

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

No.106, 10-15 August, 2022



HIGHLIGHTS

UKRAINE EXTENDS MARTIAL LAW FOR ANOTHER THREE MONTHS, BUT AIMS TO END THE ACTIVE PHASE OF THE WAR BY WINTER

Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andrii Yermak, [believes](#) that it is vital to complete the active phase of the war before the onset of winter since thermal power facilities may come under attack.

The Verkhovna Rada [extended martial law](#) and [mobilization](#) for 90 days, until 21 November. At the same time, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valerii Zaluzhnyi [appealed](#) to the Ministry of Defense with a proposal to allow all those who are not subject to mobilization to go abroad.

[Officially](#), the Armed Forces of Ukraine have defeated about 20% of the Russian armed forces units involved in the war, with fighting now continuing along a 1,300km frontline.

Russian circles are reporting a strike by the ZSU on a Russian mercenary base used by the private military company Wagner in the temporarily occupied Popasna in the Luhansk Oblast after a Russian war correspondent [posted](#) information about its address on social media. The head of the Luhansk Regional Civil-Military Administration, Serhiy Haidai [confirmed](#) the strike. The [BBC](#) and [Conflict Intelligence Team](#) analyze what might be behind the strike. A summary from the regional administrations on the situation in the Ukrainian regions as of the morning of 16 August here.

DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE RUSSIAN INVASION EXCEEDS \$110 BILLION

The total amount of directly [documented](#) damage to Ukrainian infrastructure as a result of the Russian invasion is 110,4 billion dollars, and the minimum needed to rebuild destroyed assets is 188 billion dollars.

At the same time, according to [calculations](#) by The Washington Post, the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine hold deposits of coal, gas, oil, metals and minerals worth at least 12.4 trillion dollars. The publication notes that if Ukraine loses its territories, it would be forced to restructure its economy, since it would no longer be able to supply raw materials. The Ukrainian State Service for Geology and Mineral Resources has not yet completed its assessment of the damage, however the estimated amount is even [higher](#).

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

On 11 August, a conference of defense ministers of the European allies of Ukraine took place in Copenhagen. More than 20 countries took part, which [amounted to](#) a total of more than 1.5 billion euros in military aid.

At the end of the conference, the Danish Minister of Defense Morten Bodskov [announced](#) that this money could be spent on buying weapons for Ukraine or training the military and that the sum was likely to grow.

Ukraine has been provided with howitzers by [Slovakia](#), with howitzers and helicopters by [Latvia](#), with additional multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS) by [Great Britain](#) and with patrol boats by the [EU](#). Radio Svoboda [gathered](#) experts' opinions about military aid to Ukraine.

ZSU DESTROYS BRIDGES TO CUT OFF OCCUPYING FORCES FROM SUPPLIES

Over the past weeks, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have consistently attacked bridges across the Dnipro in the Kherson Oblast to cut off a group of Russian armed forces from supplies. A bridge near the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant in the Kherson Oblast has become [unusable](#) due to attacks by the Ukrainian military, in addition to further strikes carried out on the [Antonivskiy](#) Bridge. [According](#) to the Kherson regional council, most of the military leadership of the Russian occupying troops have left the temporarily occupied city. Authorities also confirmed that Ukrainian artillery had destroyed all bridge crossings across the Dnipro.

Nine [aircraft](#) belonging to the Russian armed forces were [destroyed](#) at a military airfield in Crimea. Russia reported 12 wounded and one dead as a result of the explosions. The Russian Ministry of Defense said that the planes were not damaged by strikes, but rather that several aircraft munitions detonated. [According](#) to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), Russia does not want to blame Ukraine for the explosions in Crimea because this would demonstrate the ineffectiveness of Russian air defense systems, while the official Russian version is refuted by the fact that the explosions occurred simultaneously in several different locations. Based on satellite [images](#), CNN [observed](#) that these Russian losses were the

largest in one day since the Second World War. The New York Times, citing a high-ranking Ukrainian military official, [wrote](#) that the ZSU were behind the explosions in Crimea, but the Ukrainian army has [not directly confirmed](#) its involvement in the explosions. The General Staff of the ZSU [noted](#) that Russia has started to use its air force less in the south. [According](#) to Bloomberg, the strikes on the airbase in Crimea could weaken Russia before Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south. The Atlantic Council [called](#) these explosions a further step in the collapse of Russia's military prestige.

Meduza [analyzed](#) the various versions of what happened and its possible consequences.



