



# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



July 29, 2022



# Malcontent News

## Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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## SUMMARY – DAY 156

It has been 3,073 days since Russia occupied Crimea on February 27, 2014.

***Editor's Note:*** *Today's Situation Report contains graphic images that some readers may find disturbing. We made an editorial decision to share one photo in particular because it provides critical evidence that supports the truth—the truth matters. If you don't want to see these images, we strongly recommend you skip the war crime section, and we appreciate your understanding.*

Russian forces did not attempt to advance from the administrative borders of Luhansk.

Ukrainian forces destroyed ammunition depots in Pervomaïsk and Bryanka in separate strikes using rockets fired by High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS). In Bryanka, a base for terrorist members of the Imperial Legion working with Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group was heavily damaged.

Russian forces made a reconnaissance in force advance toward Verkhnotoretske from the Verkhokamyanka oil refinery, but they were unsuccessful.

In the Svitlodark Bulge, Russian forces attempted to advance on Vershyna and Semyhrya without success. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian forces attempted to advance from the area of Travneve but did not gain new territory.

Russian forces have started a broad offensive west of Donetsk, attacking Ukrainian positions. Some marginal gains have been made.

Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) continue to attempt to advance on Kamyanka, Avdiivka, Opytne, Pisky, and Krasnohorivka. Fighting continued in Marinka, with Russian forces repulsed.

Rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed ammunition depots in Alchevsk, Mospyne, and Yasynuvata.

In Zaporizhia, rockets hit a hotel complex used as barracks for Russian troops in Enerhodar. An ammunition cache cooked off, causing a larger fire. HIMARS rocket fire also destroyed an ammunition depot in Kamyanka-Dniprovka.

Neither belligerent launched any ground offensives north of Kharkiv. Russian forces targeted the Kharkiv University of Agricultural Studies in a missile attack using S-300 anti-aircraft missiles in a surface-to-surface capacity. The school was heavily damaged.

Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles also targeted a meat processing plant in Bohodukhiv, destroying the facility.

Southwest of Izyum, Russian forces attempted to advance into Brazhivka and Dmytrivka and were unsuccessful. Russian forces also attempted to conduct reconnaissance in Schurivka and were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces destroyed another Russian battery of artillery north of Izyum. The artillery unit was clustered in the tree line south of Sukha Kamyanka and suffered heavy losses by drone-directed counterbattery.

On July 27, rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed a base for the terrorist organization Imperial Legion working for PMC Wagner Group in Izyum. Video shot by Russian State Media and PMC Wagner Group tried to portray the strike as an attack against a grade school. The video released by Wagner showed the building was sandbagged with firing positions and had trenches and defensive positions dug around it.

In Kherson, Ukrainian forces are setting conditions to advance on Bruskynske from the Inhulets River bridgehead established in Lozove.

There are unconfirmed reports that the situation for Russian forces in Vysokopillya and those remaining in part of Arkhanhelske is becoming increasingly difficult. Both settlements are cut off from their Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply line), and the remaining forces are technically encircled.

Rockets fired by HIMARS struck two locations in Nova Kakhovka. A big box hardware store holding a large ammunition depot was hit, producing a massive secondary explosion. A second area to the east was also hit.

Additionally, an ammunition depot in Semenivka was targeted and destroyed in a rocket attack.

In Mykolaiv, Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles in a ground-to-ground capacity struck a busy bus stop, killing five, hospitalizing 12, wounding dozens, and killing some dogs that people were walking at the time of the attack.

Operational Command North reported the settlement of Semeniv on the Russian border was shelled, with the town administration building damaged. There were no casualties reported.

## **DAILY ASSESSMENT**

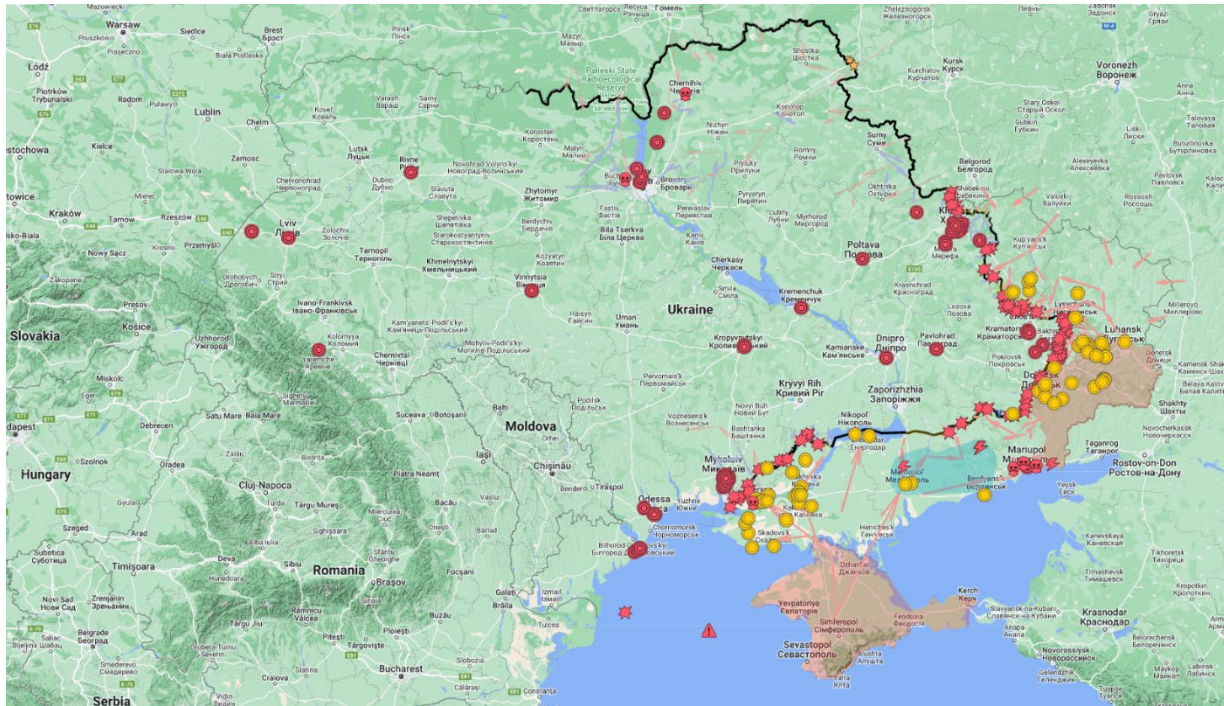
We assess the following:

1. Private Military Company Wagner Group likely committed a war crime and violated the Geneva Convention for the trust and care of prisoners of war.
2. Ukraine continues to target ammunition depots, troop concentrations, and critical transportation infrastructure with HIMARS, crippling Russia's ability to wage war.



3. Russian forces have initiated or are setting conditions for a significant offensive west of Donetsk but likely do not have the combat power to be successful.
4. The Russian Ministry of Defense continues to draw down troops in Izyum and northeastern Donetsk to move them to Zaporizhia, Kherson, and Crimea.
5. It is unlikely that Russian forces will be capable of taking the initiative in the next three to six weeks anywhere in Ukraine.

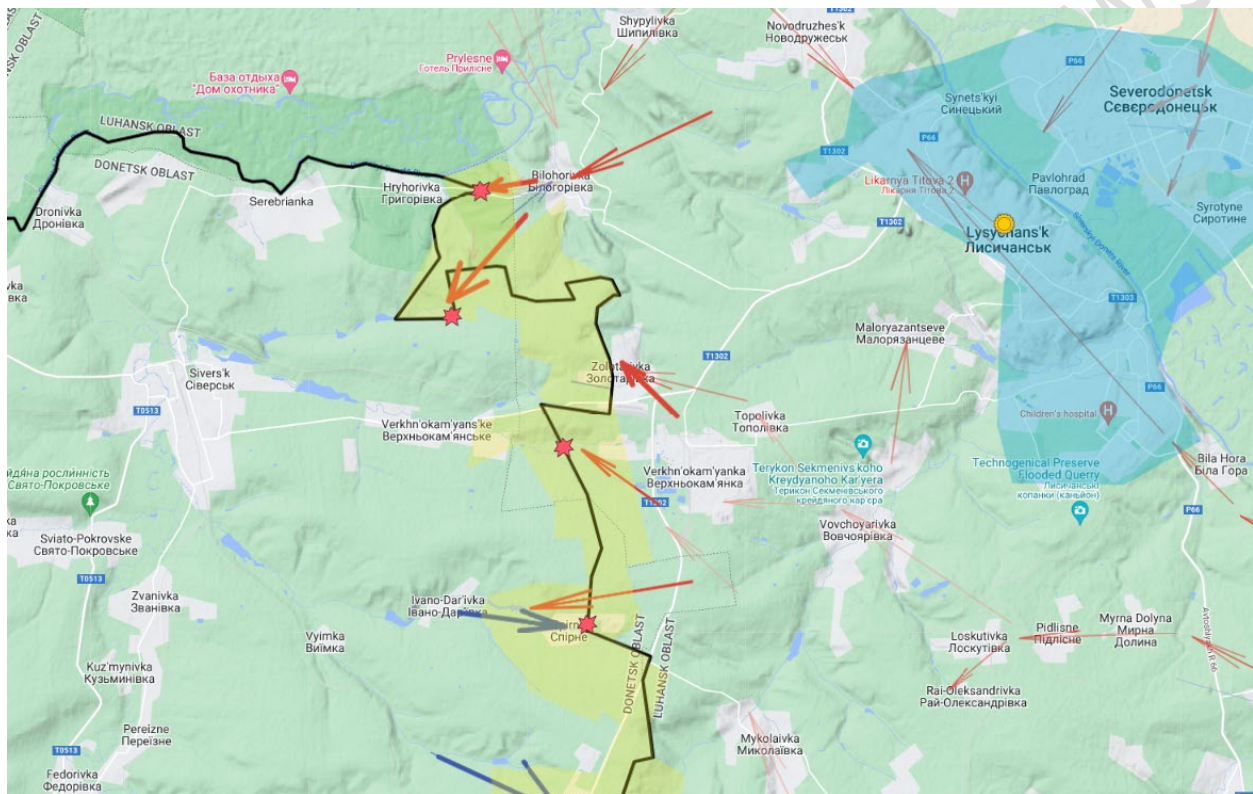
## TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



We have made significant improvements to our map solution. The updated map now shows contested areas and missile strikes by both belligerents. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report. We have also added areas where there are active insurgencies (blue) and the regions that were under Russian control on February 1, 2022 (red).

