# MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT

November 23, 2022



# Malcontent News Russia-Ukraine War SITREP 11/23/22 23:59\* PST

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

We are funded through Patreon, grants, and donations and aided by volunteers. For media inquiries, you can contact <u>social@malcontentnews.com</u>. For news tips, you can contact our newsroom at <u>tips@malcontentment.com</u>.

<u>Patreons at the Bronze level or higher</u> can access 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, Jeff Davis, and with special thanks to David Batashvili of the <u>Rondeli</u> <u>Foundation</u> and Linnea Hubbard, the voice of the Russia-Ukraine War Update Podcast.

The reader accepts that the information contained in the Malcontent News Situation Report will not be used for travel, navigation, or personal security assessment. The reader agrees to get real-time information from official channels provided by national, oblast, raion, hromada, city, or local officials and follow their security recommendations.

The assessments and opinions expressed in the Malcontent News SITREP are not representative, endorsed, or reflect the views of the Rondeli Foundation. We are grateful for the foundation's work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.

Contents
SUMMARY – DAY 273
DAILY ASSESSMENT3
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP6
KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA7
DONBAS REGION15
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK
NORTHEAST DONETSK23
LUHANSK
CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION
KYIV REGION
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION38
WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE40
RUSSIAN FRONT
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS45
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS56
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS58
GEOPOLITICAL
ECONOMIC

#### SUMMARY – DAY 273

It has been 39 weeks since Russia started its widescale invasion of Ukraine and 3,178 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014. The Russia-Ukraine War enters its tenth month.

#### DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

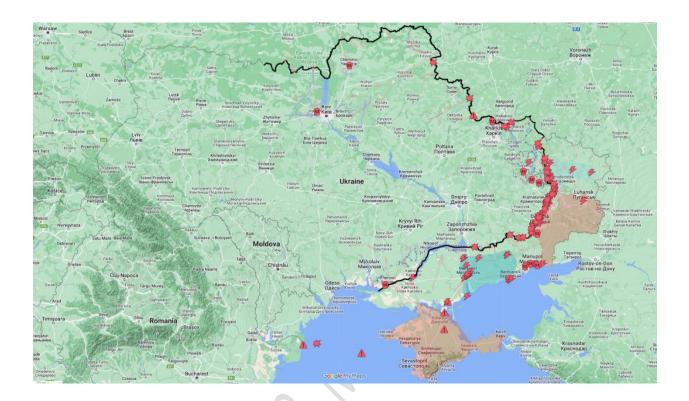
- 1. Our assessment that Russian forces will maintain terror attacks on Ukrainian civilians and civilian infrastructure and conduct these missions in largescale waves due to improving Ukrainian air defenses was accurate.
- 2. We assess these attacks will not stop until the Ukrainian electrical grid and natural gas network are completely destroyed or Russia's supply of missiles and drones is exhausted.
- 3. We assess that the risk of a nuclear accident caused by the deenergization of the four operating nuclear power plants in Ukraine has become a possibility due to the continued attacks on Ukraine's electrical infrastructure.

- 4. We assess the use of Lancet kamikaze drones in today's attack, and the absence of Iranian-sourced Shahed-136 drones indicates the Russian Federation has exhausted the supply after their initial purchase.
- 5. We maintain that Russia is conducting stealth mobilization and may be preparing for the second wave of partial mobilization in January 2023.
- 6. We maintain the slowdown in combat operations on multiple axes as a mirage, with rasputitsa creating an outlier situation in the short term.
- 7. We maintain that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause.
- 8. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.
- 9. We maintain that Russian President Vladimir Putin is facing unrest inside and outside the Kremlin. If there continue to be military failures, there is a remote chance Russia could face a regime change.
- 10. We maintain that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and can only mount effective defensive operations.
- 11. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.

- 12. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.
- 13. We assess that the threat of Russian forces in Belarus crossing into Ukraine has diminished but remains a possibility in the next 50 to 80 days.

5 | P a g e 2022

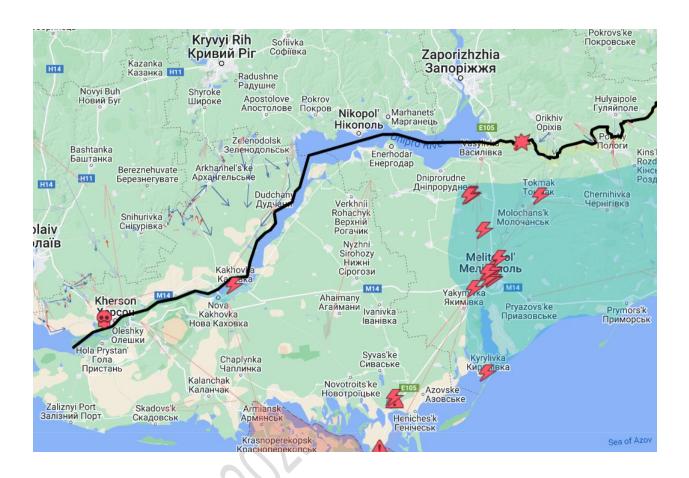
## **TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP**



**Information about changes made to the map:** Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to "gray circles." The layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like, the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

You can visit our war map at <a href="http://www.rusvukrmap.com">http://www.rusvukrmap.com</a>

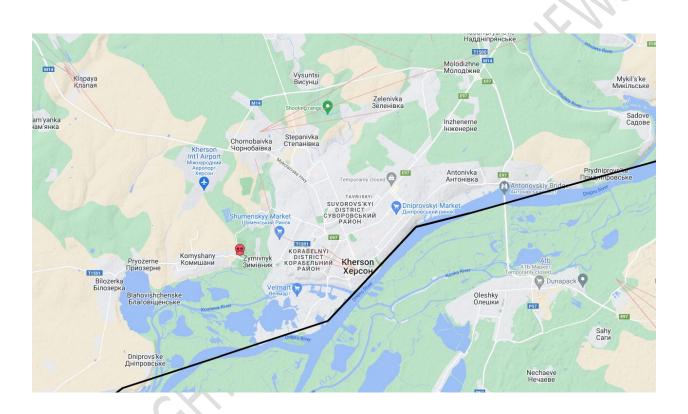
# **KHERSON AND ZAPORIZHIA**



**Russian Objective:** Prevent Ukrainian offensive into Kherson and Zaporizhia, integrate captured territory into the Russian Federation, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

**Ukrainian Objective:** Liberate Russian-occupied areas, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians

Russian and Ukrainian forces continued to improve logistics while Russian troops continued to work on building an echelon defense throughout occupied Kherson and Zaporizhia.<sup>1</sup>



Shelling and rocket strikes from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) continued to increase in the liberated regions west of the Dnipro River. The city of Kherson was shelled along with the suburbs of Bilozerka, Chornobaivka, and Stepanivka. Towns on the west bank of the Dnipro in the Beryslav raion were also targeted.<sup>2</sup> Russian forces are

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29689

targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Kherson, <u>creating significant damage</u>.<sup>3 4 5</sup> Russian troops are using cluster munitions and <u>flechettes</u> in their attacks, killing two civilians, including a 73-year-old man <sup>6 7</sup> Ukrainian police officials appealed to the public not to go to the west bank of the Dnipro because of the increased shelling.<sup>8</sup> The request is complicated because many areas still do not have access to running water, forcing some residents to take water from the river.

