



**MALCONTENT NEWS  
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR  
SITUATION REPORT**



**April 20, 2022**







# Malcontent News Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

## 4/20/22 23:45 PDT

Malcontent News is an independent group of journalists and researchers located in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, and United Kingdom. We are part of Badon Hill Group, LLC, and operate independently from all entities.

We are funded through Patreon, grants, donations, and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact [social@malcontentnews.com](mailto:social@malcontentnews.com). For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at [tips@malcontentment.com](mailto:tips@malcontentment.com).

[Patreons at the Bronze level or higher](#) get access to the annotated Russia-Ukraine War Situation Report (SITREP). Patreons at the Silver level or higher get a monthly Q&A viz Zoom Meeting with our Chief Content Officer or other senior staff.

This update is copyright © 2022, by Badon Hill Group LLC, all rights reserved. Authors: David H. Obelcz and Jeff Davis, and Kseniia Panteleeva

### Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 56 .....	2
KEY EVENTS MAP .....	5
DONBAS REGION .....	6
LUHANSK .....	6
DONETSK .....	7
SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA .....	10
KHARKIV REGION .....	13
DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION .....	14
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION .....	16
KYIV REGION .....	17
BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION .....	17
WEST REGION .....	17
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS .....	18
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS .....	19
GEOPOLITICAL .....	20
ECONOMIC .....	20
DISINFORMATION EVALUATION .....	21

## **SUMMARY – DAY 56**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine started eight weeks ago and shows no signs of concluding in the near future.

There continues to be no broader strategy or cohesion among Russian forces for the renewed offensive in Eastern Ukraine. The heaviest fighting continued in Mariupol and Popasnya. Chechen troops moved back into Popasnya and possibly advanced to similar areas reached on March 12.

Sixteen days after occupying Izyum, Russian forces moved three kilometers south and made no progress towards Lozove.

Ukrainian forces in Mariupol ignored another surrender demand from the Russian Ministry of Defense. Intense fighting happened northeast of the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant, three kilometers away from the northeastern tip.

Additionally, Ukrainian marines advanced southwest from the steel factory and linked with pockets of resistance who were surrounded in the city center and north of the main

port. Numerous videos from Russian state media showed fighting happening well away from the main factory and in civilian areas.

Heavy rains are playing a factor in Ukraine. In the Donbas, road conditions are deteriorating, and mud is reforming, which will cause problems for Russian armor trying to advance on well-established Ukrainian positions. In Mariupol, residents and soldiers were collecting rainwater for drinking.

In Kharkiv, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continued.

Russian forces have unleashed the worst attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv since the start of the war.

In Kherson, insurgents assassinated a Pro-Russian blogger outside his home and hung signs warning Russian occupiers and their supporters that they would soon be dead. Russian forces responded by raiding homes using the Russian National Guard.

