

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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THE POSITION OF RUSSIAN TROOPS IN UKRAINE HAS WEAKENED - U.S.

The Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) continue to “keep fire [control](#)” over transport links in the occupied territories, through which the Russians are trying to bring up their reserves. [Reuters](#) and [The New York Times](#), citing statements by U.S. officials, warned that Russia plans to launch new attacks on Ukraine's civilian infrastructure and government facilities in the near future. Ukrainian Defence Ministry spokesman Andriy Yusov also [said](#) there was an increased threat of missile strikes and other provocations.

The US Institute for the Study of War (ISW) [notes](#) that the split among the combatants of the Russian-controlled “L/DPR” forces continues, and this could affect mobilization in the occupied territories.

The U.S. Department of Defence [stated](#) that the position of Russian forces in Ukraine has weakened and they are making no progress on the battlefield. "Donbass.Realities" published [forecasts](#) by military experts on the further development of events.

About the situation in the regions of Ukraine as of the morning of August 23 - [here](#), and on the front - [here](#). According to the General Staff of the AFU, the number of Russian servicemen killed [exceeded](#) 45,000. The BBC managed to [establish](#) the names of more than 5,700 of them using open sources.

UKRIANIAN, TURKISH AND UN NEGOTIATIONS IN LVIV

UN Secretary-General Antonio [Guterres](#), Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Turkish President Recep Tayyip [Erdogan](#) have met in Lviv. Among the [topics](#) of discussion were the developments and joint [actions](#) on the "grain agreement," the situation at the seized Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, the forced deportation of Ukrainian citizens to Russia, and the [mission](#) to the Olenivka prison, where dozens of Ukrainian prisoners of war were killed. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba [stressed](#) that during the talks there was no talk of any concessions by Ukraine to Russia. Earlier, it was suggested that Recep Tayyip Erdogan might propose to Volodymyr Zelenskyy to organize his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, but according to Suspilne, after the trilateral summit President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [said](#) that negotiations with Russia were possible only if Russian troops leave the illegally occupied territory of Ukraine. [According](#) to Dmytro Kuleba, until the war is over, the resolution of many problems in a diplomatic way will depend on the coordination and decisions of the presidents of Ukraine, Turkey and the UN Secretary-General.



Photo: Press conference after meeting of Guterres, Zelenskyy and Erdogan/[Office of the President](#)

EXPLOSIONS CONTINUE IN OCCUPIED CRIMEA

Over the past week, there were a number of explosions on the territory of Russian occupied Crimea. On August 16, [ammunition](#) exploded on the territory of a military unit in the village of Mayskoye, which [damaged](#) a section of the railroad and caused the [evacuation](#) of about two thousand people from the village, as well as a [fire](#) at a transformer station in the Dzhankoi Raion. Later the same day, Russian media [reported](#) another explosion in Crimea - this time at a military airbase, which, [according](#) to Bellingcat, housed 24 military aircraft, and on August 20 - in Sevastopol near the [headquarters](#) of the Black Sea Fleet.

[According](#) to Ukrainian intelligence, after the explosions the Russian armed forces urgently moved the aircraft deep into the peninsula and to Russian airfields.

Ukraine has [not directly confirmed](#) its involvement in the bombings, but Mykhailo Podolyak, advisor to the president of Ukraine, [called](#) the situation in Crimea "demilitarization in action," and [noted](#) that facilities like the Crimean bridge are legitimate military targets, and predicted more explosions on the seized peninsula in the coming months. Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov [said](#) that Ukraine has no restrictions on hitting Russian military targets in temporarily occupied Crimea.

Russia [blamed](#) saboteurs for the incident.

The New York Times [wrote](#) that an "elite Ukrainian unit" may be responsible for the

explosions on the peninsula. [According](#) to CNN, Ukraine is behind at least three explosions in Crimea. At the same time, the Center for Countering Disinformation under the National Security Council of Ukraine [noted](#) that Russia is spreading narratives about "Ukrainian saboteurs" in Crimea to increase repression against the pro-Ukrainian part of the population. [According](#) to the American Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the attacks on Russian positions in and around Crimea are likely part of a Ukrainian counteroffensive to regain control of the western bank of the Dnipro River.

DISCUSSION SURROUNDING THE U.S. WARNINGS ABOUT RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

The Washington Post [quoted](#) US, Ukrainian, European and NATO officials as saying that the USA had been discussing the risks of a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine as early as autumn 2021 and had passed information about it to Ukraine. At the same time, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba told the publication that not enough concrete intelligence had been offered to support the US warnings.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [said](#) in an interview that making this information public in advance could have provoked chaos and additional losses for Ukraine, including economic losses.



