

## HIGHLIGHTS

# RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

№117, 25 October-1 November, 2022

### 62 MORE PEOPLE RELEASED FROM CAPTIVITY

Ukraine has managed to release 62 more people from Russian captivity as part of [two](#) more [exchanges](#). Among them are service personnel and [medics](#) who were at the blockaded Azovstal in Mariupol. [Also](#) among those released are those who had been captured in Kharkiv and Donetsk Oblasts and in Bucha, Kyiv Oblast. A total of 978 Ukrainian service personnel had been freed from captivity by the [end of October](#). Hromadske [published](#) a report on Russian prisoners of war in Ukraine.

### RUSSIA ANNOUNCES MOBILISATION COMPLETED, IN FACT IT CONTINUES

Russian Minister of Defence Sergei Shoigu has reported the end of Russia's so-called partial mobilisation. He said that 300,000 men had been recruited during the mobilisation and that other mobilisation tasks were "not planned".

According to official [information](#), 87,000 men have been sent to the front. At least 101 of them have died, and about a quarter of those men had died before they had been sent to the front, as [data](#) cited by Novaya Gazeta shows. It is likely that the real number of deaths is significantly higher, as only deaths confirmed by the Russian Defence Ministry were counted. The Russian Defence Ministry [said](#) that starting from 1 November, the issuing of summonses will be stopped and said that in the future the Russian armed forces will be staffed only by volunteers and contract servicemen. There [has not been](#), and probably will [not be](#), a decree on the end of mobilisation, so mobilisation continues de jure and can, despite official statements, be resumed at any time. Experts [note](#) that such a decision could be a strategy to, among other things, use mobilisation as a [repressive](#) mechanism.

In the former prison colony in Luhansk Oblast, mobilised men who refuse to fight are being [detained](#), threatened with prison sentences and forced to return to the frontline.

## RUSSIA DAMAGES ABOUT 40% OF UKRAINE'S ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE, 12 COUNTRIES UNITE TO REBUILD IT

On the morning of 31 October, the Russian armed forces carried out a massive shelling of several [regions](#) of Ukraine - Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi and others. Not only cruise missiles [were used](#), but also guided air and anti-aircraft missiles and drones. This shelling was part of Russia's "strategy" to destroy Ukraine's infrastructure, which the Russian Ministry of Defence has [publicly](#) announced. The country's energy [infrastructure](#), including [hydroelectric](#) power plants, came under attack. At the same time, Ukraine managed to [protect](#) most of the facilities that were targets of the attack. One of the missiles shot down by Ukrainian air defence fell on [Moldovan](#) territory.

Russia [damaged](#) about 40% of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. [Restrictions](#) have been imposed on the use of electricity in many regions. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has [called](#) on the EU to create a platform to support the Ukrainian economy, particularly the energy sector.

The governments and companies of 12 countries: Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, Northern Macedonia, Poland, South Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain have pledged to participate in the [restoration](#) of the Ukrainian energy infrastructure, which has been damaged by Russian shelling. They will supply the necessary equipment; the first shipments have already arrived in Ukraine.

## FINANCIAL AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE: AN OVERVIEW

The European Commission has prepared three [options](#) for financial support for Ukraine in 2023, Politico has said, citing documents. It plans to attract up to 18bn euros in loans and grants to help finance about half of Ukraine's expected budget deficit in 2023. It is noted that discussion of the options will take place on 3 November.

The World Bank has [allocated](#) Ukraine an additional \$500 million for urgent spending needs. [Canada](#) will issue government bonds, the proceeds of which will be used to [support](#) Ukraine. [According](#) to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, the bonds will be worth about 370 million euros. And former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson intends to [promote](#) a "Marshall Plan" for Ukraine on the international stage by creating a fund to support and rebuild it.

[Italy](#) has transferred heavy weapons to Ukraine, in particular multiple rocket launchers and self-propelled artillery systems. [Germany](#) provided Ukraine with two multiple rocket launchers and four artillery pieces, as well as [vehicles](#). [Slovenia](#) transferred 28 tanks to Ukraine. The Pentagon has announced a new \$275 million military aid [package](#) for Ukraine, and air defence system manufacturer NASAMS has already [handed over](#) two systems to the United States, which will be sent to Ukraine. It [has been reported](#) that the USA may start training the Ukrainian military in the use of NASAMS systems in early November.

## DRAFT STATE BUDGET 2023 COVERS ONLY A QUARTER OF THE AFU'S NEEDS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has signed a [law](#) providing for an increase in defence spending from 2022 by 386.9bn hryvnias.

It is envisioned that the increase in spending will make it possible to implement urgent tasks in the field of national security and defence and measures to repel Russia's armed aggression, as well as to meet the state's obligations to pay salaries to service personnel. At

the same time, the draft state budget for 2023 proposed by the Ukrainian government [finances](#) only 24 percent of the total needs of the AFU.

## EU FEARS RUSSIA IS AVOIDING SANCTIONS WITH HELP FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

The Polish Senate has passed a [resolution](#) recognising Russia's authorities as a terrorist regime.

[Canada](#) has imposed additional sanctions against Russia, targeting 35 individuals and six legal entities, including the management of Gazprom and energy companies.

The EU [fears](#) that Russia is buying appliances, including military equipment, via Kazakhstan and other neighbouring countries, as they sharply increased imports of home appliances from the EU in 2022, while at the same time increasing the supply of such products to Russia.

## DEBUNKING FAKES

### RUSSIAN MEDIA CLAIM THAT ARMS FROM UKRAINE ARE USED BY FINNISH CRIMINAL GROUPS

Russian propaganda media are spreading [reports claiming](#) that criminal groups in Finland have illegally obtained weapons sent to Ukraine by allies. These allegations are fake.

They are based on an [interview](#) with an employee of the National Bureau of Investigation, where he says that the investigation into this possible situation is ongoing and cites no evidence.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry [asked](#) the Finnish police to verify the allegations, and they did not confirm the information. The Finnish ambassador to Kyiv also did not confirm the information from the Finnish media. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry called the spreading of information about smuggling "another case of Russian disinformation," while the Ukrainian Interior Ministry [stressed](#) that it was in constant dialogue with international partners to ensure an effective system for monitoring the use of weapons.

On 1 November, the deputy head of the Finnish National Bureau of Investigation, Markus Välimäki, [said](#) that the police were not aware of any confirmed instances that weapons, which had been provided to Ukraine by Western partners as military aid, had fallen into the hands of criminals in Finland. He explained that his representative's interview did not refer to Western aid, but to weapons from Ukraine in general and the potential risk of their use.

At the same time, the United States has resumed on-site inspections to help trace the supplies of weapons provided to Ukraine, Reuters [reported](#), citing a senior US Defence Department official. It was also pointed out that such inspections are a routine part of the agreements that countries sign with the USA when providing arms.

Such narratives are [regularly used](#) by Russian propagandists in order to provoke distrust of Ukraine at the international level and reduce or stop support from Western partners.