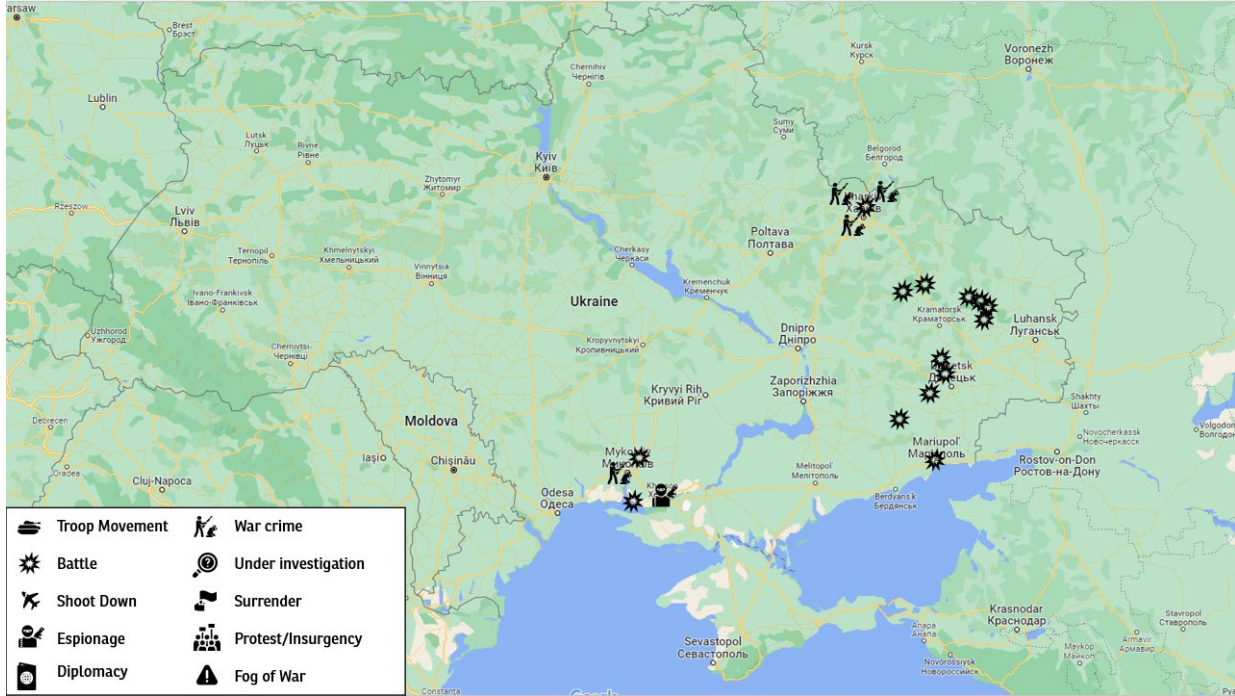
The United States walked back its claim that Ukraine had received fighter airplanes but confirmed they had received parts. The Ukrainian Air Force indicated that the parts enabled them to repair many aircraft, and they will be able to increase air operations.

**ASSESSMENT:** Despite moving more than 85% of forces out of Belarus and northeastern Ukraine and repositioning them in Eastern Ukraine, Russia has not made any strategic gains in the last 72 hours.

Russian forces remain stuck north of Lozove, have moved 3 kilometers south of Izyum, and only taken Kremmina while losing their positions in Rubhizne and Mariianka.

We maintain that Russia can overwhelm Ukrainian forces in the short term but lack the personnel or resource to hold territorial gains.

# KEY EVENTS MAP



## DONBAS REGION

The most intense fighting in the Donbas since 2015 raged around Popasnya. Russian, Chechen, Wagner Group PMC, DNR, and LNR militias launched a push into the settlement while advancing west from Kreminna. In Popasyna, Russian forces reached the deepest penetration into the town since March 12.

## LUHANSK

Ramzan Kadyrov posted on his Telegram account that Chechen forces had captured Rubizhne, with pictures of flags as proof.<sup>1</sup> The sign is on the north end of the town and in the exact location where Chechen forces dug in outside of the settlement on April 12.<sup>2 3</sup> Russian forces made no change in territorial control.<sup>4</sup>

Chechens are back in Popasnaya and released a video of themselves firing guns from a trench.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://twitter.com/DonbassMedia/status/1516811736153796608> [Russian State Media Rating: Disinformation]

<sup>2</sup> <https://goo.gl/maps/AAk4919BL3a9cNuG9>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/AggregateOsint/status/1514120214543167490> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/299122812400804>

<sup>5</sup> <https://twitter.com/Press24Seven/status/1516764122632785926> [Russian State Media Rating: Misinformation]

**ASSESSMENT:** No one and nothing was firing back, and assault weapons have a gunsight for a reason.

Russian State Media released a video of Ru-52 Alligator attack helicopters flying in the Myronivskiy area, near the Myronivsky Power Station. Russian self-propelled artillery was firing on Popasnaya east of the plant.<sup>6</sup> They damaged the power lines during their military operations, knocking out power to the entire Luhansk Oblast.<sup>7</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** No power, no running cell towers in 48 to 72 hours. No functional cell towers means no ERA-secured communications system leads to an OPSEC disaster.

Fighting continued around Torske, with no change in control of the village.

