

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

No.110, 6-12 September, 2022



UKRAINIAN ARMED FORCES SUCCESSFULLY COUNTEROFFENSIVE, LIBERATING MORE THAN 6000 SQUARE KILOMETRES OF UKRAINIAN TERRITORY

The Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) are conducting a successful counteroffensive in Kharkiv Oblast, as well as in the south and east of the country. Over the past week, the AFU was able to liberate [more](#) territory than Russian troops have occupied during all their offensives since April. According to official [statements](#), more than 6000 square kilometres have been de-occupied.

The Russian Ministry of Defence has published a [map](#) showing that the occupying troops have withdrawn from almost all of Kharkiv Oblast. At the same time, the retreat is described as “an operation to close up and organize the redeployment of a group of troops”. Meduza [reports](#) on how Russian TV channels are covering the retreat from Kharkiv Oblast.

The media are [reporting](#) that a number of Russian armed forces units in the south are trying to negotiate with the AFU about surrendering weapons. At the same time, the Russian armed forces continue to use terror tactics, [attacking](#) civilian infrastructure. As a result of the shelling, the [power supply](#) was disrupted in the Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy, Dnipropetrovsk, and partially in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts.

[According](#) to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), Ukraine is winning a “decisive victory” in the battle with the Russian occupiers for Kharkiv Oblast. Experts noted that the Ukrainian breakthrough and operations north of Izium have completely decimated Russian defences throughout north-eastern Ukraine. It has also been noticed that the Ukrainian counteroffensive “shocked the Russians” and prompted a panicked and disorderly retreat. At the same time, the areas of retreat were not mined and large quantities of equipment and supplies have been left behind, which Ukrainian forces can use to continue counteroffensive operations.



Photo: Volodymyr Zelenskiy with the military in the liberated Izium/[Zelenskiy official](#)

Information about the newly liberated settlements in Kharkiv Oblast is actively being published on social media, and with a time delay, is confirmed by the General Staff of the AFU. On September 11, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the Commander-in-Chief of the AFU, [reported](#) that on the Kharkiv front, 50 kilometres remained before reaching the state border. On September 12, AFU forces [reached](#) the border in some parts of the front. During the counteroffensive, several [hundred settlements](#) have been liberated, including [Balakliya](#), [Izium](#) and [Kupiansk](#) in Kharkiv Oblast and Sviatohirsk in Donetsk Oblast. Ukrainian defenders also [entered](#) the town of Vovchansk (Kharkiv Oblast), located on one of the key land routes to the Russian military junction in Belgorod. Videos and reports on how residents of the liberated settlements greeted AFU soldiers can be found here ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)).

The General Staff of the AFU [reports](#) on the situation on the front as of the morning of September 13 [here](#). A summary of the situation in the regions can be found [here](#).

In the liberated Ukrainian territories, evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and the rules of law by the occupiers has been [recorded](#). In total, Ukraine has documented more than 18,000 war crimes by the Russian military, Radio

Svoboda [reports](#) on the initiative “Tribunal for Putin”.

Testimonies of residents of liberated [Balakliya](#) are published by the BBC, Babel writes about what happened in occupied [Kherson Oblast](#) and Meduza about [Kharkiv Oblast](#).

EU ALLOCATES 5 BILLION EUROS TO UKRAINE

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the European Commission and the World Bank have [assessed](#) Ukraine’s losses and needs, describing the impact of the invasion on 20 sectors. It is estimated that Ukraine needs \$349 billion for recovery and reconstruction. As the war continues, this amount will increase. The full report can be found [here](#).

According to the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), by September 5, the total amount of direct infrastructure damage in Ukraine had [risen](#) to \$114.5 billion, with over 70% of the damage being to destroyed residential buildings and infrastructure.

The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers plans to [allocate](#) 400 million hryvnia from the budget reserve fund to restore the damaged energy infrastructure and aid the de-occupied territories of Kharkiv Oblast.

The Council of the European Union [approved](#) 5 billion euros of macro-financial assistance for Ukraine. In October, the European Union is to provide Ukraine with a 3 billion euro tranche, which is the part of the assistance totalling 9 billion euros, Prime Minister Denis Shmyhal [said](#). In total, by the end of 2022, Ukraine [expects](#) to receive around \$12 billion in financial assistance from its partners.

There are also plans to demand at least \$300 billion in [reparations](#) from Russia. Ukraine wasn’t the UN General Assembly to adopt a resolution on the creation of a reparations fund for the country’s damage. The Ukrainian Justice Ministry is [working](#) on a resolution to create such a fund.

RUSSIA: CONTINUING SANCTIONS, CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN OFFICIAL INFORMATION

The Council of the European Union decided to completely [suspend](#) the visa facilitation agreement with Russia from September 12. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are also [closing](#) their borders to Russian citizens with Schengen visas.

The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine imposed [sanctions](#) against another 606 people belonging to Russia’s ruling elite.

Amid the sanctions and the silencing of the realities of war, a [crisis](#) of trust in official information has re-emerged in the Russian information landscape.

