as a result of the shelling [destroyed](#) 20 hectares of wheat in the

Dnepropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions. The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine [stated](#) that Russia is trying to undermine the food security of the world by such actions. In addition, the illegal export of grain from the temporarily occupied territories continues. Ukraine [asked](#) Turkey to check a number of ships allegedly carrying grain stolen by Russia, it later became known that Turkey ignored Ukraine's appeal and [released](#) the previously detained Russian ship. Radio Liberty's "Schemes" project published the results of an [investigation](#), which stated that Russia systematically exports stolen Ukrainian grain through Crimea to Turkish ports, despite the Turkish authorities' assertions that they do not buy grain from the occupied territories. These data are [confirmed](#) by the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. At the same time, as a result of the de-occupation of Snake Island, it became again [possible](#) for Ukraine to export grain along the channel of the Danube River to the Black Sea.

RUSSIA TOUGHENS SENTENCES IN CASES ON "WAR FAKES"

Russian courts now [hear](#) nine criminal cases about military "fakes", about 60 more are on the way. The Russian State Duma has adopted a package of [amendments](#) to the Criminal Code. In particular, they [introduce](#) additional penalties for cooperation with foreign intelligence services and public calls for activities directed against Russia's security. New cases of military fakes confirm that any public figure who openly opposes the government's policy can face a prison term, says Pavel Chikov (Agora) in a [column](#) dedicated to the case of opposition deputy of the local council Aleksey Gorinov, who was sentenced to seven years in prison for speaking out against the invasion of Ukraine. This is the first real term under these articles of the law. Amnesty International's deputy director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Bruce Millar, [said](#) the sentence against Aleksey Gorinov was wrongful reprisal for expressing his opinion, and not the administration of justice, while lawyers and human rights activists [called](#) for the sentence to be overturned.

In some cities, anti-war protests, although small in number, have been going on for the fifth month. Meduza [tells](#) the story of an activist from Smolensk, who goes out on a solo picket every day.

Another form of anti-war resistance in Russia is to conduct sabotages on the railroad which is done by "rail guerrillas." The Insider [interviewed](#) them.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIA ANNOUNCES THE DESTRUCTION OF UKRAINIAN HIMARS IN A REGION WHERE THEY WEREN'T

On July 6, the Russian Ministry of Defense [reported](#) on the destruction of two HIMARS multiple launch rocket systems in the Donetsk region, which were transferred to Ukraine by the United States. This statement is [illustrated](#) with a video

clip taken at night from a drone: a rocket hits the ground not far from several poorly distinguishable objects that look like parked cars. There is nothing resembling two HIMARS systems in the frame. The Ukrainian Armed Forces [emphasize](#) that this statement of the Russian Ministry of Defense is a fake. According to reports, the MLRS are not at all [where](#) the Russian Ministry of Defense claims to destroy them: the day before, the MLRS were [shown](#) in a video report from the Zaporizhzhia region.

The "Proekt" media previously [studied](#) the press releases of the Russian Ministry of Defense since the beginning of the war and found many inconsistencies in them regarding the sequence of the seizure of Ukrainian territories and the amount of Ukrainian equipment allegedly destroyed by Russia.

RUSSIA PREPARES GROUNDS FOR ANNEXATION OF THE KHARKIV REGION BY SPREADING STATEMENTS ABOUT THE ALLEGED "DESIRE" OF ITS AUTHORITIES AND RESIDENTS TO BECOME PART OF RUSSIA

A number of Russian propaganda media, including [TASS](#) and [RIA Novosti](#), spread the message that allegedly the authorities and residents of the temporarily occupied territories of the Kharkiv region are striving for the region to become part of Russia. This statement is fake. Propagandists refer to an interview with Vitaly Ganchev, who was appointed by the Russian occupation authorities as the so-called "head of the temporary civil administration" in the occupied part of the Kharkiv region. This body is fictitious and has nothing to do with the official Ukrainian authorities. Vitaliy Ganchev [voluntarily](#) agreed to cooperate with the occupying forces, he is [accused](#) by Ukraine of high treason and collaboration activities. The statement that the inhabitants of the occupied part of the Kharkiv region wish to join Russia has no factual grounds. The Russian occupation troops continue to [prevent](#) the evacuation of residents of the territory controlled by Ukraine. At the same time, the Kharkiv Regional Military Administration [reports](#) that despite regular shelling of the region, Ukrainian authorities and volunteers are [organizing evacuation](#) routes. Residents of the Kharkiv region, who managed to travel to the territories controlled by Ukraine, [report](#) numerous instances of [looting](#) and crimes by the Russian army against civilians. This is [confirmed](#) by [residents](#) of the temporarily occupied areas of the region. Only in recent weeks, the [territory](#) of the Kharkiv region has been [repeatedly shelled](#) by [Russia](#). As of the end of June, more than 4,000 residential buildings were [damaged](#) by Russian shelling in the region. A sociological study by KIIS [showed](#) that 82% of those who currently live in the temporarily occupied territories have a negative attitude towards Russia. Read more in the StopFake [article](#). These fake statements indicate that the Russian authorities intend to annex the Kharkiv region and are trying to legitimize this with statements about the "desire of the residents." This is not the first such attempt: for example, earlier the occupying authorities [declared](#) the city of Balakliya, Kharkiv region, a part of the Belgorod region of Russia. Such plans are also confirmed by the [publication](#) by the Russian occupation authorities of the Kharkiv region of a new flag with the image of the Russian imperial

double-headed eagle. Similar intentions are [confirmed](#) by analysts at the Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

OPINIONS AND PRACTICES TO DEBUNK FAKES

Otar Dovzhenko, media expert, editor-in-chief of Detector Media, [reflects](#) on how exactly the Ukrainian media should refute Russian propaganda. In particular, in his opinion, the threats voiced by Russia should not be spread - they are a tool of psychological influence, and the media unwillingly contribute to their spread. Ksenia Ilyuk, lead data analyst at Detector Media, [describes](#) the main trends in Russian disinformation. Regional media, including those forced to leave the temporarily occupied territories, play the most important role in refuting the fakes. A report on the work of the Ukrainian media in exile is [here](#).