Russian forces reportedly launched S-300 antiaircraft missiles for a ground attack into Kherson from Kalanchak, 26 kilometers from the Kherson-Crimea border, and Hola Prystan, south of Kherson.<sup>9 10</sup> Video from social media <u>recorded explosions</u> in Russian-occupied Kakhovka.<sup>11</sup>

Russian forces continue to expand their military presence in Melitopol with the arrival of hundreds of troops and the expansion of medical services.<sup>12</sup> Mikhail Razvozhaev, the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29724

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29722

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29721

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29711

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29706

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29713

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29719

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29718

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41611

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> <u>RIA Melitopol</u>

Russian-appointed governor of Sevastopol, has reportedly ordered the looting of buses and heavy equipment from the Melitopol area and is moving them to Crimea.<sup>13</sup>

Ivan Fedorov, the exiled mayor of Melitopol, reported that gauleiter Yevgeny Balitsky left the city three weeks ago and remained in Moscow.<sup>14</sup> Collaborators have been leaving the city for Russian-occupied Crimea or Mariupol to await transit to Russia.<sup>15</sup> Fedorov claimed that some collaborators are now working as double agents for Ukraine. "They [collaborators] are ready to transmit information about the deployment of the military of the Russian Federation, about collaborators, and such informants can also be of mutual benefit," he said in an interview. He clarified that supporting Ukraine in this capacity will not result in a pardon for crimes, and "no one will remove responsibility from them."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> <u>RIA Melitopol</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://t.me/ivan\_fedorov\_melitopol/929

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> <u>RIA Melitipol</u>



On the Zaporizhia-Donetsk administrative border, the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed that Ukrainian forces attempted to retake Novodarivka and suffered losses without supporting evidence.<sup>16</sup> There wasn't a second source for verification, either because the Russian MOD made it up or the ongoing power outages prevented additional social intelligence. The reliable Russian milblogger community did not report any ground operations in this area.

The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant has deteriorated operationally and politically. The widescale missile attacks across Ukraine on November 23 knocked

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21987 [Russian Government Agency Social Media Account]

out the power grid connections to ZNPP, forcing the plant to operate using diesel backup generators.<sup>17</sup> The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported the plant lost-offsite power at 15:30 local time. Twenty of the backup diesel generators started to supply internal power, with the plant now using eight and the remaining 12 in standby mode. Reactors 5 and 6, which were in a hot shutdown state to provide ZNPP and the town of Enderhodar steam heat, are being transitioned to cold shutdown due to the poor security situation. The plant is stable, and radiation levels are normal.

We had previously assessed that hope of a deal to create a demilitarized zone around ZNPP, expressed by IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi in early November, was fading. Earlier in the week, it started to appear that the Kremlin was setting conditions in the information space for the military withdrawal from the plant. It appears the expectation of a deal by December 31 is out of reach based on events and comments from Moscow.

Energoatom accused Russian troops of ransacking a supply convoy from free Ukraine to the plant.<sup>18</sup> Russia and Ukraine had been cooperating with transferring critical spare parts,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377629/

equipment, fuel, and safe transit of Energoatom employees and IAEA inspectors until today. At the Vasylivka checkpoint, Russian forces emptied all the trucks and confiscated 45 of 300 heaters meant to support ZNPP plant operations. The IAEA did not comment on the accusation, which was leveled today.

Vladimir Rogov, the chairman of the "We are Together with Russia" group, told the Russian state media agency TASS that "giving up" the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant would jeopardize control of Melitopol and the remainder of Kherson.<sup>19</sup> Rogov is advocating a renewed offensive to push the plant out of the range of Ukrainian artillery. Rogov also accused the IAEA of not doing their job at ZNPP and that there have been "no real results" in their work.<sup>20</sup> While Rogov does not set policy or is involved in ongoing negotiations, his objections to demilitarization and criticism of the IAEA were above the fold on the TASS website at the time of publication.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported sporadic exchanges of artillery, rocket, and tank

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://tass [dot] ru/politika/16413095 - [Russian State Media]

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> https://t.me/readovkanews/47560

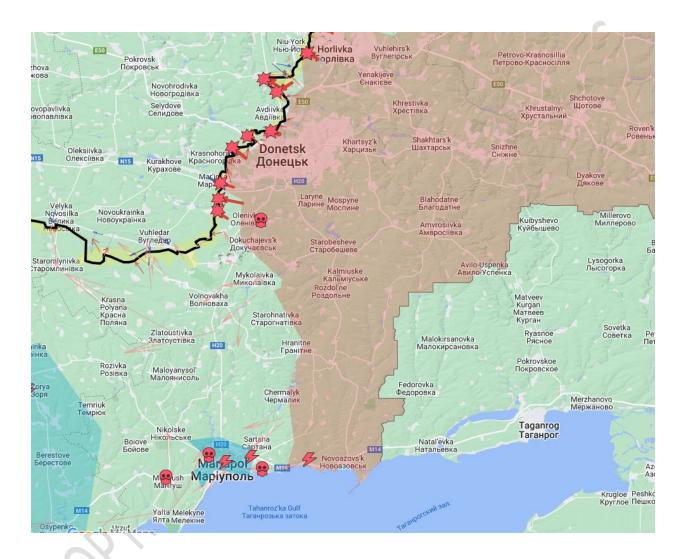
#### fire from the Donetsk-Zaporizhia administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikihv.<sup>21 22</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT</u>
<sup>22</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT</u>

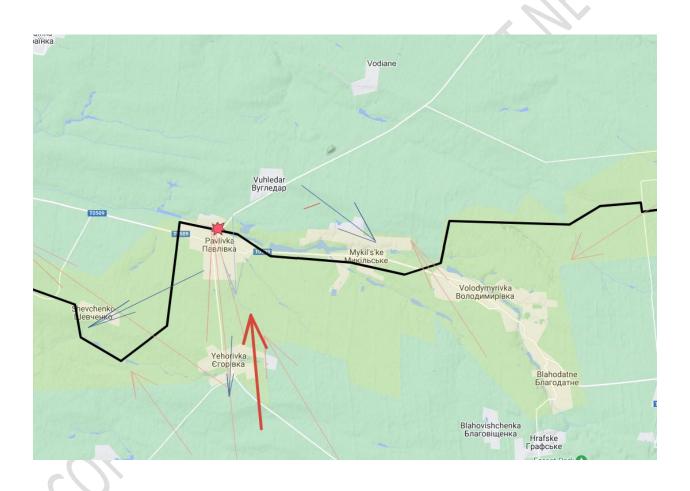


#### **DONBAS REGION**

#### **SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK**



**Russian Objective:** Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control **Ukrainian Objective:** Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics



Fighting continued in <u>Pavlivka</u>, according to the Russian MOD and Russian milbloggers.<sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> Soldiers with the Russian 155th Naval Infantry Brigade told Zona Media that

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21987 [Russian Government Agency Social Media Account]
<sup>24</sup> https://t.me/wargonzo/9412

heavy fighting continued, and while most of the 155th has been rotated out of Pavlivka, the soldiers who complained about losses, poor leadership, and battlefield conditions have remained on the front lines.<sup>25</sup> "The command decided to withdraw the brigade from Pavlivka. We were all very happy, but not for long. Not everyone will be taken out. Those who were most indignant, who wrote the letter and refused to storm, remain further in their positions, and those who did not conflict with the command will be taken to the rear for rotation."

