

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

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INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON EUROPEAN UKRAINE 2022. OVERCOMING RUSSIA'S WAR AGAINST UKRAINE: STRENGTHENING LINKS BETWEEN POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN EUROPE

For the fourth time, the international civil society platform CivilMPlus is bringing together activists, researchers, politicians, diplomats, human rights activists, and peacemakers in an annual forum on overcoming Russian aggression in Ukraine. This year's discussion topics will include Russian crimes and violations of international law mechanisms, strengthening international support for Ukraine, and the role and challenges for Ukrainian and European civil society in times of war. Among the speakers are the heads of the Ukrainian human rights organization Center for Civil Liberties Oleksandra Matviichuk and Oleksandra Romantsova, Member of the European Parliament Sergey Lagodinsky, member of the Bundestag and the Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Policy Luise Amtsberg, and many other political and public figures. The event will take place on November 15-16, 2022 in Berlin, both in person and online. Registration is open for online participation: please fill out the registration form in [English](#), [Ukrainian](#) or [Russian](#) to receive links to the broadcasts.

RUSSIAN TROOP LOSSES EXCEED 77,000

The Russian armed forces continue to withdraw individual units from the northwestern part of Kherson Oblast, while their plans for [Kherson](#) itself are still unclear.

The Russian flag has been removed from the administration building in the occupied city, and [roadblocks](#) have been removed in the city itself. [According](#) to representatives of the AFU, this is not a sign of Russian military retreat, but only an attempt to give that

impression. In the region, the Russian occupation forces are resorting to tactics to [intimidate](#) the population under the pretext of searching for “subversive groups and forward observers”, including reports of torture and [killings](#) of civilians. Unacceptable living conditions are also artificially created in order to force local residents to leave the region. Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, commander-in-chief of the AFU, [said](#) that Russian troops have tripled the intensity of combat operations in certain parts of the front, launching up to 80 attacks daily; the situation on the front is tense, but manageable. Politico cited a US Department of Defense official as saying that Russia had [not managed](#) to destroy a single US HIMARS rocket launcher in Ukraine. [According](#) to the British Defense Ministry, the Russian armed forces in Ukraine are experiencing difficulties due to a shortage of ammunition and serviceable armoured vehicles to replace lost ones, but they are receiving equipment from Belarus. Also, Russia continues to lose combat [aircraft](#) and experienced pilots in the war with Ukraine, and it lacks the ability to regain capacity and gain air superiority. As of November 8, Russian military [losses](#) totalled more than 77,000. A news summary of the situation on the front can be found [here](#).

RUSSIA DEPORTS CHILDREN FROM UKRAINE

[According](#) to the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Russia has deported 6,032 Ukrainian children since the start of the full-scale war. They have been taken to [Russia](#) or the temporarily [occupied territories](#) of Ukraine. To date, it has been possible to return 96 of them. And the Prosecutor General's Office [reports](#) that at least 430 children have been killed and 827 injured as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION PREPARES TO OFFER UKRAINE 18 BILLION EUROS IN AID

The European Commission will officially propose an assistance package of 18 billion euros to Ukraine in the next few days. The package [includes](#) concessional loans to cover urgent needs, and they will be granted on [conditions](#) Ukraine must fulfill in the areas of rule of law, governance and the fight against corruption.

The [US](#) is to provide Ukraine with a new \$400 million military aid package, including armoured personnel carriers, drones and financing for the modernisation of Hawk air defense missiles. This will supplement aid from Spain, which recently transferred such air defense systems to Ukraine. In addition, the US will fund the modernisation of 45 T-72 tanks. Another 45 tanks [will be financed](#) by the [Netherlands](#), which also announced a new 120 million euro military aid package for Ukraine. Twenty-six of these tanks [will arrive](#) in Ukraine in December and the rest in 2023.

The US [confirmed](#) that it plans to transfer a Vampire anti-drone system to Ukraine in mid-2023.

NASAMS and Aspide anti-aircraft missile systems transferred by Norway, Spain, and the US have [arrived](#) in Ukraine.

For the first time since the beginning of the full-scale war, the [Bulgarian](#) parliament supported arms supplies to Ukraine. A [list](#) of aid will be drawn up in the next month.

And the Bundestag [called](#) for a review of the ammunition supply chain because of Switzerland's decision to [ban](#) Germany from providing Ukraine with Swiss-manufactured ammunition because of "neutrality".

INVESTIGATION: RUSSIA USED THE SAME INTIMIDATION STRATEGY IN BUCHA AS IN CHECHNYA

The Associated Press has published an [investigation](#) into war crimes committed by the Russian military during their occupation of the town of Bucha, Kyiv Oblast, in March 2022. The authors of the investigation confirm that the military conducted a targeted filtration system in the city, identifying suspicious residents with lists drawn up by the Russian special services, as well as resorting to the extensive use of torture and murder. They note that a similar strategy of neutralizing resistance and intimidating the local population was used by Russian troops in previous conflicts, especially in Chechnya, and will be repeated in other Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine.