## DONBAS REGION

### LUHANSK



Russian forces made no attempts to advance from the administrative borders of the Luhansk oblast. The tactical situation remains unchanged. A video emerged showing a [Russian tank hitting a landmine](#) near another disabled tank, just south of [Zolotarivka](#), within the region of the contested area.<sup>1</sup> Based on this information, we made a

<sup>1</sup> [https://twitter.com/Arslon\\_Xudosi/status/1552614639296552960](https://twitter.com/Arslon_Xudosi/status/1552614639296552960)

minor adjustment to the map, moving the line of conflict east. This update does not reflect new territorial gains.



An ammunition depot in [Pervomaisk](#) was hit by missiles fired by High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).<sup>2</sup> Pictures were taken after the attack showing destroyed Russian ammunition boxes scattered in the debris. A tarp was on the ground, possibly covering casualties.

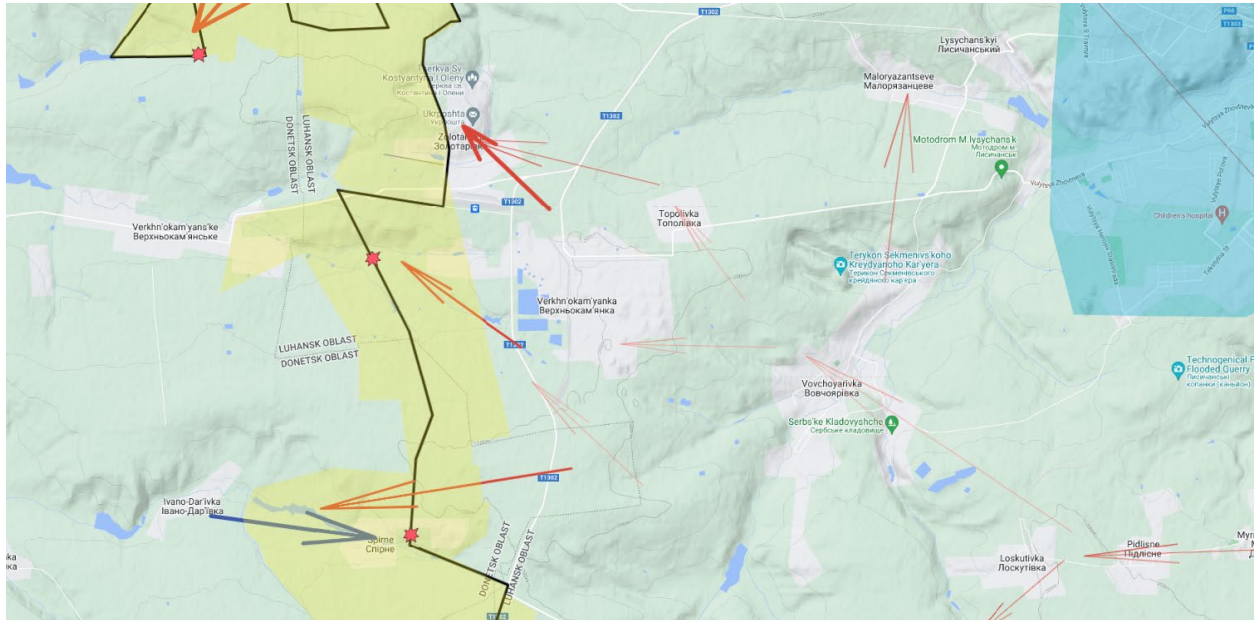
The Telegram for PMC Wagner, Reverse Side of the Medal, reports that rockets fired from HIMARS destroyed an ammunition depot in [Bryanka](#) and damaged the mercenary base.

This will be our last entry for the Luhansk oblast. If there are more significant developments, we will bring the section back.

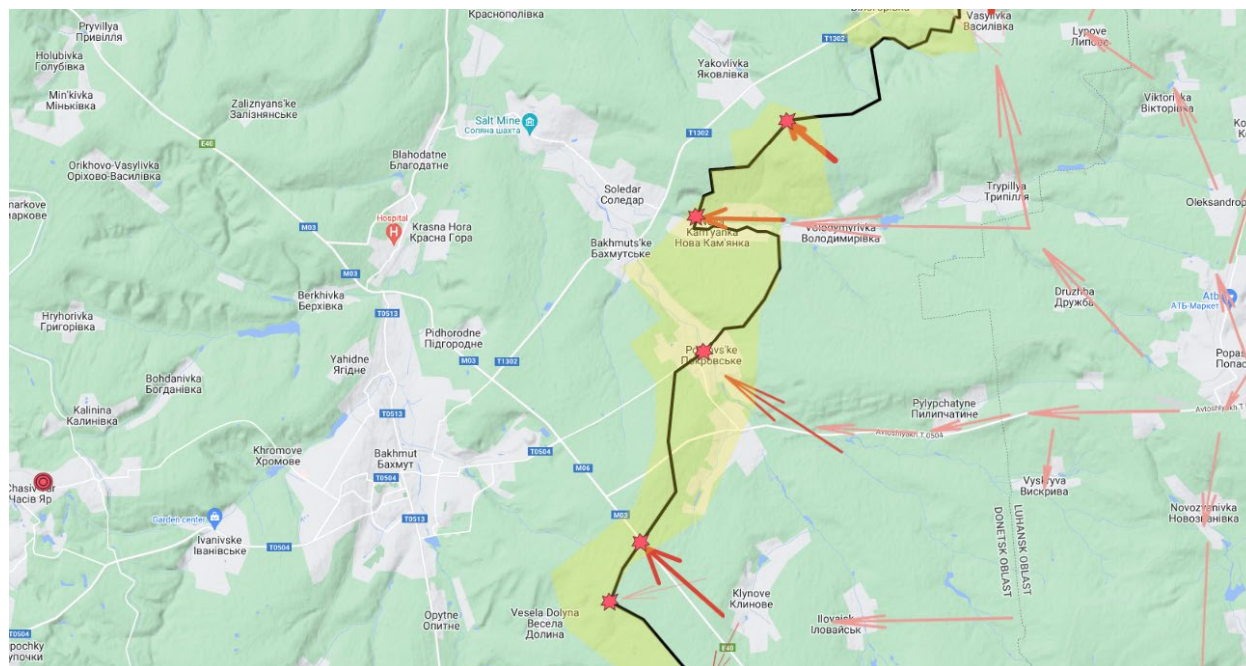
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<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/GirkinGirkin/status/1553184660318031872>