## **DONETSK**

There weren't any territorial changes in Donetsk with artillery and small arms fire around Mariinka,

---

<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/MalcontentmentT/status/1516986713997934592>

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/KyivPost/status/1516418660327374863>



Krasnohorivka, and Avdiivka. Russian Su-25 flew over Avdiivka.<sup>8</sup>

Pro-Russian accounts are reporting that the commander of the second company of the Donetsk National Republic Militia Sparta Battalion, Sergei Agranovich, was killed in action fighting in Avdiivka.<sup>9</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** Multiple Pro-Russian social media accounts reported his death, adding significant weight to these reports. In our evaluation, they are accurate.



<sup>8</sup> [https://twitter.com/spook\\_info/status/1516928806212317184](https://twitter.com/spook_info/status/1516928806212317184)

<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/islamicworldupd/status/1516945510929682439> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]

Outside of Mariinka, the remains of an unspecified technical with an M2 HMG .50 caliber machine gun was found by Russian troops. The vehicle was too severely damaged for identification, but some parts were marked made in the United States, and there was an Ireland sticker on the remains of the roll cage.<sup>10</sup>

Further to the west, fighting continued outside Velika Novosilka and Rivnopil, with Russian forces unable to advance.<sup>11</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** The Russian advance shows no broader strategy or effective use of reinforcements. The approach continues to be ad hoc and fight at known strong points versus probing weak spots along the lines of conflict. Russia appears to be attempting a large encirclement of up to 40,000 Ukrainian troops but lacks the manpower and coordination to succeed.

The weather has been poor in Eastern Ukraine with heavy rain and will continue through the rest of the week. Deep mud and poor road conditions are reforming in the region.<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1516878733902323719>

<sup>11</sup> <https://twitter.com/georgewbarros/status/1516894598433550337>

<sup>12</sup> <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1516902450212581382>

After three days of the second phase of the war, Russian forces hadn't made any strategic gains and suffered heavy losses. The Russian 150th Motorized Rifle Division became combat-ineffective and was forced to withdraw back to Russia.<sup>13</sup>

## **SOUTH DONBAS – AZOV SEA**

The deadline for an April 20 surrender of Ukrainian forces passed, with Ukrainian forces rejecting the demand again. The green corridor that was supposed to open for four hours, starting one hour before the surrender deadline, never happened. Russian forces blocked the assembled relief convoy.<sup>14</sup>

Russian gains around the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant were overstated. Russian State Media Russia Today video confirmed fighting in the same region northeast of the plant.<sup>15</sup>

Another video showed Russian forces even further north, approximately 2.75 kilometers from the closest edge of

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/299122812400804>

<sup>14</sup> <https://twitter.com/InnaSovsun/status/1516821809550839815>

<sup>15</sup> <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1516739932039041024> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]



Azovstal.<sup>16</sup> The location was geoconfirmed and adjacent to residential areas.<sup>17</sup>

NASA FIRMS indicated heavy fighting and significant fires northeast of the compound by the trolley depot and residential neighborhoods.



Multiple sources reported that Ukrainian forces mounted a successful relief operation into the city center to connect

<sup>16</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516826999863525377>

<sup>17</sup> <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1516826296306659329>



with pockets of allied troops surrounded north of the main port.<sup>18</sup>

Russian State Media released a video of the puppet deputy mayor of Mariupol stating her excitement to hold a May 9 Victory Day parade in the city.<sup>19</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** The Kremlin is pushing for victory in the Donbas by May 9, and this pressure will likely lead to ad hoc attacks, lack of strategic planning, and mistakes.

The Ukrainian military continues to be capable of defending Azovstal and moving in force along two axes simultaneously.

Ukrainian forces have a significant defensive advantage as long as they have ammunition, food, and water. Further, it has been apparent that more portions of the city are contested than initially thought.

