

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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ACTIVE FIGHTING CONTINUES, RUSSIAN TROOP LOSSES EXCEED 68,000

Active combat operations continue in the east and south of Ukraine. Russian forces continue to attempt [offensives](#) in the Bakhmut und Avdiivka areas, while the AFU is [conducting](#) active defense and offensives in main areas in order to de-occupy populated areas and straighten the front line.

Russia continues to make extensive use of rocket and air strikes against infrastructure and civilian targets.

The AFU General Staff stated that the threat of a repeat offensive by the Russian army from the territory of Belarus is growing. However, this time the Russians may launch an attack in a different direction, on the west of the Belarusian-Ukrainian border, in order to cut the main logistics supply routes of arms and military equipment supplies to Ukraine from partner countries.

As of the morning of 25 October, Russian military [losses](#) exceed 68,000, according to the AFU General Staff. A summary of the situation on the front can be found [here](#).

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DE-OCCUPATION OF KHERSON OBLAST

In Kherson Oblast, the AFU has [de-occupied](#) more than 90 settlements inhabited by more than 12,000 people. The operational command “South” of the AFU ground forces [announced](#) on October 23 that the Ukrainian army had shifted the front line. Against the backdrop of the AFU counteroffensive, the Russian armed forces continued to [withdraw](#) their units from the western part of Kherson Oblast. They are [building up](#) defensive positions on the left bank of the Dnipro River in Kherson Oblast. The Russian-appointed authorities of the annexed Kherson [said](#) that by October 22, about 25,000 troops had been

moved from the right bank of the Dnipro to the left bank out of a [planned](#) 50-60 thousand, but [claimed](#) that there was no progress in the advance of the AFU.

Meanwhile, in Kherson itself, [according](#) to Kyrylo Budanov, Chief of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense, Russian troops are preparing to defend themselves and are only creating the illusion that they are leaving the city. According to [experts](#), the situation may develop in three ways. The Russian-appointed authorities of annexed Kherson [announced](#) the formation of a territorial defence and [demanded](#) that residents “immediately” leave the city. These actions and demands were [previously explained](#) by saying that the AFU was allegedly preparing to destroy the dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant. Experts from the American Institute for the Study of War [noted](#) that Russia probably wants to damage the dam and hold Ukraine responsible, and also intends to prevent the AFU from pursuing the Russian armed forces in Kherson Oblast. On October 20, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [reported](#) that the Russian military had mined the dam and might blow it up. If detonated, dozens of settlements, including Kherson would be affected by the ensuing floods. The scale of the ecological disaster would go far beyond the borders of Ukraine and would affect the whole Black Sea region.

[According](#) to US officials, Ukraine has a window of opportunity of about a month and a half to retake Kherson.

RUSSIA IMPOSES MARTIAL LAW ON ITS OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

On October 19, Russian President Vladimir Putin [announced](#) the introduction of [martial law](#) in the territories of the Russian-occupied Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, as well as in the so-called L/DPR. At the same time, he signed another [decree](#) stipulating, among other things, the establishment of a territorial defense and territorial defense headquarters there. Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the President of Ukraine, [stressed](#) that this decision does not change anything for Ukraine and the AFU continues to liberate the occupied territories. Experts note that one of the clauses of the issued decree leaves open the possibility of introducing martial law [throughout](#) Russia, as well as [closing](#) the border. Meduza [reports](#) on what instructions propaganda media outlets received on how to cover the introduction of martial law.

DOZENS OF RUSSIAN MILITARY ENGINEERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TARGETING CIVILIAN TARGETS IN UKRAINE

The Insider, Bellingcat and Der Spiegel conducted a joint [investigation](#) and identified several dozens of military engineers, who are employees of a unit within the Main Computation Center of the Russian armed forces, responsible for aiming missiles at civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

According to the journalists, the engineers and programmers are key actors in allowing Russia to wage wars of aggression. The investigators note that anonymity gave them a sense of impunity and allowed them not to feel personally responsible for the murder of

dozens of Ukrainian civilians, so the investigation aimed at naming the people involved in the war crimes.

EU AGREES TO ALLOCATE 1.5 BILLION EUROS PER MONTH TO UKRAINE IN 2023

The leaders of the European Union have [agreed](#) a plan of financial support for Ukraine, which envisages the allocation of 1.5 billion euros per month in 2023. The total amount of aid will amount to 18 billion euros per year.

The Netherlands will [allocate](#) 500 million euros for military equipment to support Ukraine through the European Peace Facility and is also considering adding a Dutch-German demining exercise to the EU training mission.