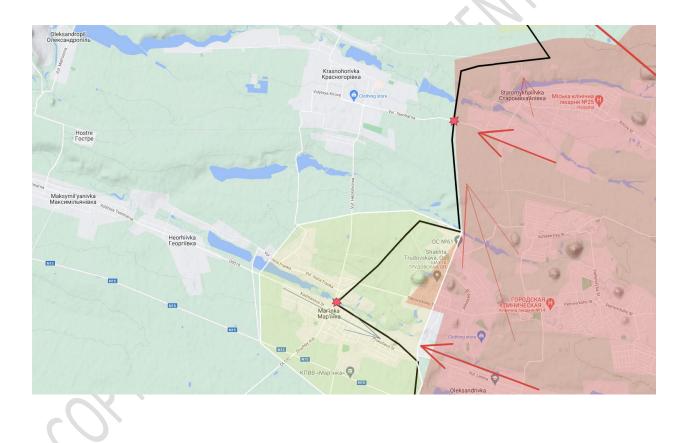
The unnamed military contractor said that at the start of the attack over a month ago, the brigade had approximately 4,000 troops and suffered 450 to 500 killed in action and another 900 wounded. Additionally, he claims the surviving members only have light weapons, with the unit's tanks and infantry fighting vehicles destroyed – which would render the 155th combat destroyed.

"The brigade is almost completely broken, they have already understaffed, but you need to understand that everything depends on those old servicemen who train the young, and therefore the brigade does not completely lose its combat effectiveness. Now, when they are gradually

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> https://zona.media/article/2022/11/23/pavlovka

destroying us and recruiting mobilized ones, there is no sense in such a unit."

He claims that Russian forces control Pavlivka, but "everyone is psychologically depressed," and no one is celebrating a victory. We maintain the town is a no man's land and have not changed the war map.



Ukrainian and Russian sources reported continued fighting in <u>Marinka</u> and another attempt to flank the city from the north with an attack on <u>Krasnohorivka</u>.<sup>26 27 28</sup>



In Marinka, elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR have not been able to advance beyond Druzhby Avenue and only hold a single stronghold, with fighting described by both belligerents as intense.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> https://t.me/rybar/41441

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> https://t.me/DeepStateUA/14746

There were no reports of fighting around Avdiivka by either belligerent. Snow and freezing rain falling in the early morning likely limited combat operations to artillery strikes and skirmishes. GSAFU reported fighting around Opytne in Donetsk but did not specify if it was near the Donetsk International Airport or by Bakhmut, and there wasn't a second source claim for either location.<sup>29</sup>

Russian-occupied Donetsk was heavily shelled, with many social media reports of strikes in the western and central districts of the city.<sup>30</sup> Water of Donbass reported that the water system in the city was being refilled and expected heat and tap water to return by Thursday.<sup>31</sup> Shelling knocked out power to the Verkhnekalmiusskaya filtration station overnight, stopping efforts to refill the water system.<sup>32</sup> The city of Donetsk has had repeated outages of water and sewer service since March and has made little effort to improve the situation.

Social media reports claimed that Ukrainian forces shelled Russian-occupied Horlivka.<sup>33</sup> GSAFU claimed that the medical staff in Horlivka was instructed to seize any

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41629

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41623

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41731

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41555

documents from deceased mercenaries with Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group, not to conduct autopsies or document the cause of death, and to pack them into body bags for transport upon death.<sup>34</sup> No reason was given, but there have been reports for months from families of mercenaries and volunteers, especially from penal units, not receiving promised death benefits. Removing documents and preventing forensic examinations enables PMC Wagner to maintain a "missing in action" status among the deceased.

The People's Militia of the DNR Telegram channel released their five o'clock follies, claiming their forces destroyed three main battle tanks (MBT), two 152-mm D-30 howitzers, and five units of "armored and automotive vehicles."<sup>35</sup> Maintaining the DNR militia's glorious traditions of exaggerating battlefield successes, the Russian MOD undercut the DNR claims, reporting no tanks or artillery pieces were destroyed in Donetsk.<sup>36</sup>

Ukrainian artillery units reportedly carried out 244 fire missions on the occupied territories of Donetsk. Pavlo Krylenko, Donetsk Oblast Administration and Military

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> https://t.me/nm\_dnr/9452

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21987 [Russian Government Agency Social Media Account]

Governor did not release an artillery strike report on November 23.

Insurgents in Mariupol continue to report Russian troop movements.<sup>37</sup> A column of 25 tanks was reported to have moved through the city toward central Zaporizhia, and a small column of military vehicles transited to Bryansk. Russian forces continue to build defensive structures around Mariupol, particularly to the northwest along the administrative border with Zaporizhia.

<sup>37</sup> https://t.me/andriyshTime/4529



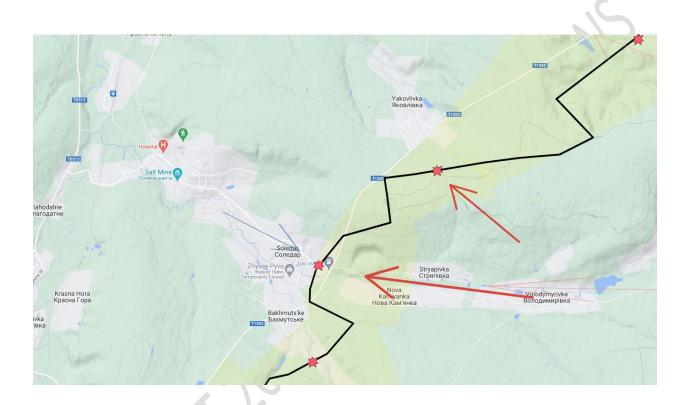
#### **NORTHEAST DONETSK**



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

**Ukrainian Objective:** Defend Bakhmut-Soldar, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties

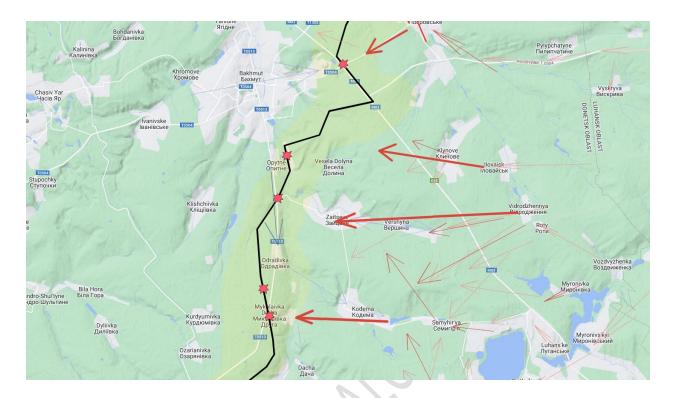
Reliable Russian sources did not share any information on the situation around Bakhmut. This is likely due to the nationwide power loss and a breakdown in communications, not due to a lack of activity. It is also possible that, like around Avdiivka, early morning snow and freezing rain limited combat operations during the day.