---

<sup>18</sup> <https://twitter.com/Militarylandnet/status/1516808014711476230>

<sup>19</sup> <https://twitter.com/KevinRothrock/status/1516799317956300806> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid]

Heavy rain will help with adding to drinking water supplies, with ammunition being the following critical need.<sup>20</sup>

We continue to believe that most fighting will end within the next six days. However, Ukrainian forces continue to surprise with their resiliency and brilliant defensive strategy. Russian occupying forces are likely to face an aggressive and violent insurgency to hold a city with almost no viable infrastructure remaining.

Many of the videos released by Russian state media did not show any fighting around Azovstal Metallurgical Plant. Instead, Russian troops appear to continue attacks in civilian areas.

## **KHARKIV REGION**

Shelling of civilians and civilian infrastructure continued in Kharkiv.<sup>21 22</sup>

South of Izyum, Russian forces attempted to advance to Dibrovne but were pushed back again. They were able to

---

<sup>20</sup> <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1516722546024058882>

<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/OsintTv/status/1516878619032920064>

<sup>22</sup> <https://twitter.com/LewkHughes/status/1516569267159937034>

move the line of conflict 3 kilometers southeast, capturing the hamlet of Sulyhivka.<sup>23</sup>

There was less fighting north of Lozove, with Russian forces likely consolidating and regrouping after suffering significant losses along the Oskil River.

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces are demonstrating a lack of coordination between units in Kharkiv, the Donbas, Kherson, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv. The inability to make territorial gains along the Izyum axis indicates more significant problems with resources and strategy.

## DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION

Fighting for control of Hulyaipole in the Zaporizhia Oblast resulted in Ukrainian forces pushing Russian forces back three to four kilometers.<sup>24</sup> Russian troops were accused of using white phosphorus munitions on the settlement.<sup>25</sup>

---

<sup>23</sup> [https://twitter.com/ukraine\\_map/status/1516943737720614914/photo/1](https://twitter.com/ukraine_map/status/1516943737720614914/photo/1)

<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/TheStudyofWar/status/1516939323882369030>

<sup>25</sup> <https://twitter.com/Ukrainiannews3/status/1516523280525574150>

In the northeast corner of Zaporizhia, Russian forces tried to capture Temirivka and were pushed back by Ukrainian forces.

Russian forces are implementing the same strategy used in Chernihiv and Kharkiv, relentlessly attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure in Mykolaiv.<sup>26 27 28 29</sup> The attacks are not tied to an offensive and appear to be done to terrorize the population.

Russian forces attacked the town in Oleksandrivka, located on the Dnipro Gulf 30 kilometers west of Kherson – again - but were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces continue to attack Chornobaivka, just west of Kherson.<sup>30</sup>

Insurgents assassinated Pro-Russian blogger and puppet government candidate Valeryi Kuleshov outside his home in Kherson.<sup>31</sup> (NSFW, viewer discretion advised). After the

---

<sup>26</sup> <https://twitter.com/dpatrikarakos/status/1516696615779815424>

<sup>27</sup> <https://twitter.com/dpatrikarakos/status/1516716754994700294>

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1516887303523909633>

<sup>29</sup> <https://twitter.com/OSINT88/status/1516892292644229124>

<sup>30</sup> [https://twitter.com/dpr\\_00/status/1516916713740197891](https://twitter.com/dpr_00/status/1516916713740197891)

<sup>31</sup> <https://twitter.com/Flash43191300/status/1516750207983230984> [Russian State Media Rating: Valid – but Staged]



assassination, signs appeared across the city warning Russian occupiers and those that support them that “death awaits you in Kherson.”<sup>32</sup> Russian National Guard forces raided homes in the town after the attack.<sup>33</sup>

**ASSESSMENT:** The insurgency in Kherson is getting bolder and more decisive. We continue to believe that the Ukrainian General Staff is not interested in liberating Kherson due to the strategic challenges of maintaining control. Considering Russian forces have laid minefields, set the main bridge with explosive charges, and dug in at Chornobaivka, they have taken a defensive posture.

Ukrainian military leadership is keeping eight Battalion Tactical Groups tied up in the Kherson region and another 12 in Mariupol, representing 20% of Russia's entire combat force in Ukraine.

## **CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION**

There wasn't any significant military action in the region.