# SIVERSK-SLOVYANSK-KRAMATORSK-BAKHMUT DEFENSIVE LINE

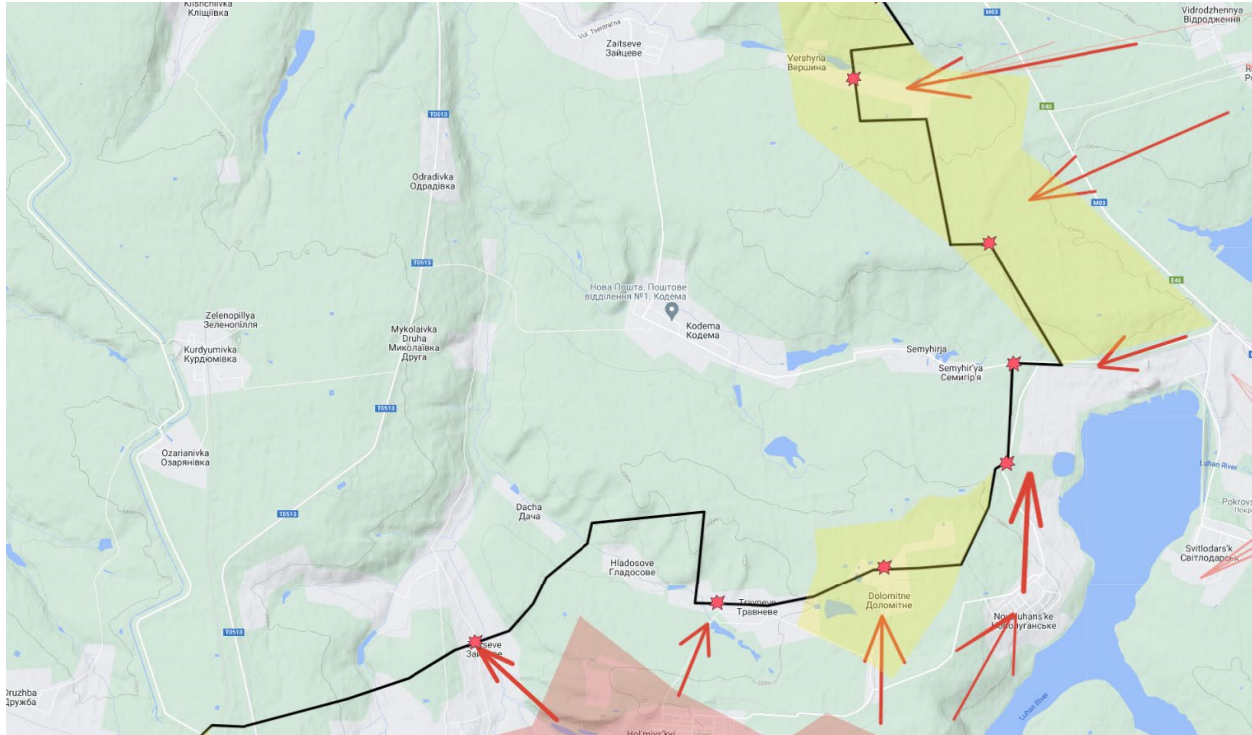


Russian forces made a reconnaissance in force advance toward [Verkhnotoretske](#) from the Verkhnokamyanka oil refinery, but they were unsuccessful.



Russian forces did not attempt to advance on [Hryhorivka](#) or [Siversk](#). Neither Ukrainian nor Russian sources reported fighting in [Spirne](#), [Ivano-Darivka](#), or [Berestove](#). The settlements of Siversk and Spirne came under artillery fire, and [Serebryanka](#) and Spirne were hit by Russian airstrikes.

Neither Russian nor Ukrainian sources report fighting around [Soledar](#) or [Bakhmut](#). The settlements of Yakovlivka, Soledar, Bakhmut, and Vesela Dolyna were shelled.



In the Svitlodark Bulge, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Vershyna](#) and [Semyhirya](#) without success.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that Russian forces attempted to advance from the area of [Travneve](#).<sup>3</sup> Based on this information, we adjusted the conflict line on the map a small distance to the south. This change does not represent a territorial advance.

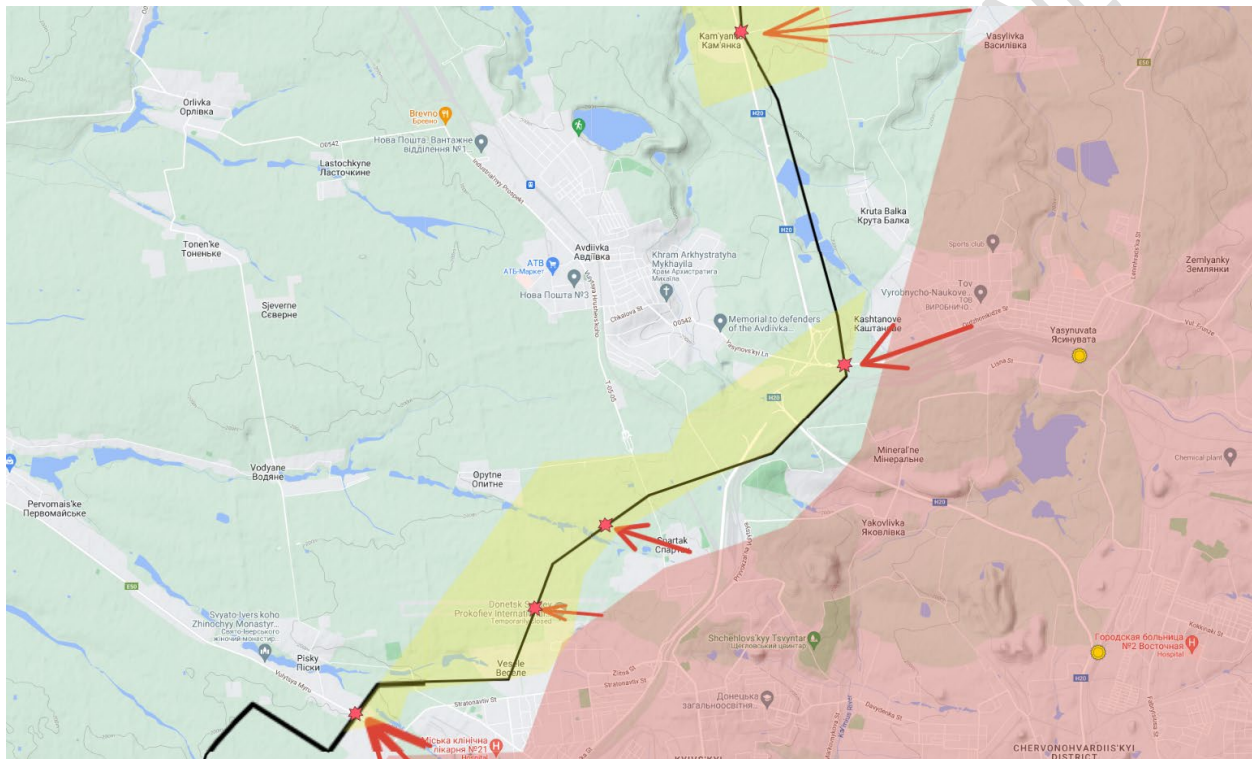
<sup>3</sup> [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



**ASSESSMENT:** We assessed on July 28 that the Russian Ministry of Defense was deprioritizing the offensive for Siversk, Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, and Bakhmut. Operational tempo has slowed significantly throughout northeast Donetsk while increasing in other parts of Ukraine. Russian forces will likely continue to attempt to capture Bakhmut and Soledar, but with the current force allocation, that seems very unlikely.

## SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHZIA

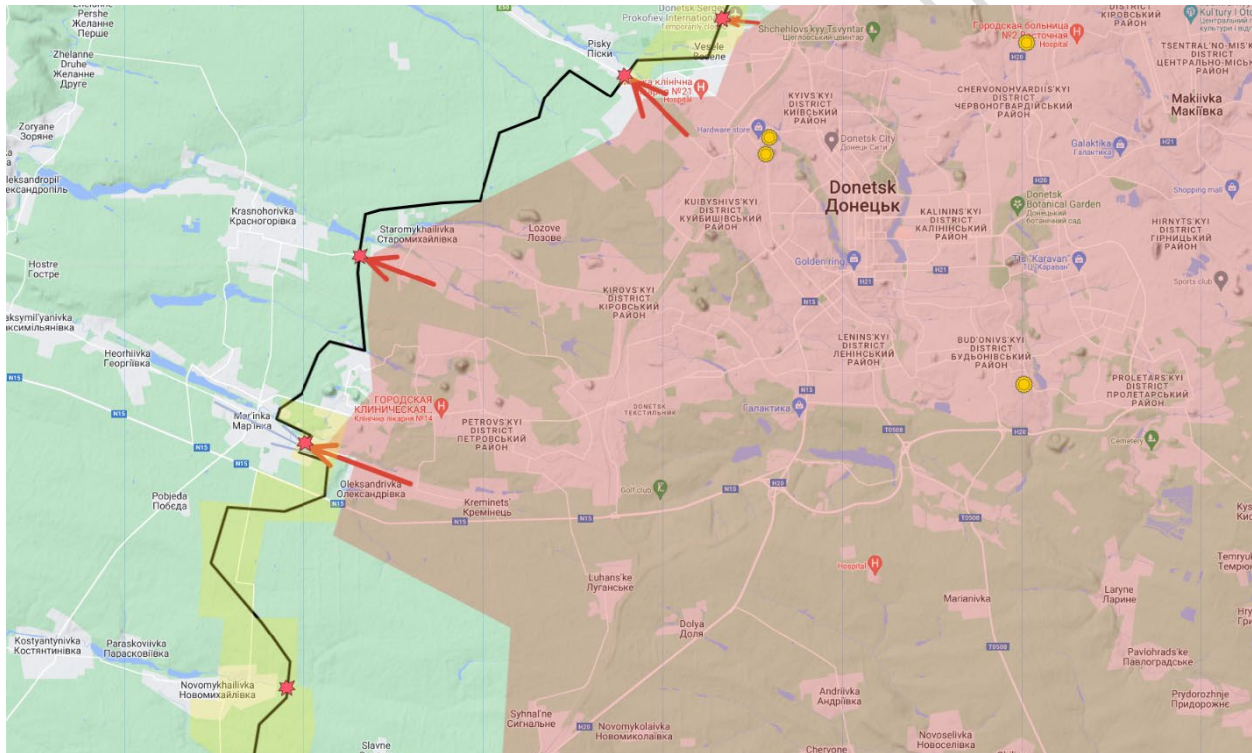
Russian forces have started a broad offensive west of Donetsk, attacking Ukrainian positions. Some marginal gains have been made.



Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic (DNR) and the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People's Republic (LNR) continue to attempt to advance on [Kamyanka](#), [Avdiivka](#), [Opytne](#), [Pisky](#), and [Krasnohorivka](#). Both the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and

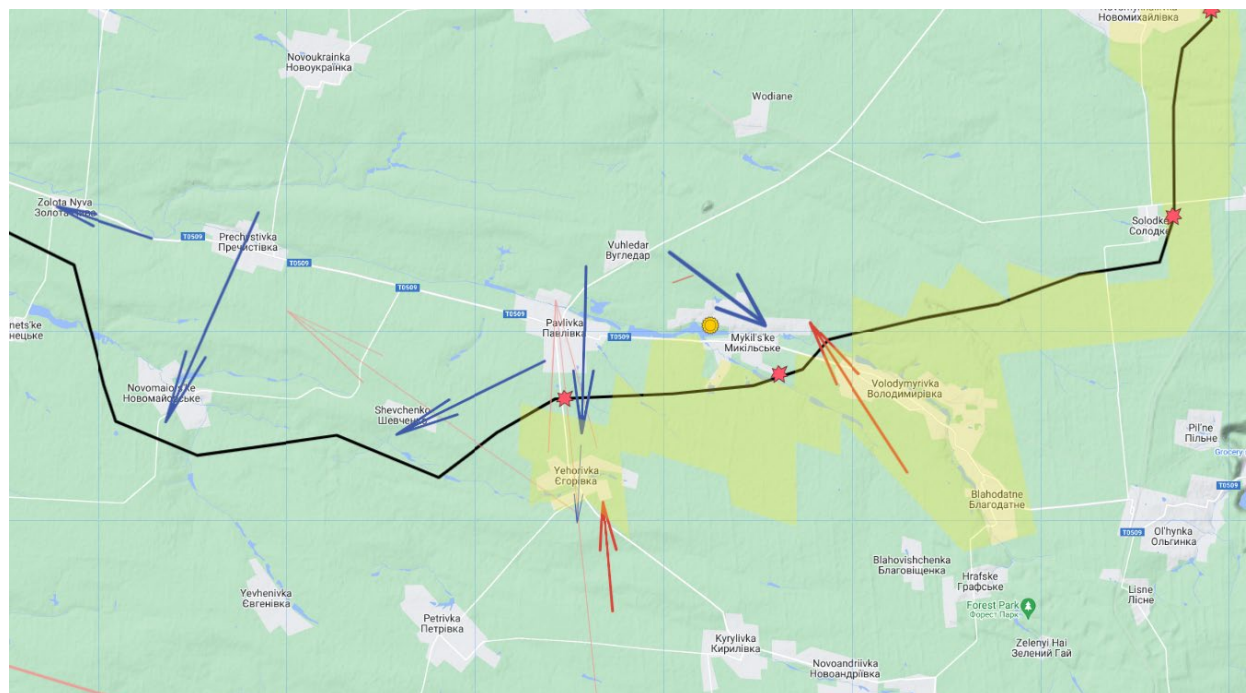
the Pro-Russian social media account Rybar reported no change in the line of conflict.<sup>4</sup>

The village of [Niu York](#) was shelled, but no advances were made.



Fighting continued in [Marinka](#), with Russian forces being repulsed.

<sup>4</sup> <https://t.me/rybar/36373>



Russian forces shelled Vuhledar, Mykilske, Pavlivka, and Shevchenko and attempted to retake [Pavlivka](#). Fighting continued to the south of the settlement with no change in territorial control.

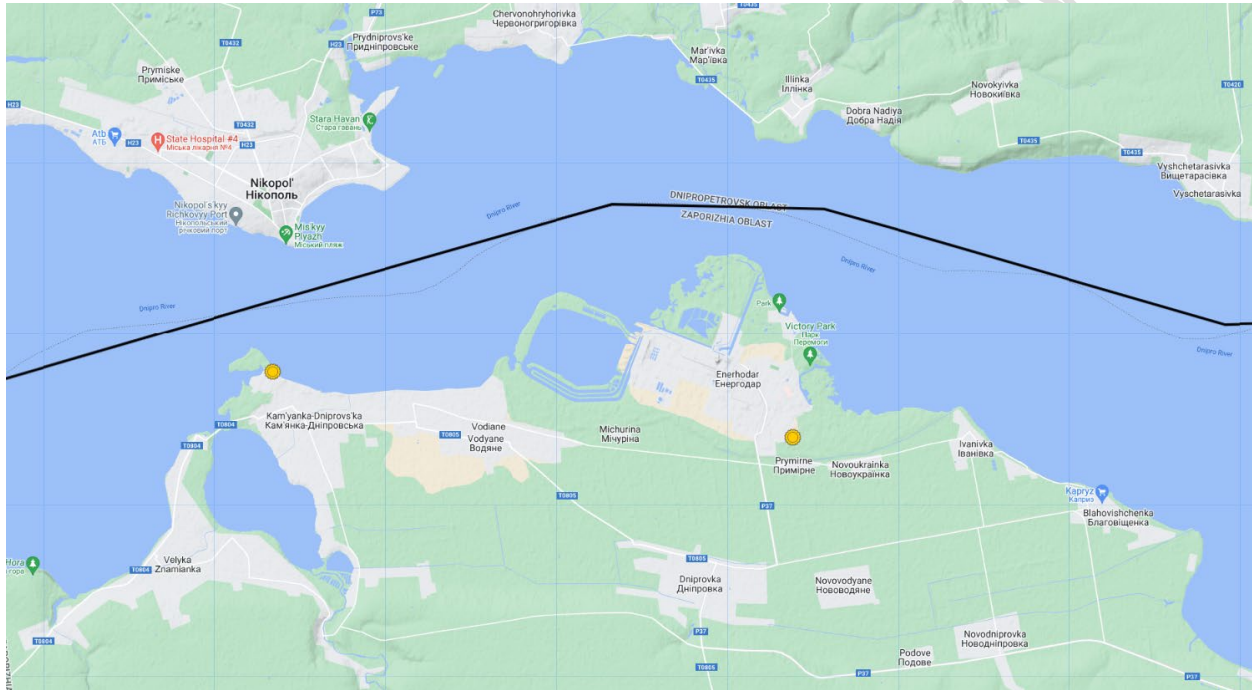
To the west of [Velyka Novosilka](#), the settlements of Novopil and Novosilka were shelled.

There are reports that a Russian supply depot was hit by rockets fired by High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) in [Alchevsk](#).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/23874>

Rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed an ammunition depot in [Mospyne](#).<sup>6</sup> Rockets fired from HIMARS also hit an ammunition depot and the railroad yard in [Yasynuvata](#).<sup>7</sup>



Rockets fired by HIMARS struck a hotel complex used as a barracks for Russian troops in [Enerhodar](#).<sup>8</sup> Videos on social media recorded small arms ammunition cooking off in the fires caused by the strike.

<sup>6</sup> [https://t.me/kharkiv\\_1654/44222](https://t.me/kharkiv_1654/44222)

<sup>7</sup> [https://t.me/kharkiv\\_1654/44222](https://t.me/kharkiv_1654/44222)

<sup>8</sup> [https://t.me/military\\_u/5344](https://t.me/military_u/5344)

Additionally, rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed a large ammunition depot in [Kamyanka-Dniprovska](#).<sup>9</sup>