GSAFU reported that Ukrainian forces successfully defended Yakovlivka from an attack likely led by PMC Wagner.<sup>38</sup>

2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT



GSAFU also reported fighting east of <u>Bakhmut</u> and along the T-513 Highway, including <u>Klishchiivka</u>, <u>Andriivka</u>, and <u>Ozarianivka</u>. As previously noted, it is possible, and more likely, that Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on <u>Optyne</u>, 4 kilometers south of Bakhmut. Russian forces increased the amount of artillery fire on Bakhmut, damaging a fire station and wounding at least one firefighter in the attack.<sup>39</sup> One piece of equipment was damaged, but the station remains operational.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41575

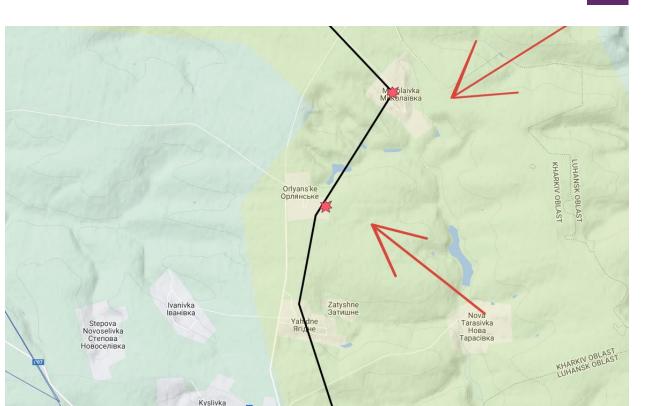


#### LUHANSK



**Russian Objective:** Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

**Ukrainian Objective:** Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents

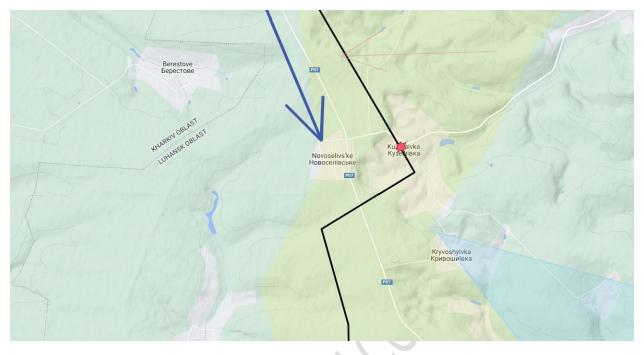


Mercenaries with War Gonzo claimed that Ukrainian forces attempted to advance into Orlyanske. No other sources reported an attack in the area, but War Gonzo has been mostly reliable when providing information on the situation in Luhansk and northeast Donetsk.<sup>40</sup>

2022

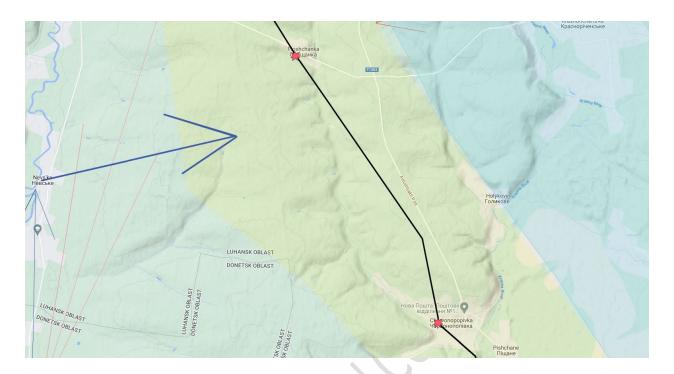
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> https://t.me/wargonzo/9412





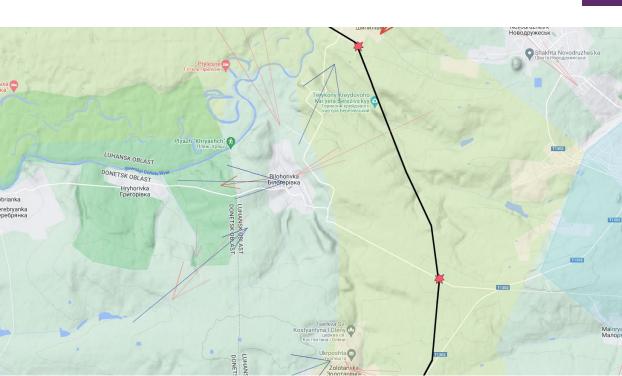
Russian sources reported continued fighting in <u>Novoselivkse</u> and <u>Kuzemivka</u>.<sup>41 42</sup> The Russian MOD claims they used TOS-1 thermobaric weapons on Ukrainian troops but did not report any casualties, which is unusually muted for the Kremlin.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21987 [Russian Government Agency Social Media Account]
<sup>42</sup> https://t.me/wargonzo/9412



The Russian MOD reported continued fighting on the outskirts of <u>Chevronopopivka</u>, and GSAFU reported <u>Ploschanka</u> was shelled for the sixth day in a row.<sup>43 44</sup>

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21987 [Russian Government Agency Social Media Account]
<sup>44</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook Report PM PDT</u>



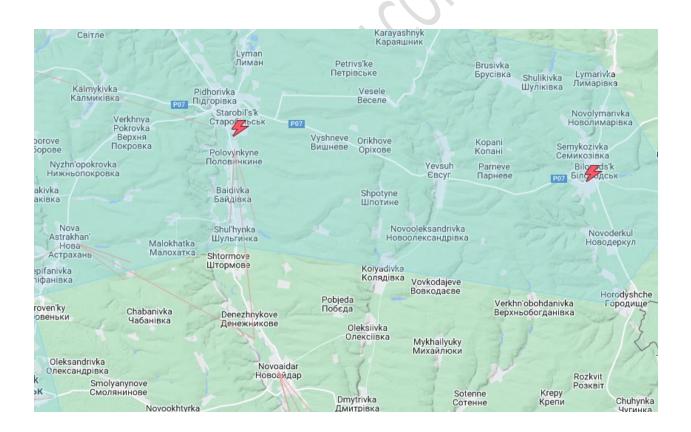
Serhei Haidai, Luhansk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that Ukrainian troops continued to defend <u>Bilhorivka</u> [Luhansk].<sup>45</sup>

During an Interview on the Ukrainian network 1+1, Haidai said, "in the Svatove and Kreminna districts, the Armed Forces of Ukraine are successful," without specifics. We have information that indicates another settlement in Luhansk has been liberated but will maintain operational security. He also reported that while offensive operations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7021

were continuing, the terrain was difficult, with fighting happening in waist-deep water at times.

GSAFU reported that an ammunition depot was destroyed but didn't specify a location. The blast killed up to 50 Russian troops and wounded another 50.<sup>46</sup> We can verify the veracity of the report, and poor weather has blinded NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems (FIRMS).



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT

Governor Haidai reported that in Denezhnykove and Shtormove, up to 20 farmers who exposed Pro-Ukrainian views had been taken into custody. The two villages are on the critical road and rail Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply line) between Starbolisk and the city of Luhansk.<sup>47 48</sup>

In occupied Luhansk, hospitals are reportedly overflowing with wounded mobiks and penal unit soldiers, with hundreds spread across the region and compromising the care of sick civilians.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook Report AM PDT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> https://t.me/luhanskaVTSA/7021

# **CHERNIHIV, KHARKIV, AND SUMY REGION**

**Russian Objective:** Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

**Ukrainian Objective:** Complete the liberation of the Kharkiv oblast, maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

GSAFU reported that Kharkiv was targeted as part of the massive missile strikes across Ukraine on November 23.<sup>49</sup> The oblast and the city lost all power from the strikes, with Oleg Singegubov, Kharkiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reporting that Russian strikes did not target civilian infrastructure in the region.<sup>50 51</sup> At the time of publication, the electrical grid had been reconnected to all critical infrastructure, such as water systems, cellular towers, and hospitals, and 20% of consumers had had power restored.<sup>52 53</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report AM PDT</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> https://t.me/synegubov/4839

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> https://t.me/synegubov/4835

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> https://t.me/tymoshenko\_kyrylo/2783

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> https://t.me/synegubov/4844

With the power out and communications down, Russian forces started psychological operations by broadcasting misinformation over FM radio.<sup>54</sup> Governor Singegubov called the effort a "pathetic provocation."