OVERVIEW OF SANCTIONS

Britain has imposed [sanctions](#) on four more Russian metallurgical and petrochemical magnates who are financing Russia's war against Ukraine.

The G7 countries and Australia have finally agreed to set a fixed price for Russian oil, Reuters [reported](#), citing informed sources. The fixed price should be set by the end of November. The EU is exploring the possibility of using Russian Central Bank assets worth billions of euros, which have already been [frozen](#) by member states, to help rebuild Ukraine. Ekonomichna Pravda has published an expert [commentary](#) on how Ukraine applies such mechanisms for the seizure of Russian assets, such as sanctions, confiscations and nationalization, and the effectiveness of these measures. Russian budget revenues from oil exports [have fallen](#) to their lowest level since the beginning of the war. At the same time, changes in trade between Russia and other countries since February 2022 are mixed: total trade with some countries, including those in the EU, has increased. The New York Times [writes](#) that one reason is the rise in commodity prices.

US ASKS UKRAINE TO SHOW WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH RUSSIA FOR "MORAL ADVANTAGE"

The US administration is asking the Ukrainian authorities to publicly demonstrate their readiness to negotiate with Russia, The Washington Post has [quoted](#) sources as saying. In their opinion, the purpose of these requests is not to push Ukraine into negotiations, but to provide with a moral advantage in the eyes of its international partners.

UKRAINE MANAGES TO RETURN 107 PRISONERS OF WAR

On November 3, Ukraine conducted another [exchange](#) of prisoners of war. Ukraine managed to return 107 service personnel, many of them wounded. [A total](#) of 1138

Ukrainian service personnel have been released from Russian imprisonment since the start of the full-scale invasion.

UKRAINE'S 2023 BUDGET IS DESIGNED WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THE WAR WILL LAST THE WHOLE YEAR

On November 3, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the state [budget](#) for 2023. It was [drafted](#) with the expectation that the war would last the whole year. Half of the budget (1.14 trillion hryvnia out of 2.6 trillion hryvnia) is allocated to security and defense. 857.9 billion hryvnia is thus allocated to the Ministry of Defense, compared to 133.5 billion hryvnia that was budgeted for 2022. Almost 90% of all taxes and levies for 2023 will be allocated to these needs, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal [said](#). Also, the government plans to close the deficit of more than 20% of GDP thanks to the support of international partners. Hromadske has [analyzed](#) the details of the budget, while Ekonomichna Pravda [has compared](#) the country's budgets over the past five years.

RUSSIA RECRUITS MORE THAN 20,000 PRISONERS FOR THE WAR

Despite numerous statements by the authorities, mobilization in Russia has [not ended](#). New laws regarding this were signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to one of them, citizens with an unexpunged or unspent [conviction](#) for certain crimes can now be mobilized for military service. This law legalizes the practice of sending prisoners to the front. The Russian NGO Russia Behind Bars [estimates](#) that the number of prisoners recruited for the war has exceeded 20,000, at least 500 of whom have already [died](#). The mobilized are being sent to the front lines [without training](#). The Kremlin [shifts](#) the discontent of the mobilized and their relative onto regional authorities.

The *Bumaga* publication [speculates](#) on how the war will change the situation of women in Russia.

DEBUNKING FAKES

RUSSIA CLAIMS KYIV RESIDENTS TO BE RELOCATED TO OTHER REGIONS, AUTHORITIES DENY THIS

Russian [media](#) are spreading [information](#) that residents of the Kyiv Oblast will soon be relocated to other regions of Ukraine due to the "catastrophe" with power supply. They refer to a number of interviews with the Ukrainian authorities, in particular with the head of the Kyiv Regional Military Administration Oleksiy [Kuleba](#). These statements are false. [According](#) to the New York Times, the Kyiv authorities are considering the possibility of evacuating all residents of the city in the event of a complete power outage. At the same time, such a development is only [hypothetical](#), the situation in Kyiv is currently [under control](#) and there is no reason to talk about emergency measures. Kyiv authorities are preparing different scenarios in response to possible military threats, such as damage to the region's critical

infrastructure this winter: Kyiv mayor Vitaly Klitschko has [admitted](#) that Kyiv could be left without light, water and heating.

Seventeen EU countries have sent [power generators](#) to Ukraine, which has become an important part of the winter preparation program. Oleksiy Kuleba talked in an [interview](#) about plans to open more than 700 heating points in the city, equipped with autonomous heating, and in his Telegram channel, he [confirmed](#) that no evacuation measures are planned in the near future.

The real source of instability for residents in the Kyiv Oblast is not the authorities, but Russia, which continues to regularly shell critical infrastructure throughout Ukraine, resulting in large-scale power and water outages. As of November 6, more than 4.5 million people are without power, most of them in Kyiv and Kyiv Oblast.

Hromadske has published an [interview](#) with the head of the Kyiv Regional Military Administration Oleksiy Kuleba about the challenges faced by the Ukrainian power system, while the BBC [reports](#) on life in Kyiv.