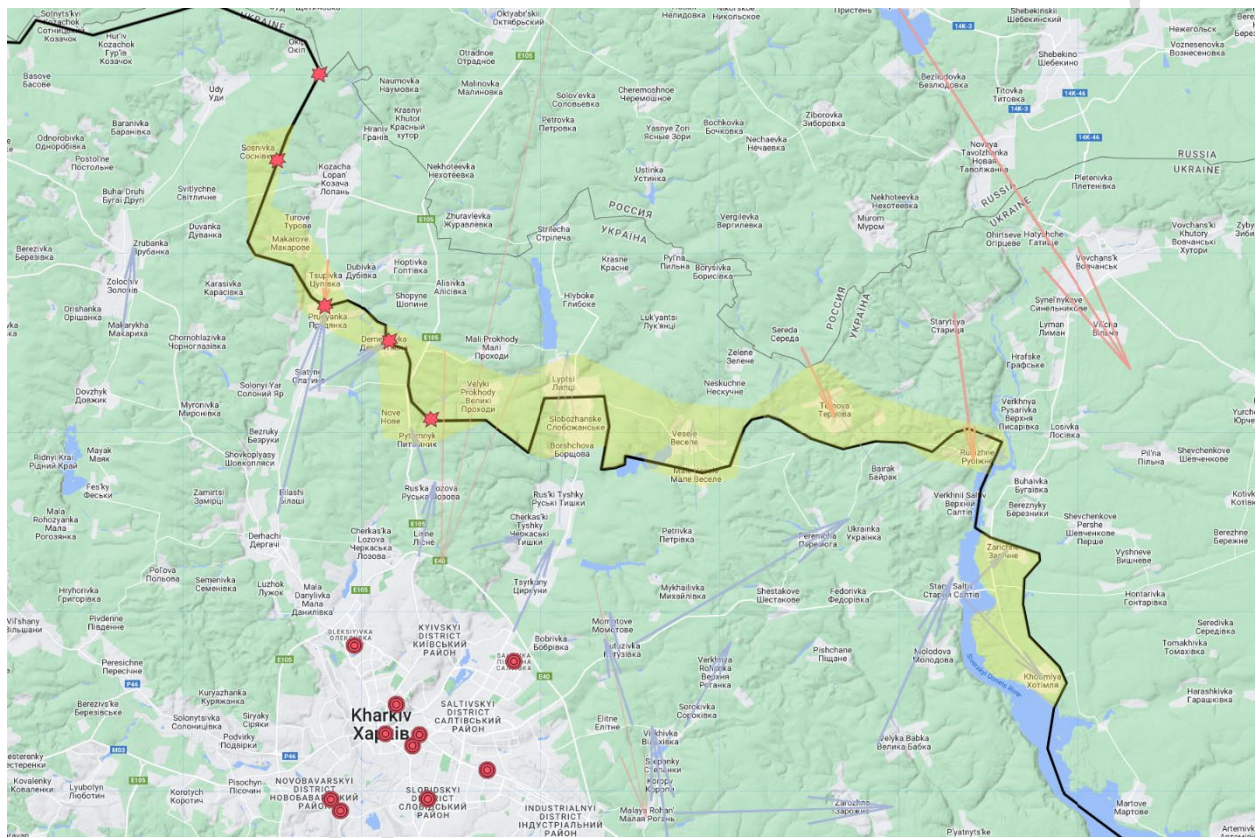


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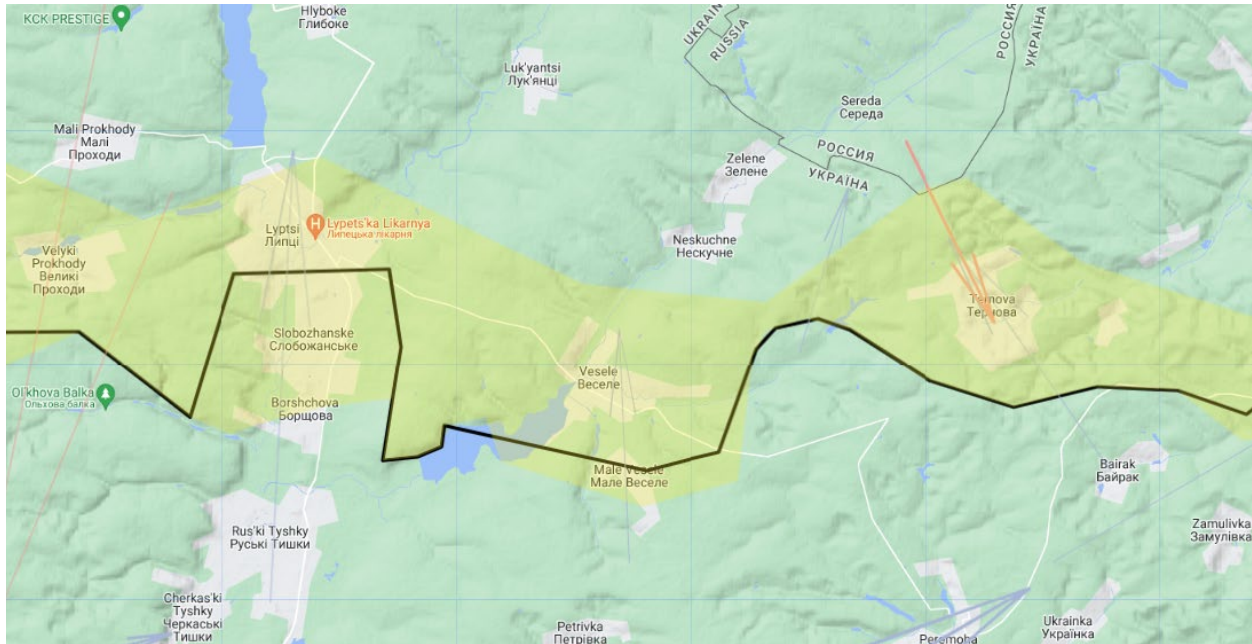
<sup>9</sup> <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1553047855597862913>

# KHARKIV REGION

## NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



Neither belligerent launched any ground offensives north of Kharkiv. The line of conflict remains frozen with Russian artillery, rockets from MLRS, cruise missiles, and SRBMs prioritizing civilians and civilian infrastructure. Russian and Ukrainian forces exchanged artillery and rocket fire from MLRS along the entire line of contact northwest, north, and northeast of Kharkiv.



A video showed a [Russian tank being destroyed](#) in the far northeastern corner of [Ruski Tyshky](#).<sup>10</sup> We made a minor adjustment to the map based on this information. The tank was on the edge of the contested area, so this does not represent a territorial change. The General Staff reported Borshchova was hit by Russian artillery fire, indicating it is still under Ukrainian control and validating our adjusting.

Russian forces targeted the [Kharkiv University of Agricultural Studies](#) in a missile attack using S-300

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<sup>10</sup> <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1552926483668254720?s=20&t=WEut4v2Hxij0fqNZwx8WBw;>



antiaircraft missiles in a surface-to-surface capacity.<sup>11</sup> The school was heavily damaged.



Russian S-300 antiaircraft missiles also target a meat processing plant in [Bohodu khiv](#), destroying the facility.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/3810>

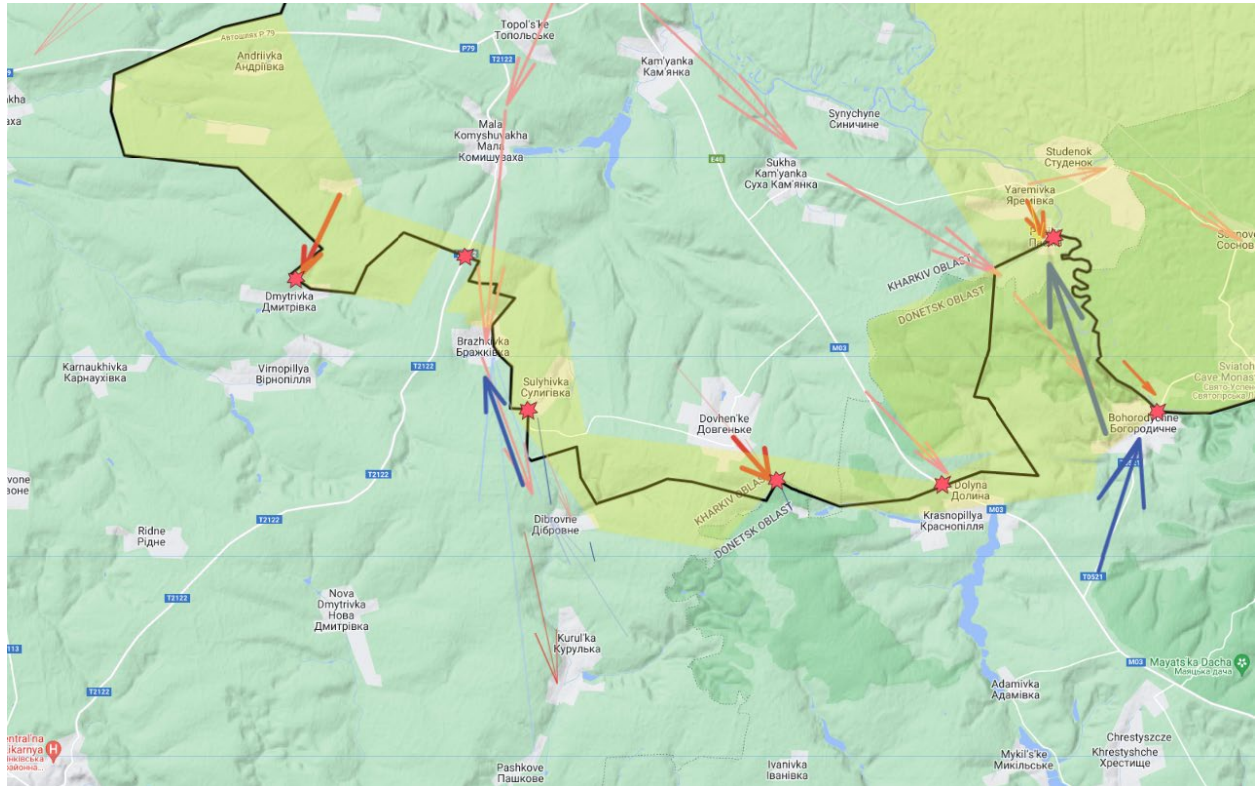


Another Russian missile strike hit the Novobavarsky district of the city, destroying a school building.<sup>12</sup>