On the subject of "pathetic provocation," the Kremlin and Russian milbloggers continue to insist that Ukraine has put a large number of troops on the border of Belgorod and is planning to attack the Russian Federation.<sup>55 56</sup> Propagandists with Readovka baselessly claimed that Ukrainian forces had occupied hospitals and schools, turning them into military bases, planning to capture Shebekino or possibly Belgorod itself. This is part of a Kremlin disinformation campaign to prop up support for the ongoing "special military operation."

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that power was out across the Sumy oblast, but engineers were working on restoring service. The outage was not directly related to any attacks on the region but was caused when Ukrenergo had to deenergize the national grid to prevent further damage. The hromadas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377719/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> https://t.me/vysokygovorit/10047

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> https://t.me/readovkanews/47477

of Khotin, Yunakiv, and Seredyna-Buda were shelled by Russian forces. A total of 25 strikes were reported, with two houses damaged in Seredyna-Buda but no casualties.<sup>57</sup>

GSAFU reported the villages of Hai and Khrinivka in Chernihiv has attacked with artillery fired from across the national border. There wasn't additional information at the time of publication.<sup>58</sup> Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that power remained out across the Chernihiv oblast at the time of publication, and the situation was very difficult in the region.<sup>59 60</sup>

## **KYIV REGION**

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

<sup>57</sup> https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/6134

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> https://t.me/V\_Zelenskiy\_official/4128

<sup>60</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377639/

As we had previously assessed, Russia would use a wave attack to overwhelm Ukrainian air defenses, with Russian launching 31 cruise missiles at Kyiv.<sup>61</sup> While NASAMS and IRIS-T have had a reported 100% success rate to date, there were too many simultaneous targets supported by too few launchers. A total of ten missiles struck Kyiv and the suburb of Vyshhorod, 15 kilometers north of Kyiv's central district. Russian sources claim the CHPP-5 and CHPP-6 power plants were targeted, and Vitalii Klychko, the Mayor of Kyiv, stated that one "critical infrastructure" facility had been hit.<sup>62</sup> <sup>63</sup>

In Kyiv, a two-story home suffered a direct hit, killing three and wounding six.<sup>64</sup> Pro-Russian online agent provocateur Zoka claimed that NASAMS caused damage to civilian areas without evidence and mocked Ukrainians. Five more people were wounded in the attack on the capital, with a total of ten hospitalized.

After the attacks, mayor Klychko said that the Ukrainian capital could expect "the worst winter since the Second

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377656/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> https://t.me/rybar/41441

<sup>63</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377622/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377622/

World War," and in the worst case scenario, parts of the city would be evacuated.<sup>65</sup>

In Vyshhorod, five people were killed and 31 wounded when Russian missiles tore through civilian housing.<sup>67</sup> Oleksii Kuleba, Kyiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that some wounded refused medical care. Southeast of Kyiv in Chabany, another person was killed during the attacks.

The strikes left the city and the oblast without power, water, and Internet service.<sup>68</sup> At the time of publication, critical infrastructure had been reconnected, and power had been returned to 20% of the households in the region.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16240

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41510

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377699/

<sup>68</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377656/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> https://t.me/V\_Zelenskiy\_official/4128

## BLACK SEA, CRIMEA, MYKOLAIV, AND ODESA REGION

Operational Command South reported that nine ships of the Black Sea Fleet are on patrol, including two missile carriers that can launch up to 16 Kalibr cruise missiles.<sup>70</sup>

Residents of Yevpatoriya in Russian-occupied Crimea reported the sounds of loud explosions.<sup>71</sup> Alexander Loskutov, the puppet mayor of the city, told concerned residents the noise was "planned exercises of the Russian Guard."<sup>72</sup> Later, the Russian MOD claimed that Ukraine launched a wave of drones on the offshore natural gas fields in the Black Sea.<sup>73</sup> Ukrainian officials did not claim they launched a drone attack today, and the Russian MOD did not provide any supporting evidence.

Insurgents in Crimea reported that large military columns of Russian troops and equipment were moving from Dzhankoy in the direction of the Kerch Bridge. At least one truck was hauling looted farm equipment. The Russian Ministry of Transportation claimed that the highway

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16270

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16222

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16222

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16231

section of the bridge had been partially restored earlier in the week. The bridge remains closed to all civilian traffic.<sup>74</sup>

On the administrative border with Kherson, Russian forces continue to build defensive structures, according to the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine Andriy Chernyak.<sup>75</sup> Chernyak said there wasn't any evidence that Russian forces were evacuating people from the northern edge of Crimea. The construction of defenses is focused around the Dzhankoy raion.

Missile strikes <u>knocked out power to Odesa</u> and Mykolaiv.<sup>76</sup> <sup>77 78</sup> Vitalii Kim, Mykolaiv Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that air defenses in the region intercepted all Russian missiles while Russian sources claim an electrical substation was destroyed.<sup>79 80</sup> Attempts to restore power in Odesa have been successful, with critical infrastructure restored and consumer power being turned back on. In Mykolaiv, the system became overloaded during the restart and had to be denergized.<sup>81</sup>

<sup>74</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16234

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> https://t.me/hueviyherson/29710

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41612

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377639/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/3555

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>79</sup> https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/3554

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>80</sup> https://t.me/rybar/41441

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>81</sup> https://t.me/mykolaivskaODA/3563

Energoatom and the IAEA reported that the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant was forced to go into emergency shutdown when it was disconnected from the power grid due to the Russian missile attacks.<sup>82</sup> IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said, "emergency protection worked," and the plant was operating in design mode. Radiation levels are normal, and emergency generators are supporting the plant.

## **WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE**

**Russian Objective:** Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

**Ukrainian Objective:** Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Russian cruise missiles targeted critical civilian infrastructure in Lviv, Vinnytsia, and Kirovohrad.<sup>83 84</sup> In

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>82</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>83</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377639/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>84</sup> <u>General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine – Facebook Report PM PDT</u>

Lviv, two electrical substations were struck, knocking out power to 1.5 million people.<sup>85</sup> Russian sources claim a power plant in Vinnytsia was targeted along with the Kremenchuk hydroelectric power plant in Kirovohrad.<sup>86</sup>

The IAEA reported the Rvine and Khmelnytskyy Nuclear Power Plants in western Ukraine were also forced into emergency shutdown due to the Russian missile attacks.<sup>87</sup> The plants are in design mode, and there was no increase in radiation.

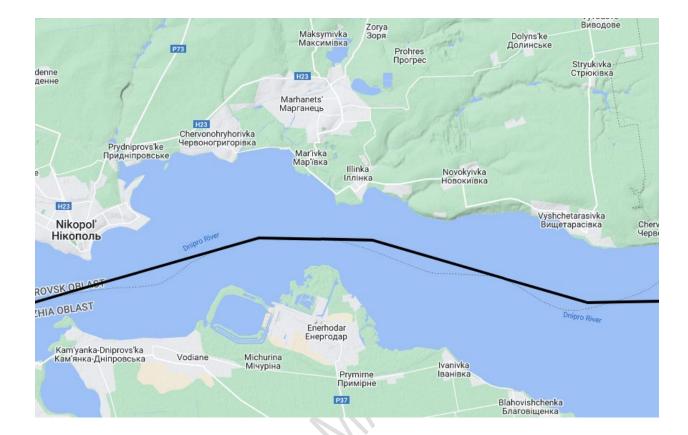
Power outages in Dnipropetrovsk trapped over 3,000 miners underground in Kryvyi Rih and Pavlograd, requiring rescue operations.<sup>88</sup> At the time of publication, everyone had been brought back to the surface. Valentyn Reznichenko, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that power had been restored to half the oblast.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>85</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377640/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>86</sup> https://t.me/rybar/41441

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>87</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>88</sup> https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/2544



Russian forces shelled Marhanets with no reports of significant damage or casualties.