---

<sup>32</sup> <https://twitter.com/CanadianUkrain1/status/1516857652755800071>

<sup>33</sup> <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1516962497697304583>

## **KYIV REGION**

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

## **BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION**

The Black Sea fleet has pulled further back from the Ukraine coast after the loss of the Moskva. They continue to run an unofficial blockade of Ukraine.

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe there is no longer a threat of an amphibious invasion of Odesa.

## **WEST REGION**

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

**ASSESSMENT:** We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

## **THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

United States Department of Defense Press Secretary John Kirby walked back his statement that Ukraine has received “platforms” to gain fighter aircraft. He clarified the nation only received parts. The Ukrainian Air Force still praised the United States.<sup>34</sup>

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is being accused of lying to German politicians about what military aid was potentially available to support Ukraine.<sup>35</sup> Scholz asked the German defense industry what weapons could be provided to Ukraine and received a 48-page list at the war's opening.

Earlier in the week, Scholz declared that Germany had insufficient resources to provide more support to Ukraine. In response, the German defense industry leaked the list of available materials.

The two-billion euros of cash military aid Scholz ultimately agreed to provide was actually one billion, and the money would be delayed for 60 to 90 days. Additionally, Scholz gave himself the power to veto the money transfer. In a

---

<sup>34</sup> <https://twitter.com/KpsZSU/status/1516686129642233859>

<sup>35</sup> <https://twitter.com/noclador/status/1516545893805273091>

compromise, the Chancellor released one-billion euros and provided a list of weapons to Ukraine they could buy with the money. However, Scholz had redacted all the weapons Ukraine wanted to buy, and the entire value of the list provided was well below one-billion euros.

Japan has agreed to send military aid to Ukraine, including hazmat suits, MOP4 gear, gas masks, and drones.<sup>36</sup>

The Netherlands is prepared to send more military aid to Ukraine, including heavy weapons and armored vehicles, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte stated on Twitter.<sup>37</sup>

## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russian forces attacked the hospital in Derhachi, a suburb northwest of Kharkiv, with MLRS.<sup>38</sup> It caused heavy damage and destroyed critical equipment, including MRI systems.

Russian forces fired cluster munitions into the Polskyy Viyskovyy Victims of Totalitarianism Cemetery and

---

<sup>36</sup> <https://twitter.com/starsandstripes/status/1516343847550427138>

<sup>37</sup> [Republic World](#)

<sup>38</sup> <https://twitter.com/natemook/status/1516910394840858625>



Memorial in Kharkiv.<sup>39</sup> The intentional destruction of cultural sites is considered a war crime.

A woman wailed, "papa, papa," over the body of her father in Kharkiv, who was killed in a Russian missile attack.<sup>40</sup>  
(viewer discretion advised)

More than five million people have fled Ukraine since the start of the war eight weeks about; almost half are children.<sup>41</sup>

## **GEOPOLITICAL**

There weren't any significant developments today.

## **ECONOMIC**

The rouble declined slightly, to 81.50 for one US dollar.

---

<sup>39</sup> <https://twitter.com/Liveuamap/status/1516874165617364992>

<sup>40</sup> <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1516900206650048517>

<sup>41</sup> <https://twitter.com/AP/status/1516770532833824779>

Oil prices were steady, with WTI holding at \$107 a barrel and Brent tipping upward to \$112. Gasoline dropped three cents to \$3.35 a gallon.

## DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

Despite widely acknowledged attacks on Azovstal in Mariupol, Russia's War Against Fakes telegram channel has claimed that the explosion did not occur because one video being shared by Ukrainian telegram channels is allegedly that of an ammunition explosion in 2019.