A project team from the Public Sociology Laboratory noted that although surveys show a high level of support for the war among citizens, these surveys are only partly helpful in understanding what Russians think about the war. Based on the research conducted by the Laboratory, they published a [report](#) entitled “The Distant Close War,” which aims to describe the spectrum of attitudes existing in Russian society in their complexity and ambiguity.

THE US IS DEVELOPING A PLAN TO SUPPORT UKRAINE AFTER THE WAR ENDS

The fifth [meeting](#) of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group (Ramstein group) took place; one of the main topics was medium and long-term defence cooperation. Thus, the US [confirmed](#) a new package of military assistance to Ukraine worth \$675 million. Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov thanked allied countries and confirmed that cooperation with them continues.

[Estonia](#) gave Ukraine its first unmanned tracked armoured personnel carrier, which will be used to transport the wounded. [Norway](#) will donate anti-tank missiles and night vision devices to Ukraine. [Germany](#) transferred the first COBRA radar and Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft artillery units.

The Pentagon is [preparing](#) a detailed analysis and developing ways to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the medium and long term, particularly after the end of the war with Russia, and the US State Department has [announced](#) its intention to allocate another \$2.2 billion for long-term security support for Ukraine and its neighbours. [According](#) to The Wall Street Journal, the Ukrainian authorities have requested additional arms supplies from the US, including long-range missile systems. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [believes](#) that the approaching winter may become a turning point in the liberation of the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, but for this the Ukrainian army needs continued systematic deliveries of the necessary weapons. This requirement is [analyzed](#) by the Atlantic Council. Donbass Reali's [article](#) on how Russia threatens to disrupt gas supplies in an attempt to halt Ukraine's support from the west can be found here.

Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the Commander-in-Chief of the AFU, published a [column](#) in which he predicted a new phase of the war with Russia after the de-occupation of Crimea. He noted that even after liberation of the peninsula, Russia will continue its aggression and to deter it, Ukraine needs to re-equip its army and obtain long-range missiles with the help of its partners.

RUSSIA STILL HAS NOT GRANTED THE UN ACCESS TO UKRAINIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

After a month and a half of negotiations, the body of the dead volunteer Paul Urey, a British citizen, was returned from the territory of the so-called DPR, [according](#) to the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets. He had been held in occupied Donetsk. Although previously "representatives of the DPR" had stated that the volunteer's death was caused by "illness and stress," there were numerous lacerations and signs of torture on the returned body. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba [said](#) the detention and torture of civilians "is barbaric and a heinous war crime."

The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine [stated](#) that Russia still has not provided access to Ukrainian prisoners of war, the same is true also for prisoners of war held in the territories of the Russian-controlled L/DPR. It was also noted that captured Ukrainian service personnel have been subjected to torture and ill-treatment.

At the same time, the Mission stressed that Ukraine has provided unimpeded access to captured Russian service personnel. This is where cases of torture and ill-treatment against Russian prisoners of war, usually upon capture, during initial interrogations or transportation to detention facilities, are also documented.

Hromadske [reports](#) on how people search for their loved ones missing in the war.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIA CLAIMS THAT UKRAINE IS EXPORTING GRAIN TO THE EU INSTEAD OF AFRICA, THE UN DENIES THIS

Russian [media](#) are [spreading reports](#) that Ukraine exports grain mainly to the EU, rather than to Asia and Africa, which most need it. Russian President Vladimir Putin [spoke](#) about this for the first time at the Eastern Economic Forum on September 7. He said that Moscow was doing everything it could to ensure that Ukrainian grain was exported, but only two out of 87 ships with it went to Africa. From this, he concluded that it was necessary to [limit](#) the export of grain from Ukraine.

These statements are false. The UN [website](#) tracks every ship that leaves a Ukrainian port. The main recipients of Ukrainian wheat supplies are Egypt, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Turkey and Yemen. Intelligence from the British Ministry of Defence [stresses](#) that Russia's goal is to absolve itself of responsibility for the world's food security problems with these claims: "Putin's claim is not true. According to UN figures, around 30% has been supplied to low and middle-income countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Russia is pursuing a deliberate misinformation strategy as it seeks to deflect blame for food insecurity issues, discredit Ukraine and minimise opposition to its invasion."

Similar statements have been repeatedly [denied](#) in Ukraine, in particular, by the Ministry of Infrastructure. It has been [noted](#) that 16 ships have been sent to Africa alone: 8 to Egypt, 3 to Sudan and one to Kenya, Algeria, Somalia, Djibouti and Libya, and two more ships were chartered to Africa by the UN World Food Programme.

In addition, presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak [stressed](#) in a comment to Reuters that Russia had no right to vote within the framework of the "grain agreement". A similar situation was analyzed by the [Media Detector](#) and [Myth Detector](#) projects, while StopFake collected the main Russian narratives about Ukrainian grain.

A study of the situation with grain exports is [offered](#) by the Financial Times.



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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.