Photo: Joe Biden/[Wikimedia](#)

THE “DPR” CONTINUES WITH SHOW “TRIALS” OF UKRAINIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL

According to the Chief Directorate of Intelligence of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence, Russian forces are [planning](#) soon, tentatively on August 24, to organize a show "trial" of Ukrainian prisoners of war in Mariupol. It is noted that according to one of the possible scenarios, Russia may launch a point-blank missile strike on the premises with prisoners of war in order to blame it on Ukraine.

In the so-called "DPR" there are also [ongoing](#) trials of captive foreign servicemen of the AFU. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry stressed that these trials are legally null and void.

During a press conference held on August 22, fighters of the Ukrainian Azov unit that had been released from Russian captivity [said](#) that international organizations did not monitor the conditions of their detention, and torture was widely used against prisoners of war.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [stated](#) that if the "trial" of Ukrainian POWs in Mariupol was held, any negotiations between Ukraine and Russia would become impossible.

In order to tell the story of Azovstal's defenders and what is happening to them now, Hromadske presented the [project](#) "In a Steel Embrace," and the BBC [published](#) an interview with a former Olenivka prisoner.

Oleksandr Pavlichenko (Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union) [spoke](#) about possible ways to help those in captivity.

U.S. TO GIVE UKRAINE NEW AID PACKAGE

As part of a new military aid package, the German government [is giving](#) Ukraine three more Gepard self-propelled air defence systems, armored personnel carriers and other weapons. However, the German Defence Ministry [rejected](#) a [proposal](#) by Bundestag members from the ruling coalition to send Ukraine more weapons and, if necessary, to weaken the German army in this regard.

U.S. President Joe Biden [signed](#) a document allocating \$775 million in aid to Ukraine. The new package, in particular, will [include](#) ScanEagle long-range reconnaissance drones, which the U.S. is transferring for the first time, and [Switchblade](#) 600 kamikaze drones. At the same time, a group of U.S. diplomats, military officers and experts [urged](#) Joe Biden's administration to transfer more HIMARS systems to Ukraine, as well as ATACMS missiles to them, which have a range of up to 300 kilometres.

The Estonian government [approved](#) another military aid package to Ukraine, which will include mortars and anti-tank weapons, and the EU [plans](#) to create a mission to train the Ukrainian military.

The Netherlands [will allocate](#) over 65 million euros of aid to Ukraine to begin reconstruction of regions affected by Russian armed aggression.

SANCTIONS

Under pressure from sanctions, Serbia [announced](#) that it will stop its supply of Russian oil from November, while the U.S. is [preparing](#) to strengthen sanctions against Russia to prevent it from circumventing existing restrictions.

Oleksii Makeiev, a special representative of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on sanctions policy and a member of the Yermak-McFaul International Expert Group, published a [column](#) on Ekonomichna Pravda refuting myths about the sanctions policy against the Kremlin.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF UKRAINIANS BELIEVE IN VICTORY, BELIEVING THAT IT WILL COME IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS

92% of Ukrainians believe in Ukraine's victory in the Russian-Ukrainian war, and the majority of respondents will consider the expulsion of the occupiers from the entire territory of the country a victory, according to the results of a [survey](#) conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation in cooperation with the Razumkov Centre. Of those who believe in victory, 31% believe it will happen before the end of 2022. Another 34% think that victory will come in 1-2 years.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA CLAIMS THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES ONLY TRAIN THE UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES IN URBAN WARFARE

Russian [propaganda media](#) outlets are spreading reports that military instructors from Western countries, in particular, Great Britain, are not training Ukrainian aviation and artillery, but are training AFU units to fight in an urban environment, without mentioning the possibility of a counterattack by the AFU. Similar messages are being [broadcast](#) by Russian propaganda [media](#) with regard to the United States, whose arms deliveries are interpreted as allegedly showing that "the West has begun to train mobile militias from the AFU."

These statements are fake. Their purpose is to discredit Western military assistance to Ukraine, destroy trust in partner countries and the Ukrainian Armed Forces, and demoralize civil society. In fact, the instructors are [teaching](#) the Ukrainian military how [to use](#) all kinds of weapons provided by Western partners. [According](#) to Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov, Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel are being trained in Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, France, and Germany. [New Zealand](#), [Canada](#), [Sweden](#), [Finland](#), [Norway](#) and the [Netherlands](#) have also joined Britain's program. The main focus is on training specialists in the use of: large-calibre artillery systems; multiple rocket launchers; artillery reconnaissance equipment; air defence equipment; different types of wheeled and tracked vehicles; [demining](#) systems, including underwater; and different types of ships and their weapons systems, including anti-ship systems. In Great Britain, Ukrainian soldiers are [trained](#) in the firing of light weapons, unit attacks, battlefield tactics, as well as urban and forest combat. Even an [article](#) in the New York Times about U.S. arms deliveries confirms that their purpose is to support a counterattack by the AFU.

Thus, the urban firearms training, as reported in the Russian media, is only part of the basic combined arms training course, launched with British support, while Ukraine's partner countries support the AFU in the counteroffensive and repelling of the Russian invasion.

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