# **RUSSIAN FRONT**

There were social media reports that Ukrainian forces shelled the village of Ustinka in the Belgorod federal district.<sup>89</sup>

<sup>89</sup> https://t.me/belgorod01people/1932

The Russian town of Shebekino in the Belgorod federal district was shelled a day after the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed they destroyed four M-777 artillery pieces in Ukraine, which would end the attacks. The shells landed in the Veterans of War Hospital area but not the hospital itself. One civilian in a different part of the city was reported killed.<sup>90</sup>

The Kremlin is reportedly setting conditions to launch a false flag attack in the Belgorod region to claim Ukraine has launched an invasion into Russia.<sup>91</sup> The claims are, in a word, preposterous. They are likely being made to prop up support for the special military operation and set conditions for further mobilization.

In Belgorod, local officials have opened an investigation into why a woman who reported a quadcopter drone was flying over the city was told to shoot it down herself.<sup>92</sup> Belgorod federal district governor Vyacheslav Gladkov partially blamed the woman for not getting the name of the 112 dispatcher, saying, "Next time, please provide more detailed information about the employee who told you this."

<sup>90</sup> https://t.me/belgorod01/28044

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> https://twitter.com/TCG\_CrisisRisks/status/1595297045023055872

<sup>92</sup> https://t.me/pb\_032/12968

Residents in Belgorod took to social media to complain about poor road conditions and a lack of snow removal after the year's first snowstorm hit the city.<sup>93</sup> City officials reported there was a shortage of drivers, and four vehicles were inoperable because they required maintenance.

Vyacheslav Gladkov, Governor of the Belgorod federal district, <u>dismissed rumors that the region would be</u> <u>attacked</u> by Ukrainian forces and claimed it was a Ukrainian-led disinformation campaign.<sup>94</sup> "Since February 2022, the following information has been received daily: tomorrow, the day after tomorrow. Well, it seems to me that since mid-March, most residents of the Belgorod region have stopped paying attention to this." He added that the task of the Ukrainians is to "cause panic among the civilian population."

Editor's Note: I was not aware Readovka was Ukrainian.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>93</sup> https://t.me/belgorod01/28073

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>94</sup> https://t.me/belgorod01/28110

### **THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Ukrainian officials reported that today's missile strikes' final tally was 67 cruise missiles, three S-300 antiaircraft missiles used for a ground attack, and ten Lancet kamikaze drones.<sup>95 96</sup> The S-300 missiles that struck the maternity hospital in Zaporizhzhia several hours before the wider attack were included in today's report. Air defenses could intercept 51 missiles and five drones – a 70% success rate. The Kh-101 and Kh-55 cruise missiles were launched from 10 Tu-95 strategic bombers operating over the Caspian Sea. The Kalibr cruise missiles were launched from two small vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, which immediately returned to port.

Power was knocked out to the entire nation after the attacks, and at the time of publication, 11 oblasts were still without power, water, and Internet and had sporadic cellular service. Ukraine's system of "Points of Invincibility" was put to the test less than 24 hours after announcing its creation, with over 3,100 centers opened in less than 12 hours across Ukraine. Points of Invincibility provide free

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>95</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377661/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>96</sup> General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook Report PM PDT

access to a heated place with food, drinks, Internet access, cellular phone coverage, basic first-aid, and charging stations for electronics.

Deputy Minister of Defense for Ukraine Hanna Maliar said that the "vast majority" of Russian missile strikes that started on October 11 had targeted "energy infrastucture facilities" to attack "the civilian population."<sup>97</sup>

Maliar struck a defiant tone along with other Ukrainian leaders, writing, "The destruction of energy infrastructure facilities will not affect the ability of our Defense Forces to stop the enemy and liberate temporarily occupied territories. Our military is ready to conduct hostilities in any conditions."

"Likewise, it will not weaken the motivation of the civilian population. The enemy is mistaken if he believes that the destruction of the energy infrastructure will direct the efforts of Ukrainians mainly to protect the rear and distract from the front in the east and south."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>97</sup> https://t.me/annamaliar/447

Andrii Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, took a more direct approach, writing, "Terrorists immediately confirm that they are terrorists – they launch rockets. Naïve losers."<sup>98</sup>

Valerii Zaluzhnyi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, wrote, "Unable to defeat the Armed Forces, the enemy is waging war on civilians, thermal power plants, medical institutions, and even babies." He thanked the soldiers under his command in an address, saying, "What you are doing, in the face of a constant shortage of weapons, equipment, and ammunition, is on the extreme edge of what is possible." He also thanked the partner and allied nations for providing air defense and missile systems.

Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksiy Danilov blasted Russia in a tweet, "We dictate in terms of composition. Not your rockets. Not your Shaheds. Neither your shelling of maternity hospitals nor a millimeter of a step will bring your desire for negotiations closer. The only [Ukrainian] desire is to destroy the racist

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>98</sup> https://t.me/ermaka2022/1661

monstrosity. With a terrorist country - negotiations [is] only through the sight of the Defense Force of Ukraine."99

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council, asking the Security Council to adopt a resolution condemning all forms of energy terrorism.<sup>100</sup> Article 56 of the Geneva Convention bars the intentional attack on power plants and other critical infrastructure facilities that support the basic needs of civilians.

"The reaction of all those who support the UN Charter is necessary. It is necessary to ensure the security of Ukraine, Europe and all peoples who suffer from the consequences of this aggression," Zelenskyy told the Council.

"What can a representative of a terrorist state tell you now? That peaceful people are not harmed by their missiles?" He asked the Security Council to provide an "assessment of the actions of the terrorist state in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter."

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>99</sup> https://twitter.com/OleksiyDanilov/status/1595404955904532487
<sup>100</sup> Unian Ukraine – State Controlled News Agency

Russian Federation Ambassador to the UN rebutted Zelenskyy to an empty chamber.<sup>101</sup>

"For now, what we hear from Mr. Zelenskyy and his associates is by no means a readiness for peace but only the language of reckless threats and ultimatums. Kyiv's Western curators only encourage such an irresponsible line because they benefit from a war on the territory Ukraine to the last Ukrainian, allowing their military-industrial complex to receive huge profits, as well as to test NATO weapons," Nebenzya said. "Thus, the Western countries are trying to establish their geopolitical hegemony by proxy and the lives of ordinary Ukrainians."

He told the empty chamber that Russia will continue to take actions that limit Ukraine's military potential.