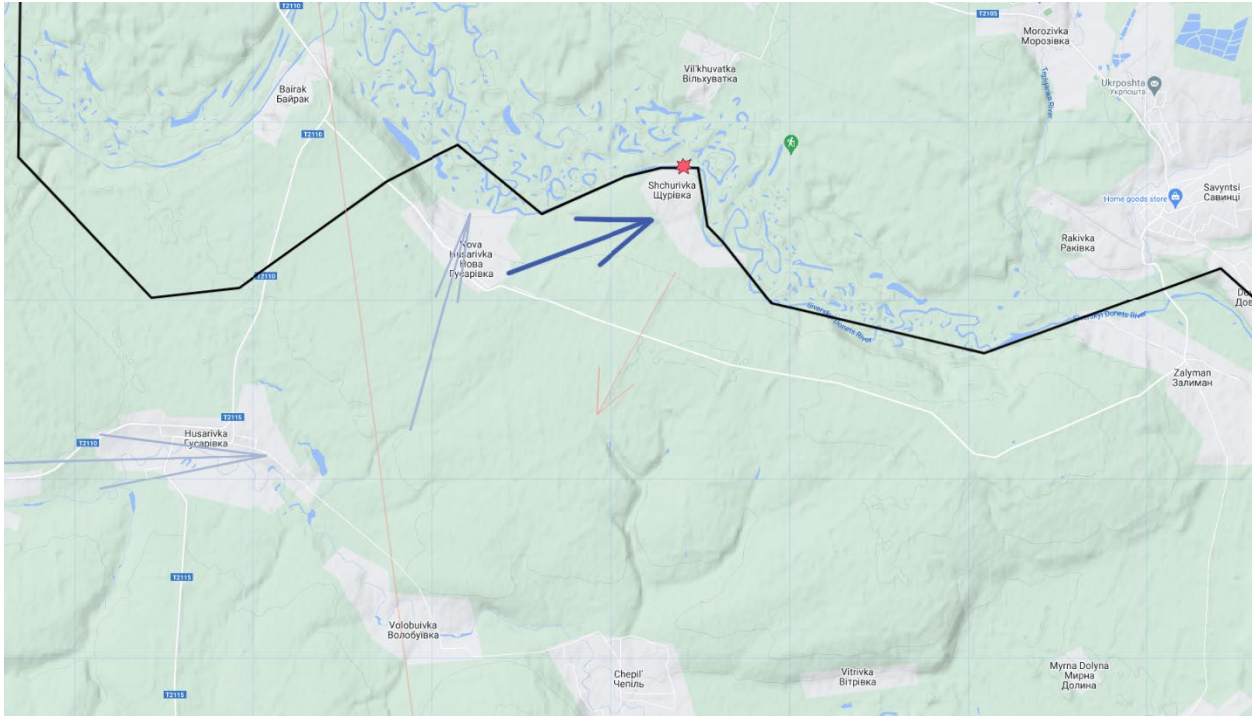
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<sup>12</sup> <https://t.me/synegubov/3818>

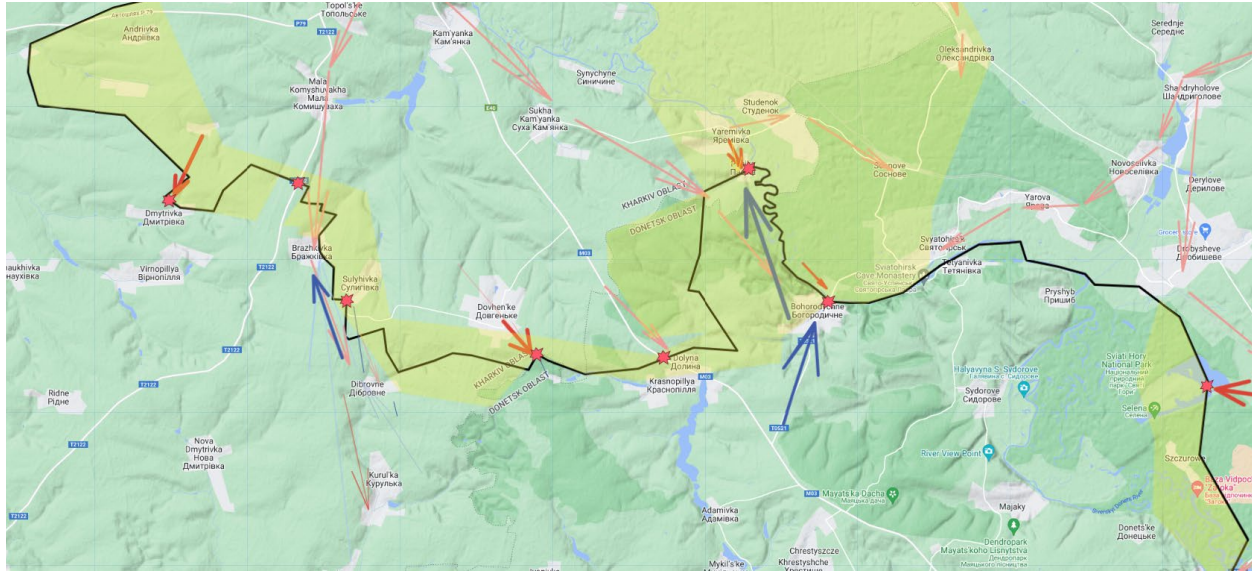
## IZYUM AXIS



Russian forces attempted to advance into [Brazhivka](#) and [Dmytrivka](#) and were unsuccessful. Based on the information from General Staff, we have moved the line of conflict to show that Brazhivka is under Ukrainian control.



Russian forces attempted to conduct reconnaissance in [Schurivka](#) and were unsuccessful. We had the settlement coded as under Russian control. We have coded the settlement as under Ukrainian control. This update does not represent an advance made today.

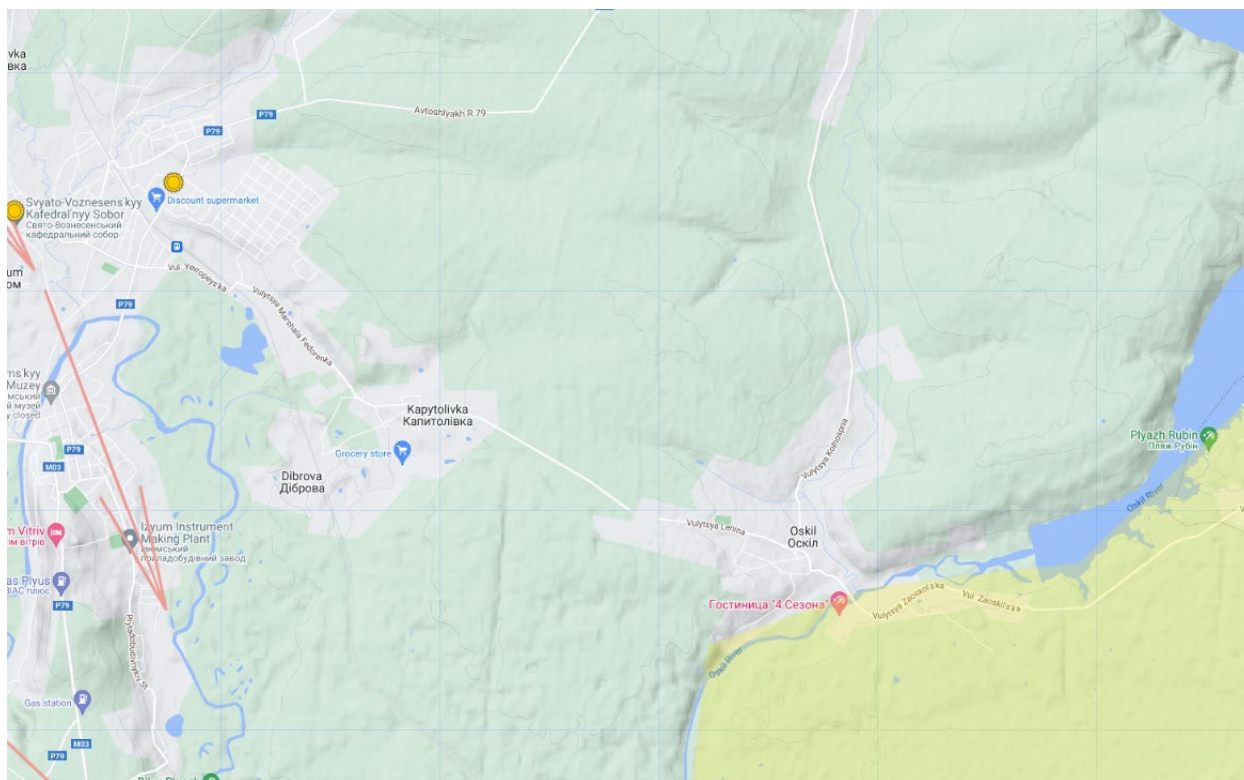


Ukrainian forces destroyed another Russian battery of artillery north of Izyum.<sup>13</sup> The battery was clustered in the tree line south of Sukha Kamyanka and destroyed by drone-directed artillery.<sup>14</sup> The [video showing the attack](#) was geolocated.

