

HIGHLIGHTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR CHRONICLES

№122, 29 November-5 December, 2022

UKRAINE ATTACKS RUSSIAN MILITARY AIRFIELDS

Russia's main offensive target is the town of Bakhmut, Donetsk Oblast. [According](#) to UK intelligence, its capture is likely to be a symbolic, political target, rather than an operational one.

The build-up of troops in Belarus [continues](#). While there [are no indications](#) that preparation for an offensive is underway there, the Ukrainian Armed Forces are preparing an effective response to the growing threat.

Ukraine's ability to maintain its military initiative depends on continued counteroffensive operations in winter. [According](#) to the Institute for the Study of War, the AFU are likely preparing to take advantage of winter weather conditions and frozen ground to advance.

On 5 December, the Russian Defence Ministry [said](#) that Ukrainian drones had struck military airfields in the [Ryazan](#) and [Saratov](#) Oblasts. They are located much further from the border with Ukraine than the sites subjected to previous attacks; [according](#) to the British Ministry of Defence, this is one of the most strategically significant failures of Russian defences.

A summary on the front as of the morning of 5 December can be found [here](#). Russian armed forces casualties [exceed](#) 92,000.

UKRAINIAN MILITARY LOSSES: REFUTATION OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION STATEMENT

On 30 November, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in an [address](#) that Ukraine's casualties were likely estimated at 100,000 service personnel and over 20,000 civilians. The Ukrainian presidential press secretary Serhii Nykyforov [denied](#) these numbers. It was stressed that the exact number of dead should remain confidential until the end of martial law. The European Commission's director for political communications, Dana

Spinant, later [noted](#) that the estimate used was not accurate, but was taken from external sources and referred to both those killed and wounded, and its purpose was to show Russia's brutality. The information about this was removed from the address.

Presidential advisor Mykhailo Podolyak [said](#) that Ukrainian military losses were significantly lower than reported. According to his estimates, the number of dead is between 10,000 and 13,000, while the number of civilian casualties is significantly higher.

NEW SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

On 4 December, the European Commission [presented](#) EU member states with a ninth package of sanctions against Russia, targeting its financial and technological institutions, as well as the media. In particular, it [plans](#) to impose restrictions on Russia's drone manufacturing sector and other technologies and components that Russia uses for military purposes. The package could be agreed during a meeting of EU foreign ministers on December 12. The [UK](#) has imposed sanctions on 22 Russian officials responsible for mobilising and recruiting mercenaries, while work [continues](#) in the US Congress on an alternative to recognising Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism".

PRICE CAP ON RUSSIAN OIL HAS BEEN SET

On 3 December, the EU Council [decided](#) to set a price cap for oil and oil products originating or exported from Russia at \$60 per barrel. The G7 countries and Australia also [joined](#) the move. The decision, which will take effect from 5 December 2022, is expected to limit price spikes caused by extreme market conditions and drastically reduce the flow of oil from Russia. The EU, G7 countries and Australia will only provide services related to Russian oil if it is purchased at or below \$60 a barrel. The move is designed to limit Russia's revenues, which it uses to finance the war in Ukraine.

Ukraine [criticised](#) the decision – previously, together with Poland and the Baltic states, it had been proposed to cap the price at \$30 per barrel in order to make the effect more tangible for Russia.

At the same time, Russia is [developing](#) mechanisms to stop the oil cap being enforced and to [deny](#) oil supply to countries that have supported its introduction. Russia has also created a "shadow fleet" of more than 100 obsolete tankers to [circumvent](#) the oil sales sanctions. According to analysts, regardless of the move, maintaining export levels will be a problem for Russia, leading to higher prices.

MILITARY AID FOR UKRAINE

The Pentagon has signed a [contract](#) worth over 1.2bn dollars with Raytheon to manufacture six NASAMS anti-aircraft missile systems for Ukraine. The estimated completion date is the end of November 2025. In addition, the US is [cooperating](#) with countries in the Middle East to move several such systems to Ukraine from there in the coming months, according to

Politico, while US President Joe Biden's administration is considering [expanding](#) training for the Ukrainian military.

[Germany](#) is transferring 7 Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft artillery systems and 100 thousand first-aid kits to the Ukrainian armed forces. It will also purchase and transfer to Ukraine 14 unmanned tracked [armoured personnel carriers](#) needed to evacuate wounded people and clear terrain. [France](#) transferred to Ukraine a fourth long-range LRU, based on the M270, a tracked version of the US HIMARS, and [Slovakia](#) transferred 30 infantry fighting vehicles.

[Lithuania](#) repaired two more [howitzers](#) damaged in combat operations and transferred artillery ammunition to Ukraine.

8 RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON UKRAINE'S ENERGY SYSTEM

On 5 December, Russia launched a new mass missile attack targeting Ukraine's critical [infrastructure](#). Four people were [killed](#). Some 70 missiles were launched, and Ukraine's air defence managed to [shoot down](#) more than 60 of them.

Due to the destruction, [emergency blackouts](#) were introduced in the Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and other oblasts. A number of settlements, including [Odesa](#), were also left without water and heating. It is expected that it will take several days [to deal](#) with the consequences of this shelling. Ukraine will only be able to return to only the [planned](#) blackouts once the capacity in the system is increased and if there is no new shelling.

The US [will allocate](#) \$53 million to support the Ukrainian energy system. The Lithuanian government has [approved](#) an additional 13 million euros to be allocated to rebuild Ukrainian energy infrastructure, help refugees, support the "Grain from Ukraine" initiative, and to the World Bank fund for Ukraine. Germany is to [provide](#) Ukraine with 56 million euros to repair energy infrastructure as well as with over 350 power generators.

DEBUNKING FAKES

CRIME RATE IN UKRAINE HAS NOT INCREASED DUE TO BLACKOUTS

Describing the consequences of massive missile strikes on Ukraine's critical infrastructure, Russian media [are reporting](#) that the country is [facing](#) an "[apocalypse](#)" due to the blackouts. The residents of Kyiv and Lviv are allegedly preparing to loot supermarkets and organize pogroms. These statements are fakes.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry has [said](#) that the country's crime situation has not deteriorated due to the power cuts. Earlier, they [said](#) that the overall crime rate in the country in the first six months of 2022 decreased by 25 per cent compared to the same period last year. And the number of crimes recorded in Ukraine during the [week](#) of 23-30 November is 16% lower than the week before the missile strike.

More than 1,200 national police units continue to operate in the country, with branches equipped with generators. In the Kyiv Oblast in particular, the number of both foot and mobile police patrols has been [doubled](#) to help residents. The head of police in Kyiv Oblast

Andriy Nebytov [said](#) on 28 November that the number of thefts had decreased by 15% and burglaries by 40%.

In this way, the fake [statements](#) spread by the Russian media are part of a psychological pressure campaign designed to enhance the effect of Russia's missile strikes on civilian targets in Ukraine.