Condemnation of the attacks and support for Ukraine was swift on the world stage. United States Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget Brink wrote, "More brutal missile strikes on the country as Russia tries to punish Ukraine for daring to be free. I have seen the strength of the Ukrainian people and know that Russia's attempt to dominate Ukraine by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>101</sup> https://tass [dot] ru/politika/16412409 - Russian State Media Website

plunging it into cold and darkness will fail."<sup>102</sup> French Ambassador to Ukraine Etienne de Ponsin shared a picture from a bomb shelter in Kyiv, writing, "This is the daily life of the French Embassy in Ukraine. The working meeting with the Deputy Minister of Economy, Oleksandr Hryban, was interrupted by Russian missile strikes. We will continue it in storage. I express solidarity with the Ukrainians."

The attacks in Ukraine knocked out power in Moldova because the grids are interconnected. In the capital of Chisinau, <u>traffic was snarled</u>, water service was disabled, and people were trapped in elevators.<sup>103</sup> Moldovan President Maia Sandau declared, "Russia has left Moldova in the dark" after the attacks.<sup>104</sup>

United States officials warned that there is a real threat of Russia using chemical weapons if they continue to suffer defeat on the battlefield and begin to run out of conventional warfare options.<sup>105</sup> The White House clarified there isn't any specific intelligence that Russia is planning to use chemical weapons on the battlefield. The administration announced a renewed investment to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>102</sup> TSN Ukraine

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>103</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41600

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>104</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41599

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>105</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16290

develop new technologies to detect the deployment of chemical weapons and their precursors.

At the conclusion of the Halifax Security Forum, one thing was missing from the conversations – the discussion of nuclear war and Russia's threats to use nuclear weapons.<sup>106</sup> World leaders are over it, and so is our team, and you should be too. United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin indirectly acknowledged that Russia's actions could spark a global arms race and plunge the world into the Mutual Assured Destruction Instability Paradox. Russia's war may push other authoritarian regimes to work on nuclear weapons after seeing that having "the nukes" gives the state a certain immunity when engaged in war with a non-nuclear nation.

**Editor's Note:** Yes, we see the hypocrisy, and no, we don't know how you put the 1945 Genie back in the bottle. Secretary Austin remains correct, and North Korea is a shining example.

The CSTO Summit continued in Yerevan, Armenia, with tension among the delegates.<sup>107</sup> Nikol Pashinyan, the Prime

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>106</sup> https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/articles/2022/11/22/7151119/
<sup>107</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16282

Minister of Armenia, refused to sign a draft declaration of the CSTO Collective Security Council and the draft on joint measures to assist Armenia. Pashinyan refused to sign the document saying, "I am closing the meeting, thank you very much." He called the collective's response to his Article IV request for mutual aid in September a "fiasco" and membership "worthless," with Russian President Putin dropping his pen in shock.<sup>108</sup> Azerbaijan and Armenia had a brief border war from September 12 to 14, killing up to 300 people. Armenia requested military aid from the CSTO collective, which Moscow denied.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, the self-proclaimed president of the Republic of Belarus, predicted that the CSTO alliance, which is the Russian Federation equivalent to NATO if you ordered from Wish, would collapse if Russia loses the war in Ukraine.<sup>109</sup> Some politicos believe that CSTO reached the beginning of the end when Putin dropped his pen on the Summit table.

The website for the European Parliament suffered a Distributed Denial of Service attack by the Russian hacker group Killnet.<sup>110</sup> The attack started shortly after the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>108</sup> https://twitter.com/JayinKyiv/status/1595724981127741441

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>109</sup> https://finance.yahoo.com/news/lukashenko-possible-dissolution-collective-security-222917201.html
<sup>110</sup> https://zona.media/news/2022/11/23/evroparlament

Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the resolution recognizing Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism." We cover that more in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section. The impact was minor, according to IT experts.

The Head of the Information and Educational Department of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate, Metropolitan Klyment, said the searches of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra should have never happened and were done because of "baseless allegations."<sup>111</sup> He called the video that sparked the counterintelligence raid "a provocation" and added that Ukrainian Law enforcement should investigate the content further.<sup>112</sup> Religious leaders said the video does not show priests or church singers, and the clergy was not involved in the signing. Lavra services are not done in Russian or Ukrainian but in the Church Slavonic language, which wasn't recorded in the video.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) interviewed 850 people, including administering lie detector tests to 50 in in-depth interviews and did not find anyone was deceitful.<sup>113</sup> The SSU searched 350 buildings and found passports and military IDs from the USSR, where they never applied for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>111</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377712/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>112</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377713/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>113</sup> <u>Security Services of Urkaine</u> – Ukrainian State Website

new identification after 1994. They also found Pro-Russian literature, over \$100,000 in cash in Ukrainian and Russian currency, and identified one person who may be aligned with the Russian State Media agency Antvan.

The United States Department of Defense announced a \$400 million military assistance package for Ukraine, using funds previously authorized by Congress.<sup>114</sup> The latest package includes:

- Additional munitions for NASAMS air defense systems
- 150 heavy machine guns with thermal imagery sights to counter drones
- Additional unspecified HIMARS rockets
- 200 Excalibur GPS-guided 155-mm artillery shells
- 10,000 120-mm mortar rounds
- AGM-88 Harm anti-radiation missiles
- 150 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV aka Humvee)
- Over 100 "light tactical vehicles."
- Over 200 generators
- Spare parts for 105mm howitzers and other equipment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>114</sup> <u>United States Department of Defense</u> – United States Government Website

The United States has provided \$19.7 billion in military assistance since January 20, 2021, and \$21.8 billion since 2014.

Turkey announced it was providing Ukraine with heavy weapons for the first time. The TLRG-230-mm rocket has a range of 20 to 70 kilometers and can be guided by the Bayraktar TB-2 drone that paints the target with an accuracy of +/- 10 meters.<sup>115</sup> It is unclear how many rockets Turkey is providing and if Ukraine is receiving launch vehicles or has already acquired other compatible platforms.<sup>116</sup>

Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak offered Germany to hand over the batteries of Patriot missile systems they were planning to provide his nation to Ukraine.<sup>117</sup> "After the latest Russian missile attacks, I appealed to Germany to transfer the Patriot batteries offered by Poland to Ukraine and deploy them on the western border. This will protect Ukraine from further casualties and blackouts and increase security on our eastern border," Blaszczak said.

<sup>115</sup> Ga Gadget

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>116</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41504

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>117</sup> <u>Unian Ukraine</u> – Ukrainian State Media Website

#### **RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION AND MILITARY STATUS**

The Russian MOD released two videos claiming that the training of Russian mobiks was still ongoing in Belarus. The problem with the videos is what is missing, specifically <u>brown plants</u>, <u>mud</u>, <u>and a dusting of snow</u>.<sup>118</sup> <sup>119</sup> The videos are clearly from weeks ago. Propagandists are going to propaganda, and yes, we are quite aware in the first video linked those are evergreen trees, but there isn't evergreen grass.

The Donetsk People's Republic officially announced that students were being demobilized, in alignment with Kremlin policy in the Russian Federation.<sup>120</sup> Self-declared leader of the DNR, Denis Pushilin, said that the students who served in the "special military operation" had received medals "for saving the dead." We're confused too. Pushilin claims there will be no further mobilizations unless President Putin calls for one.<sup>121</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>118</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21972?single

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>119</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21980

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>120</sup> https://donbass.ua/news/region/2022/11/22/v-dnr-zajavili-o-demobilizacii-vseh-studentov.html
<sup>121</sup> https://t.me/itsdonetsk/41624

Despite promises from Pushilin that mobilization is over, residents in Mariupol reported that men who opted to get a Russian passport (or were forced) are being mobilized in a renewed wave.<sup>122</sup>

Due to increasing fights and other problems among Russian troops and in Melitopol, Russian occupation authorities are restricting the sale of alcohol and extending the curfew for civilians.<sup>123</sup>

Russian milblogger Murz of the Luhansk People's Republic was presenting a new and improved crowdsourced torniquet for Russian troops.<sup>124</sup> The effort is being made because the Russian MOD is providing inadequate equipment, and many mobiks weren't provided basic first aid kits. Murz reported the first attempt at a DIY tourniquet failed because it had to be tightened slowly, not with a jerk, and the turnstile would slip. Production is – 50 units a day. Take all the time you need.