<sup>13</sup> <https://twitter.com/GeoConfirmed/status/1553001905642692609>

<sup>14</sup>

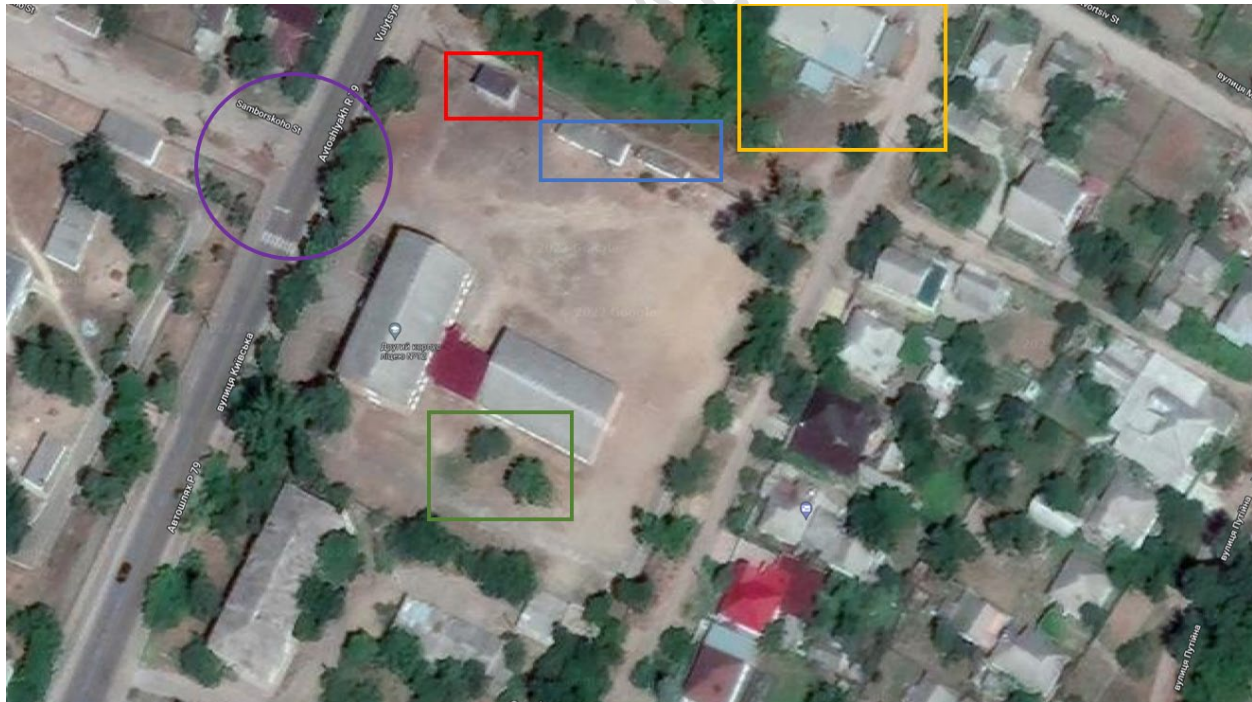
<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1M1qiJS92HJBtmCttUdxZ1teHAasWw&ll=49.04559144559774%2C37.38492268778028&z=13>



On July 27, rockets fired by HIMARS destroyed a base for the terrorist organization Imperial Legion working for PMC Wagner Group in [Izyum](#).<sup>15</sup> Video shot by Russian State Media and PMC Wagner Group tried to portray the strike as an attack against a grade school. The video released by Wagner showed the building was sandbagged with firing positions and had trenches and defensive positions dug around it. There was evidence of ammunition that had cooked off in part of what was once a three-story structure. The video was geolocated.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://t.me/zmityaaa/1442>







The drone video shared by PMC Wagner Group shows two tank scrapes and trenches. The area where ammunition likely exploded is littered with sandbags that were set up as defensive positions.

**ASSESSMENT:** The video suggests that Russian proxy forces and Imperial Legion terrorists in Izyum expect to be attacked or feel unsafe from the insurgency. The creation of firing positions from within the building indicates that this was a prepared fortification for urban combat.

The settlements of Protopopivka, Husarivka, Hrushuvaha, Karnaukhivka, Dolyna, and Adamivka were shelled by artillery.

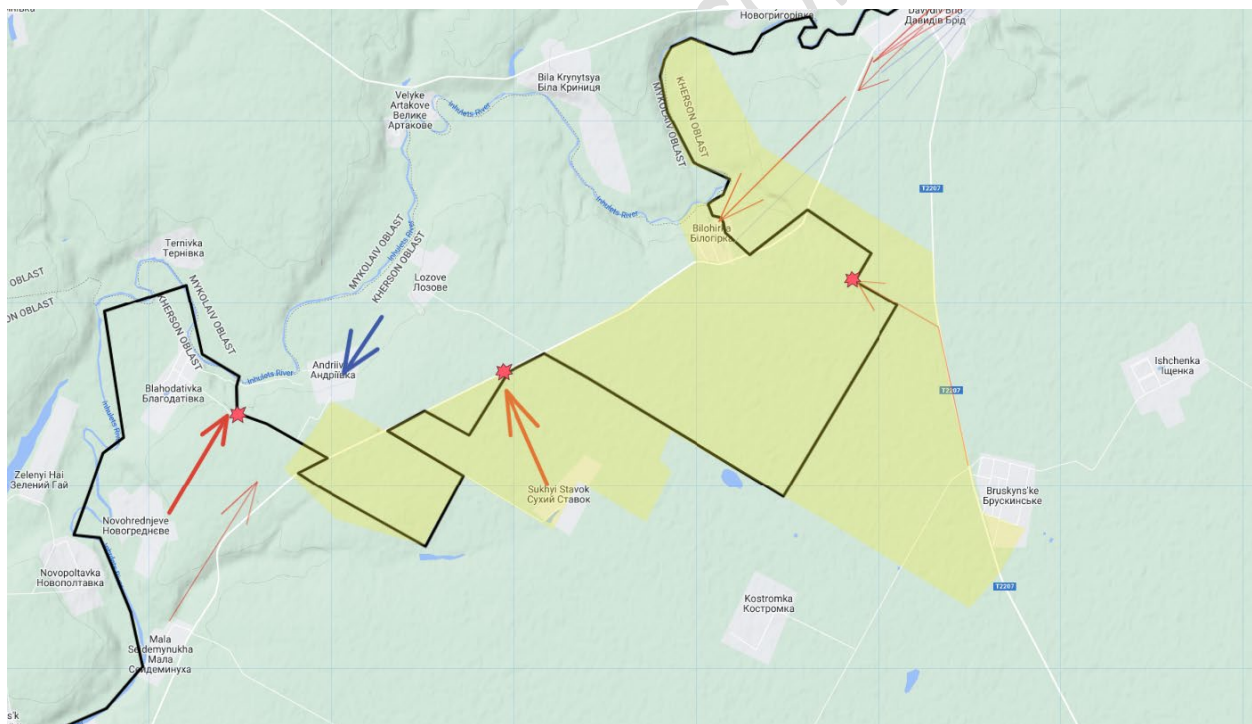
Multiple reports show the Russian Ministry of Defense continues to move troops out of Izyum.

**ASSESSMENT:** Russian forces can't capture Slovyansk without taking the high ground south of Izyum and eliminating Ukrainian fire control. We assess that Russian forces are abandoning attempts to capture Slovyansk and Kramatorsk for the short and medium term.

# DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

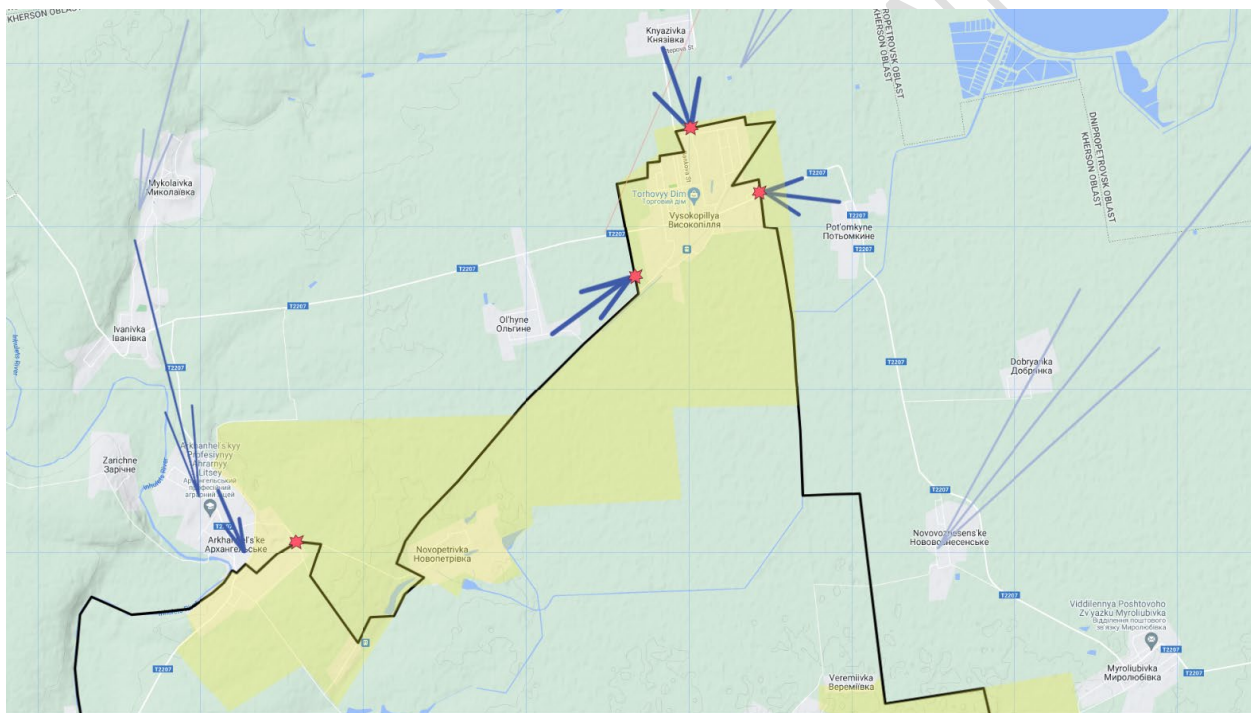
## KHERSON

There were no specific reports about fighting in Kherson, but NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS) showed continued artillery fire across the entire line of conflict.