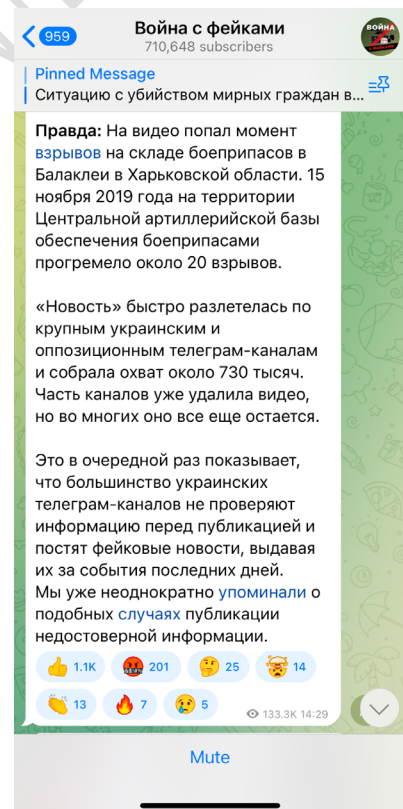
***“Fake: A thundering explosion is heard at ‘Azovstal’. The video about this is being spread by Ukrainian telegram channels.***

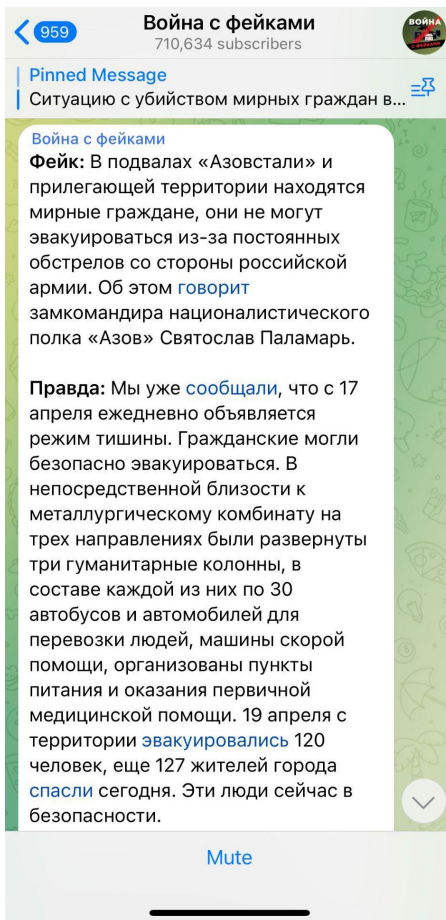
***Truth: On the video is the moment of the explosion of ammunition in Balakliya in the Kharkiv oblast. On the 15th of November in 2019 on the territory of the central artillery base which supplied ammunition there were around 20 explosions.***

*This "news" spread quickly within large Ukrainian opposition telegram channels and has gathered a reach of around 730 thousand. Part of these channels have deleted the video, but for many, it remains.*

*This again shows that most Ukrainian telegram channels do not check their information before posting and post fake news, portraying them as recent events. On a number of occasions, we have mentioned such cases of publishing unreliable information."*

Furthermore, the same Telegram channel has claimed that no civilians are trapped in the basement of Azovstal, and Russian forces have not obstructed that evacuation from the area. Furthermore, they claim that humanitarian columns, with buses, cars, and ambulances, have been provided.





***“Fake: Civilians are located in the basement of “Azovstal” and surrounding territories, and they can not evacuate due to the constant shooting from the side of the Russian army. This is spoken about by the deputy commander of the nationalistic regimen “Azov”, Svyatoslav Palamar.***

***Truth: We have already communicated that from the 17th of April a quiet regime (ceasefire) has been announced daily. Civilians could safely evacuate. In proximity ... three humanitarian columns,***

***in the composition of each of which there were 30 busses, automobiles to transport people, ambulances, as well as organised stations to provide food and first aid. On the 19th of April 120 people were evacuated, and a further 127 inhabitants of the city were saved today. These people are now in safety.”***

Concerning the goal of the special operation, RIA news has tweeted that “the key difference between the special military operation and a ‘war’ has been announced. The aim of the special operation - to protect people.”

In addition to these claims, Russia has continued its quest for indoctrination. For example, Putin has supported the idea that the Russian flag will now be raised in classrooms weekly, and the Russian hymn will be sung. He has also supported the integration of special history lessons dedicated to the “war against fakes,” which schoolchildren have encountered since the start of the special operation.