Mobiks in Serpukhov <u>released a video</u> where they reported they were deployed to Makiivka under-equipped and with

<sup>122</sup> https://t.me/andriyshTime/4522

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>123</sup> https://t.me/ivan\_fedorov\_melitopol/931

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>124</sup> https://kenigtiger.livejournal.com/2198330.html

no training. When they came under fire, their battalion commander abandoned them, and their own troops fired artillery at them by accident.<sup>125</sup> The video breaks operational security and provides easily geolocated information on their barracks.

Mobiks from Yekaterinburg <u>made a video</u> complaining that they were not being paid for their training period and that their pay didn't start until they were assigned to a unit on November 3.<sup>126</sup> They closed with this needs to be resolved ASAP because, at any moment, they could be deployed to defend the "motherland for free."

Everything is going to plan.

# WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Russia and Ukraine completed <u>another prisoner war of</u> <u>exchange</u>, with 35 Ukrainian soldiers and one civilian traded for 35 Russian troops.<sup>127 128 129</sup> Among those released are guys who defended Mariupol and were at Azovstal, as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>125</sup> https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1595515700810027008

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>126</sup> https://twitter.com/wartranslated/status/1595421185474531329

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>127</sup> https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7377651/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>128</sup> https://t.me/mod\_russia/21991

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>129</sup> https://twitter.com/ukrpravda\_news/status/1595431020639272961

well as National Guardsmen who were captured at the Chornobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the early days of the invasion. The civilian released by Russia had a leg amputated while in captivity.

One hour before 67 cruise missiles entered Ukrainian airspace, the European Parliament declared Russia a state sponsor of terrorism.<sup>130</sup> The resolution was adopted with 494 for, 58 against, and 44 abstaining.

"The European Parliament underlines that the deliberate attacks and atrocities carried out by the Russian Federation against the civilian population of Ukraine, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and other serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law amount to acts of terror against the Ukrainian population and constitute war crimes; expresses its unreserved outrage at and condemnation of these attacks and atrocities and the other acts that Russia has committed in pursuit of its destructive political aims in Ukraine and on the territory of other countries; in the light of the above, recognises Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and as a state which uses means of terrorism," the text of the resolution reads.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>130</sup> https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2022/11/23/7151178/

The vote was symbolic, as it would require the individual parliaments of each European government to ratify the declaration. The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation of the EU called the vote "absurd" and declared it was meant to intensify the confrontation between Europe and Russia.<sup>131</sup> As those words left his lips, 67 missiles attacked Ukraine, knocking power out across the country. Take all the time you need.

Pope Francis condemned Russia's attack on Ukraine and compared the ongoing conflict to Holodomor, which the Pontiff called genocide.<sup>132</sup> During a prayer in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican, the Pope called for thinking "about the terrible suffering of the dear and suffering Ukrainian people." He noted that next Saturday, there will be an annual day of remembrance for the victims of the Holodomor, which the Pontiff called "the extermination of famine in 1932-33, artificially caused by Stalin in Ukraine."

Although symbolic on the surface, it is the strongest language to date to come from the Vatican.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>131</sup> https://tass [dot] ru/politika/16412293 - Russian State Media Website
<sup>132</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16294

In Zaporizhia, Russian forces fired upon a civilian convoy on the so-called road of life in the free Ukrainian town of Kamyanske, just north of the line of conflict. The convoy got stuck due to poor weather, which washed out the road. The state emergency services were able to execute a rescue.<sup>133</sup>

# GEOPOLITICAL

Serbia and Kosovo have reached an agreement over an automotive license plate spat that brought the two nations to the brink of war.<sup>134</sup> A settlement was reached through negotiations led by the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, John Borrell.

"I am pleased to announce that the main negotiators of Serbia and Kosovo, mediated by the EU, have agreed on measures to avoid further escalation and fully concentrate on proposals to normalize relations," Borrell wrote on Twitter. He noted that Serbia has agreed to stop issuing plates with Kosovo city codes, and Kosovo promises to stop trying to forcibly re-register cars with Serbian numbers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>133</sup> https://t.me/ivan\_fedorov\_melitopol/928

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>134</sup> https://tass [dot] ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/16412287 – Russian State Media

## ECONOMIC

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (ERBD) and the Netherlands have committed 372 million euros to the Ukrainian energy company Ukrenergo to rebuild facilities damaged in Russian attacks.<sup>135</sup> The Netherlands is providing 72 million in aid through a grant, while ERBD provides a 300 million loan.

European Commissioner for Energy Kadri Simson announced that the European Union has completely replaced the entire shortage of Russian gas from other sources, more than a year ahead of schedule.<sup>136</sup> Filling the shortfall was achieved through diversification, conservation, and using a common gas storage policy among EU nations. Increased LNG shipments from nations like the United States, and new pipeline connections between Poland and Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia, the Baltic Pipe between Poland, Denmark, and Norway, and the Greece-Bulgaria pipeline helped replace the gas that came from Nord Stream 1.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>135</sup> https://t.me/energoatom\_ua/10816
<sup>136</sup> <u>RIA M</u>

Russian State Media reported that production at the Moskvich automobile plant has restarted building the new 2023 Moskvich 3 crossover.<sup>137</sup> Vehicle sales will start in March in January and other markets in Russia by March. We know some mobik moms and dads are getting a new crossover SUV as long as the Kremlin sends that death benefit payment.

Another red warning light of economic unrest in Russia has lit up on the dashboard. For the first ten months of 2022, violent crime is up 29.7%, with the number of crimes involving explosives – 283 – at the highest level in six years.<sup>138</sup> The federal districts with the biggest jump in gunrelated crime were Kursk, Belgorod, and Moscow.

On the same day Russia was declared a state sponsor of terrorism by the EU Parliament, and Moscow said, "hold my vodka and watch this," the Kremlin expressed that it wanted to work with the UN to reopen the Togliatti-Odessa ammonia pipeline and renew fertilizer exports.<sup>139</sup> The Togliattiazot company said it is ready to restart the flow, but Ukrainian officials are making unreasonable demands. Kremlin officials didn't state if the unreasonable demands

<sup>137</sup> https://t.me/pb\_032/12993

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>138</sup> https://t.me/Crimeanwind/16239

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>139</sup> https://tass [dot] ru/armiya-i-opk/16410921 – Russian State Media Website

included electricity to run compressors to keep the pipeline flowing but hey, you be you.

The rouble improved slightly, with an exchange rate of 60 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices continued to decline, with WTI crude trading at \$77 a barrel and Brent at \$85. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market dropped slightly, trading at \$2.44 per gallon for November contracts (64 cents a liter). United States equity markets will be closed on November 24 for a federal holiday.

Dutch TTF Gas Futures for December 2022 declined to 123 euros per megawatt hour, and January 2023 contracts fell to 129 euros.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures bounced back after a one day dip to \$8.14 a bushel for March 2022 contracts.