Ukrainian forces are setting conditions to advance on [Bruskyne](#) from the Inhulets River bridgehead established

in Lozove.<sup>16</sup> Ukrainian forces destroyed the headquarters of the 34th Separate Motor Rifle Brigade. Operational Command South reported that up to 100 personnel, seven main battle tanks (MBT), and 17 other vehicles were destroyed. We cannot validate the veracity of casualty reports.



There are unconfirmed reports that the situation for Russian forces in [Vysokopillya](#) and those remaining in part of [Arkhanhelske](#) is becoming increasingly difficult. Both settlements are cut off from their Ground Lines of Communication (GLOC – supply line), and the remaining

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/okPivden/videos/2521889871285378/>

forces are technically encircled. The situation for Russian forces that remain in Arkhanhelske is worse.

Rockets fired by HIMARS struck two locations in [Nova Kakhovka](#). A big box hardware store holding a large ammunition depot was hit, producing a massive secondary explosion.<sup>17</sup> A second area to the east was also hit.



Rockets from HIMARS also destroyed an ammunition depot in [Semenivka](#).<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23099>

<sup>18</sup> <https://t.me/hueviyherson/23093>

## MYKOLAIV

Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missiles in a ground-to-ground capacity struck a busy bus stop in Mykolaiv, killing five, hospitalizing 12, wounding dozens, and killing some dogs that people were out walking at the time of the attack.<sup>19</sup> You can view NSFW pictures by [clicking here](#). Viewer discretion is strongly advised.



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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/07/29/7360895/>

## **CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION**

Operational Command North reported the settlement of Semeniv on the Russian border was shelled, with the town administration building damaged. There were no casualties reported.<sup>20</sup>

## **KYIV REGION**

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

## **BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION**

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

## **WEST REGION**

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

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<sup>20</sup> [Operational Command North of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

## THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

North Macedonia announced it was donating 35 T-72A tanks to Ukraine. The first nine have already departed.<sup>21</sup>

Germany announced it was donating 16 BIBER bridge-laying tanks to Ukraine. The first six will be delivered by the end of 2022, and the rest in 2023. The vehicles are designed to provide ready water crossing in contested areas.<sup>22</sup>

Lithuania announced it was sending ten more infantry fighting vehicles and additional ammunition to Ukraine.<sup>23</sup>

## WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Russian Ministry of Defense accused Ukraine of firing rockets from HIMARS into the Olenivka Penal Colony, targeting a recently converted warehouse housing prisoner of war (POW) from the Azovstal Metallurgical Plant. The Donetsk People's Republic reported up to 50 were killed,

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<sup>21</sup> <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1552975117336076290>

<sup>22</sup> [https://twitter.com/nexta\\_tv/status/1553082244910030848](https://twitter.com/nexta_tv/status/1553082244910030848)

<sup>23</sup> <https://twitter.com/tomiaahonen/status/1552972325309583362>

and another 130 were injured. No Russian soldiers, separatist forces, terrorists from the Imperial Legion, PMC Wagner Group, Chechen territorial guard, local territorial guard, or police were injured or killed in the attack. The prisoners were in the recently converted building within Olenivka alone.

The Ukrainian Directorate of Intelligence accused PMC Wagner Group of destroying the building. Ukrainian officials have demanded the United Nations, Red Cross, and Red Crescent perform an immediate investigation. The GRU claims the order to kill the prisoners was made by Yevheny Prigozhin, the head of PMC Wagner Group.

In a statement on Telegram, the SBU wrote, "The explosions in Olenivka are a deliberate provocation and an undeniable act of terrorism by the occupying forces side. According to the available information, they were carried out by mercenaries from the Wagner Group private military company (PMC) under the personal command of the nominal owner of the specified PMC, Yevheny Prigozhin. The organization and execution of the terrorist attack was not agreed with the leadership of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation."



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a meeting with Ukrainian heads of staff and the Verkhovna Rada Commissioner of Human Rights regarding the terrorist attack in Olenivka, which was deliberately staged by Russian occupation forces.

The Red Cross submitted a formal request to inspect the site and conduct an investigation. In May, when the United Nations and Red Cross brokered the surrender of Ukrainian troops, part of the agreement was continued access to the prisoners and the facilities they were kept. The Red Cross was denied entry shortly after up to 2,400 Ukrainians were taken into custody and has not seen any prisoners since early June.

The European Union condemned the incident, with EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell stating Russia's actions constitute "severe breaches of the Geneva conventions and their Additional protocol and amount to war crimes."<sup>24</sup>

A former Gebirgspionier with the German Bundeswehr provided an evaluation.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1553171445227962368>

“It’s impossible that a HIMARS fired M30 or M31 warhead was used in the strike on the POW camp. No usual shrapnel pattern on the walls; they are almost virgin. Even the bodies don’t show shrapnel wounds but typical blast injuries. The roof is almost intact, which is near impossible for the corrugated metal roof material. The roof would have been blown almost entirely.



The bunk beds would have been expected to fall over and be torn apart, at least in the center of the blast radius. However, the burn marks on the walls and the spellings in their center remind me of directional charges (like one or two MON-90 hanging from or laying on the metal roof) attached to a gasoline canister. In my assessment, this

caused the spalling on the wall: an impact of that metal canister where the gasoline splashed and formed those significant brand markings, as you would expect when searching a burned house for the source of a fire."





Photos from the exterior also do not support the claim of a rocket attack. The building has no shrapnel damage. The corrugated metal roof has been blown outward, not smashed down and blasted away. The blast damage and fire damage are all from the interior. Metal bars and window frames are not blown out but show damage consistent with an interior building fire.

The section of the building directly adjacent to where the Azovstal prisoners were held is also undamaged, with no blast damage through the concrete block wall.



Additionally, Russian state media shared a video of a school building that terrorists with the Imperial Legion and PMC Wagner Group converted into a military base after it had been attacked with rockets fired by HIMARS. That building was more soundly constructed than the Olenivka warehouse and had multiple interior rooms that would have contained the blast. The damage to the building doesn't match the impact on the penal colony. The roof has been smashed from the top and blown out by the detonation. The building has been blown apart, with debris strewn in multiple directions. Whole window frames were blown out and lay meters away.



Ultimately we cannot arbitrate if this was an interior or exterior explosion. That will have to be left to the experts and investigators.

***Editor's Note: In war, the victor writes the history.***

The cellphone video that showed a bound and restrained Ukrainian POW being tortured by having his genitals cut off with a box cutter had a second part. The soldier was executed after being tortured and shot in the head at close range.

## **GEOPOLITICAL**

United States Congressperson Victora Spartz has appealed to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to suspend the Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and UN grain deal until better arrangements can be made.

"The potential implications of this "grain deal," which lacks proper enforcement mechanisms, can be very costly for Ukraine. As you are well aware, hours after this deal was signed, Russia hit the Ukrainian port of Odesa with cruise missiles."

"This reaffirms again that Russia cannot be trusted and effectively negates this agreement."

"As Russia has been granted such a significant lift of sanctions to export grains and fertilizers (which in effect increases Russia's ability to blackmail Europe with gas supplies), this agreement should be put on hold until better security arrangements are provided for Ukraine."

"I urge you to deploy UN ships to the Black Sea to enforce humanitarian corridors. Otherwise, Ukraine will run into a

higher risk caused by this arrangement," Congresswoman Spartz wrote.

***Editor's Note:*** Although we agree with Spartz's concerns, the Congressperson would be better served if she understood existing treaties. The ability to send warships under the United Nations flag does not lie with the UN but with Turkey, which controls the Bosphorus Strait and passage in and out of the Black Sea during times of war. Turkey closed the straight to warships that don't hold home ports in the Black Sea in February.

Spartz's letter was sent after the alleged war crime at Olenivka.

## **ECONOMIC**

The G7 ambassadors arrived in Odesa on Friday to oversee the kickoff of the grain export deal, possibly on Saturday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy joined the ambassadors in the port for a photo opportunity.





The Russian auto industry has completely collapsed due to sanctions. Passenger car production in May was down 96.7% year over year. Only 3,700 new cars were produced in the month.<sup>25</sup>

The rouble declined, with the “official” exchange rate of 62 for \$1.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.thedrive.com/news/shocker-russias-war-with-ukraine-devastated-its-car-industry>

Oil prices continue to trade between \$95 to \$110 a barrel. WTI rose to \$99 a barrel, while Brent crude declined to \$104. RBOB United States wholesale gasoline dropped to \$3.11 a gallon (82 cents a liter). The price drop is a market anomaly as traders dump their end-of-month contracts. It is normal on the last trading day of the month to see a large dip or increase in prices depending on demand.

In the United States, peaking fossil fuel and food prices are bringing inflation somewhat back under control. Inflation was reported at a torrid 6.8% annual rate but well below the 9.1% rate from last month.

Chicago SRW wheat futures dropped a penny to 81 cents a bushel for September 2022 delivery. Grain shipments are expected to start on Saturday out of Odesa.