Israel has provided Ukraine with intelligence to help counter Iranian-made drones, The New York Times [reported](#), citing an anonymous Ukrainian official. Although Israel's defense minister and opposition leader oppose the sale of defense equipment, they are [willing](#) to provide Ukraine with an early warning system for approaching missile or drone strikes.

In the U.S., the current Congress is [seeking](#) to secure a military aid deal for Kyiv before the elections. The new aid package could be as high as about \$50 billion.

Germany has [given](#) Ukraine five Bergepanzer 2 recovery vehicles, pontoon systems and winter uniforms for soldiers, and also [plans](#) to transfer MARS multiple rocket launchers and howitzers. In addition, the German foreign and defense ministers demanded that the German Finance Ministry [triple](#) its spending on aid to Ukraine.

RUSSIA CONTINUES ATTACKS ON UKRAINE'S ENERGY FACILITIES

On October 22, Russia launched a mass missile attack on energy facilities in western regions of Ukraine. Although some of the missiles were successfully [destroyed](#), energy facilities in [Rivne](#), [Volyn](#), [Khmelnyskyi](#), [Kirovohrad](#), and [Odesa](#) Oblasts were damaged. Electricity and water supply disappeared in some localities. Ukrenergo says that the scale of the damage is comparable to or may indeed exceed the consequences of the October 10-12 attack. Since the start of the full-scale war, Russia has already [carried out](#) 85 attacks on electric power facilities, 51 of them in October.

The Kyiv city administration anticipates a possible situation where the city will be without [heating](#) due to constant Russian shelling. In many regions of Ukraine, [restrictions](#) have been imposed on the use of electricity. Ukrainian Minister for Reintegration Iryna Vereshchuk [urged](#) Ukrainian citizens who had left the country to go abroad not to return home for the winter because of the shelling of critical infrastructure.

UKRAINIAN AIR DEFENSE SHOOTS DOWN 60% OF MISSILES AND DRONES

Ukraine's air defense [shoots down](#) about 60% of cruise and ballistic missiles during Russian attacks, while the efficiency of countering drone attacks [is even higher](#). According to Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov, Ukraine will be able to strengthen its air

defense within a few months. Material about the prospects of the development of Ukrainian aviation was [published](#) by Hromadske.

UKRAINE IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON 3600 LEGAL ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has implemented a decision of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, sanctioning oligarchs, companies and collaborators. The sanctions will [affect](#) more than 3600 legal entities and individuals, including 256 [oligarchs](#).

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIA ACCUSES UKRAINE OF INTENDING TO USE A “DIRTY BOMB” WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY EVIDENCE

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu held telephone talks with the defense ministers of [France](#), [Turkey](#), [Great Britain](#) and the United States on October 23. According to the Russian Ministry of Defense, their topic was “concern” over possible provocations by Ukraine [using](#) a “dirty bomb,” a weapon that combines conventional explosives and radioactive material. The Russian Defense Ministry did not provide any evidence to support this version.

These allegations are false. Shortly before the talks, the Russian propaganda media outlet RIA Novosti [claimed](#) the same thing. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova [said](#) the purpose of this allegedly planned provocation is “a powerful anti-Russian campaign” and isolation of Russia in the international arena. The Russian authorities did not provide any confirmation of their statements.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba [denied](#) the Russian statements, noting that they were absurd and dangerous lies. He stressed that Ukraine supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and [called](#) on the IAEA to send a mission to Ukraine to refute Russia’s statements. Mykhailo Podolyak, advisor to the Head of the Ukrainian Presidential Office, [stressed](#) that Russia is trying to justify its actions in this way with yet another fiction, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy [said](#) that only Russia could use a “dirty bomb” in Ukraine.

Western countries did not believe Russia’s accusations. A joint [statement](#) by the foreign ministers of the United States, Great Britain and France stressed that such claims by Russia were false.

British Defence Secretary Ben Wallace [urged](#) Russia not to use such statements as a pretext for an even greater escalation, while NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg [called](#) them “absurd”

Rafael Grossi, head of the IAEA, [said](#) that inspectors would check two facilities in Ukraine in the coming days, with one of them already inspected a month ago and nothing forbidden was found.

[According](#) to the US State Department, there are currently no signs that Russia is preparing to use nuclear weapons. But the New York Times reports that US [sources](#) fear that Russia is trying to use such statements to camouflage its own plans. The Financial Times [speculates](#) that Russia's goal may be to test the reactions of Western countries.

[According](#) to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the likelihood of such a provocation by Russia is low. The statements should be viewed as a continuation of a long-standing information campaign: Russian propaganda has been using the false argument that Western countries could help Ukraine use weapons of mass destruction since the beginning of the war.