

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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AFU LIBERATES A SERIES OF SETTLEMENTS IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE, PREPARATIONS FOR THE PSEUDO-REFERENDUM IN KHERSON OBLAST STOPPED

On September 4, it was [reported](#) that one settlement in the Donetsk Oblast and two more in the south of Ukraine had been liberated. [Officials](#) did not specify the names for security reasons, but on the same day the Office of the President of Ukraine [announced](#) the liberation of the village of Vysokopillia in the Kherson Oblast. Due to the counteroffensive, preparations by Russian forces for a pseudo-referendum in the Kherson Oblast have been [suspended](#).

[According](#) to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the counteroffensive by Ukrainian armed forces in the south is not likely to lead to the immediate liberation of territories for the occupiers. Their goal is to disable key logistical hubs that support Russian operations. White House officials [reported](#) that the USA has been helping the AFU prepare for a counteroffensive over the past several months by fulfilling specific requests for arms deliveries.

Hromadske published an [overview](#) of Ukraine's air defence weapons and needs. The BBC Russian Service [estimated](#) that the Russian army has lost at least 900 elite servicemen in Ukraine in the last six months.

An overview of the situation in the region as of the morning of September 6 can be found [here](#), and on the frontline [here](#).

MORE THAN 7000 CIVILIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED IN UKRAINE DURING THE WAR

The Kyiv Oblast was liberated from the occupiers at the end of March, however the bodies of dead civilians are still being found. As of September 1, 1356 bodies of inhabitants who died during the occupation [had been found](#), and about 200 people

were considered missing. Overall, more than 7000 civilians [have been killed](#) and another 5500 wounded as a result of Russian shelling in the country. [According](#) to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, 31,506 crimes of aggression and war crimes committed by Russia have been recorded as of September 2.

The international human rights organization Human Rights Watch published a [report](#) on filtration camps and the forced removal of Ukrainians from the temporarily occupied territories to Russia. The text stresses that the forced displacement of civilians is a serious violation of the laws of war and a war crime, and in some cases such actions can be considered a crime against humanity.

The National Information Bureau of Ukraine is working to collect data and verify information on the people who have been forcibly [removed](#) to Russia: so far, the identities of around 30,000 adults and almost 7300 children have been established. Russia claims that it has “evacuated,” in reality deported, more than [3 million](#) people “from dangerous regions of Ukraine.”

PRO-RUSSIAN PROTESTS IN THE EU

On September 3, a [rally](#) was held in Prague against the policies pursued by the Czech government. Around 70,000 people called for, among other things, the lifting of sanctions against Russia and an end to arms deliveries to Ukraine. On September 4, a protest took place in [Cologne](#), (Germany), with about 2,000 participants calling on the government to stop supporting Ukraine and to lift sanctions against Russia. In [both countries](#), the protests were initiated by pro-Russian forces. An analysis of the situation in the Czech Republic can be found [here](#).

UKRAINE SECURES RELEASE OF ABOUT 600 PEOPLE FROM CAPTIVITY IN SIX MONTHS

On September 2, a prisoner exchange took place in the Donetsk region, where Ukraine managed to secure the [return](#) of 14 service personnel who had been captured by Russia in the spring.

In total, since the start of the full-scale war, Ukraine has [secured the release](#) of nearly 600 people from Russian captivity, most of them military personnel. The stories of medics from Mariupol military hospital held in Russian captivity can be found [here](#).

ALLIED COUNTRIES INCREASE FINANCIAL AID TO UKRAINE

President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen has [announced](#) that this week Brussels will offer Ukraine an additional 5 billion euros of macro-financial assistance. This proposal must be approved by the European Parliament and the European Council. Euractiv quoted sources as [saying](#) that almost all EU member states have agreed to guarantee a further 5 billion euros of macro-financial

assistance for Ukraine in the form of long-term loans, with only Hungary opposing the decision.

US President Joe Biden's administration is [urging](#) US Congress to approve \$13.7 billion to deal with Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Most of this money, \$11.7 billion, would be sent to help Ukraine.

Finland will provide an [additional](#) 8.3 million euros in defence [aid](#) to Ukraine.

Germany [plans](#) to provide Ukraine with an additional 200 million euros to fund programs to help internally displaced persons.

The LEGO Foundation has [donated](#) around \$13.6 million to the USA to support the reconstruction of the education system in Ukraine.

In August 2022, Ukraine received a [record](#) \$4.6 billion in financial aid from its partners.

IAEA DELEGATION VISIT ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

On September 1, an IAEA delegation arrived at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) which had been seized by Russian troops. An Zaporizhzhia NPP employee, who remained anonymous, [described](#) the details of the visit for Suspilne: IAEA inspectors could only move around the plant and talk to employees in the presence of Russian military and Rosatom employees. According to him, the Russians convinced representatives of the IAEA mission that "radiological, chemical and biological protection" troops were at the plant, and not combat units of the Russian army.