Photo: Antonivskiy Bridge/[Wikimedia](#)

THE “DPR” HAS HELD ANOTHER TRIAL OF FOREIGN PRISONERS

The so-called “Supreme Court of the DPR” [conducted](#) an “open court hearing” regarding charges of citizens of Sweden, Croatia and Great Britain who have been captured. One of them is a [paramedic](#), two are NGO [volunteers](#) involved in the evacuation of people, and another is a [member](#) of the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Force. They are accused of mercenary activities and three of them face the death penalty. The U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken [said](#) the US was concerned by the trial, and called on Russia and its proxies to respect international humanitarian law, including the rights and protection of POWs. The [Croatian](#) Foreign Ministry also responded in a similar way. Russian human rights activists, academics and cultural figures have [called](#) on the Russian President Vladimir Putin to propose a moratorium on the death penalty to the head of the “DPR.”

EU COUNTRIES ARE DISCUSSING THE POSSIBILITY OF VISA BAN FOR RUSSIANS

Already on the first day of the war in Ukraine, Roskomnadzor demanded that all media outlets write about the combat operations only “according to official Russian sources”. The publication Proekt [reports](#) on how Russian media is living under censorship.

In the absence of not only legal political processes, but also the very possibility of free speech, residents of Russia are increasingly turning to the [practice](#) of “direct action”.

At the same time, the discussion of a new type of sanctions – a ban on visas for Russian citizens – could have an impact on Russian civil society, including anti-war activists.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba [called](#) on EU and G7 countries to stop issuing visas to Russians. A potential [discussion](#) about this type of sanctions is possible at the end of August. [According](#) to the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, this measure will make

citizens of Russia, which is a terrorist state, feel their part of their responsibility for Russia's policies. At the same time, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba [stressed](#) that it was not about banning visas for humanitarian reasons or granting asylum.

[Estonia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Finland](#) and the [Czech Republic](#) officially support the call to EU countries not to issue tourist visas to Russian citizens. [Poland](#) and [Finland](#) are working on a mechanism to implement the ban, and [Latvia](#) intends to review visas and resident permits already issued to Russian citizens who support the war. Previously, the European Commission stated that such a ban does [not comply](#) with its visa policy, but since issuing visas is in the competence of member states, they may [deny](#) a visa in each specific case on the basis of threats to their own security. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also did [not support](#) the idea of banning Russians from entering the EU.

European Pravda [analyzed](#) whether an EU-wide visa ban for Russian citizens is possible.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIAN MEDIA CLAIM THAT UN GENERAL SECRETARY BLAMED UKRAINE FOR THE ATTACKS ON ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Some pro-Kremlin [media](#) outlets have been spreading news about “a ZSU attack on the Zaporizhzhia NPP,” referring to a statement by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, who allegedly condemned “Ukraine’s attack” on its own nuclear facility.

“The UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres said that the attacks on the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant by the Ukrainian military must stop immediately,” Russian [media](#) reported. This statement is a fake, in fact Antonio Guterres [spoke](#) of the urgent need to stop the attacks on the plant, but did not make any claims that it was Ukraine that “attacked” its own power plant.

The spreading of such fakes is in line with the Kremlin’s [narrative](#) of [blaming](#) Ukraine for the attacks on the NPP with the aim of strengthening Russia’s influence there. On 11 August, Russia initiated a [meeting](#) of the UN Security Council. In particular, the possibility of sending an IAEA mission there was discussed.

At the same time, the situation around the Zaporizhzhia NPP continues to escalate. Thus, on 11 August alone, Russian armed forces carried out four [strikes](#) on or near its territory. In particular, the territory not far from the first power unit and a storage facility for radiation sources were shelled. The shelling also [continued](#) during the following days.

Meanwhile, the international community is insisting on the need for Russia to accept responsibility for what is happening; the G7 countries have [demanded](#) that Ukraine immediately regain full control over the captured Zaporizhzhia NPP, as well as over all nuclear facilities within Ukraine’s internationally recognized borders. The G7 stressed the importance of facilitating an IAEA expert mission to the Zaporizhzhia NPP to address nuclear safety and safeguards “in a way that respects Ukraine’s full sovereignty over its territory and infrastructure”. The US State Department [supported](#) the call to create a demilitarized zone around the power plant. In total, 42 countries have [called](#) on Russia to withdraw its troops from the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [suggested](#) that partner countries impose sanctions against Russia’s nuclear industry and stressed that Russian troops should be withdrawn from the territory of the nuclear power plant without any additional conditions.

The President of the NNEGC Enerhoatom, Petro Kotin, [stated](#) that the IAEA could come to the Zaporizhzhia NPP only with security guarantees, which could be provided by deploying a UN peacekeeping contingent to the plant.

The BBC [published](#) an interview with an engineer from the Zaporizhzhia NPP about the actions of the Russian military at the plant.

To receive news about the Russian-Ukrainian war subscribe [HERE](#).

This newsletter is a product of the international civil society platform CivilMPlus and is prepared within a project "Dialogue for understanding and justice: Strengthening civil society's contribution to conflict management, democratic and regional development and the preparation of safe reintegration in eastern Ukraine". The project is implemented with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office.