The mission [documented](#) physical damage on the territory of the plant and difficult working conditions for Ukrainian specialists, who are forced to "coexist" with the occupiers. In its [report](#), the IAEA confirmed that Russia had deployed equipment and military personnel at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said that it had been decided that two representatives of the IAEA would be permanently stationed at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed [disappointment](#) that the IAEA did not call on Russia to demilitarize the territory of the plant, saying that he hoped for "objective conclusions based on the circumstances at the plant".

The General Staff of the AFU [reported](#) that before the commission arrived, Russia removed all military equipment from the Zaporizhzhia NPP. The Deputy Defence Minister of Ukraine, Hanna Maliar also [noted](#) that Russia had shelled the nearby town of Enerhodar to provoke the IAEA mission.

On September 3, one of the two operating power units of Zaporizhzhia NPP was again [disconnected](#) from the grid. IAEA experts present at the plant reported that the Zaporizhzhia NPP continues to supply electricity to the Ukrainian power grid through a reserve line. At the same time, the occupying forces claim that the electricity only goes to the seized territories. On September 5, the plant was completely [disconnected](#) from Ukraine's power grid due to intensive shelling.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [proposed](#) imposing sanctions against the Russian state corporation Rosatom, which is one of the key leverage and pressure mechanism in Russia's foreign policy.

NEW RESTRICTIONS FOR RUSSIAN OIL AND GAS

The G7 countries have managed to reach an [agreement](#) to work on a price cap of Russian oil in order to deprive Russia of the possibility to wage war against Ukraine. [According](#) to officials, this measure will be introduced at the same time as the EU embargo on Russian oil imports. The price cap on oil from Russia will take effect on December 5 for crude oil and February 5 for petroleum products. The European Commission has already [proposed](#) a [price cap](#) on Russian pipeline gas. These decisions are being made against the backdrop of the [termination](#) of gas supplies to Europe by the Russian company Gazprom through the Nord Stream pipeline, officially due to technical reasons. The Kremlin [said](#) on September 5 that gas pumping will not resume until sanctions against Russia are lifted that prevent it from maintaining the pipeline. [According](#) to Bloomberg, the worst-case scenario would be if Europe is left without Russian gas and gas prices increase significantly due to heating demand, which could lead to social unrest and doubts about the expediency of continuing to support Ukraine. However, it is more likely that gas deliveries to Europe will continue at a certain level, as Russia will not want to completely lose this source of income. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said he no longer considers Russia a reliable partner for energy supplies and [announced](#) a new 65 billion euro package to combat the effects of the energy crisis.

Russian officials and experts prepared a report for the Russian government in which they tried to assess the impact of sanctions imposed on Russia due to the invasion of Ukraine. This was [reported](#) on by Bloomberg, which examined a copy of the report. All of the presented scenarios predict that the sanctions pressure will increase as new countries join the restrictive measures. A sharp rejection of Russian oil and gas by Europe could lead Russia into a long and deep recession.

RUSSIAN SCHOOLCHILDREN BEING TAUGHT PROPAGANDA NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR

The Russian Ministry of Education announced the introduction of weekly lessons called "*Razgovori o vazhnom* (Conversations about the Important Things)." It was announced that the classes will be dedicated to discussing "key aspects of life in contemporary Russia." Guideline materials were published [online](#), and according to them, the lessons would also [promote](#) Russia's war efforts. A number of Russian public initiatives published an open [appeal](#) urging educators and parents to refuse to hold of these classes. Meduza [collected](#) opinions on them. A [transcript](#) of one of these classes was published by Vazhnie istorii.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIAN MEDIA REPORTS ON A GERMAN JOURNALIST'S CALL FOR UKRAINE TO RECOGNIZE THE POINTLESSNESS OF RESISTANCE AGAINST RUSSIA. IN FACT, HIS CALL IS TO GIVE UKRAINE MORE WEAPONS

Russian media ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) have published reports that the German outlet Die Welt supposedly called on Ukraine to recognize not only “the loss of Donbas,” but also the “pointlessness of the attacks on Kherson.” The reason for such a call is allegedly that Ukraine “is not capable of changing the success of Russia’s special operation.” These reports are fake.

Die Welt journalist Christoph Schiltz notes in his [column](#) that Western countries are still not giving Ukraine enough weapons to make a difference in the war. The article is published in a section reflecting the main idea of there being “too little military aid.” According to the author, there are no signs that the situation will change in the near future. Russian propagandists took these words out of context and gave them a different meaning.

The journalist notes that the West needs to make a decision – either to significantly improve the arming of Ukraine or to leave Ukraine “at the mercy of the Russian military machine.”

Thus one of the author’s main messages is a call to partner countries, in particular Germany, to supply Ukraine with more heavy weapons, and not simply “speeches of support.” German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock [asserted](#) that her country would continue to support Ukraine for as long as necessary. At the same time, the head of the German Ministry of Defence [noted](#) that the Bundeswehr’s capacity to supply arms to Ukraine is almost exhausted.