

### Transatlantic Dialogue Center

### **Weekly briefing**

**January 23 - 29** 

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### 23.01 24.01

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> According to Estonian Ambassador to Ukraine Kaimo Kuusk, Estonia is handing over all available 155-mm howitzers to Ukraine, as part of the record package of military aid for Ukraine announced last week. The total volume of Estonian military aid to Ukraine has already exceeded 1% of Estonia's GDP.

- Polish Prime Minister Morawiecki said that even if Germany does not give permission to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. Poland would transfer the tanks within the framework of a 'small coalition'. He also said that they are constantly putting pressure on the government in Berlin to provide its tanks. "They have more than 350 active Leopards and about 200 in storage. They can really help Ukraine, which is struggling today. This struggle also means a struggle for security and peace in Europe," he added.
- > Hungary decided not to block the EU's decision to provide Ukraine with the seventh tranche of 500 million euros, intended for military aid from the European Peace Facility.
- > Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the Netherlands can buy out 18 Leopard 2 tanks that were leased from Germany and transfer them to Ukraine within the tank coalition.
- > Neutral Switzerland is planning to allow the re-export of its own weapons from third countries to Ukraine.
- > The German government has agreed to transfer a company of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and permitted re-export to other countries. In the first stage, Germany will provide Ukraine with 14 Leopard 2 tanks, which will arrive in three months. Training of the Ukrainian military will begin soon. Germany will also provide logistical support and ammunition.
- > The US Ministry of Defense is planning to increase the production of artillery ammunition by 500% within 2 years, producing 90,000 shells per month to meet the needs of Ukraine.
- > EU ambassadors agreed to extend all economic sanctions against Russia for six months. In December 2022, the EU Council finally approved the ninth package of sanctions against Russia for the war against Ukraine. The preparation of the 10th package is carrying on. It will most likely be approved before the one year anniversary of the full-scale war.
- The amount of heavy equipment European countries agreed to be provided:
  - Germany will give Ukraine 14 Leopards of the A6 model.
  - Poland is planning to transfer 14 Leopards.
  - The Netherlands will give about 18 Leopards.
  - Portugal is going to send 4 Leopards A6 models to Ukraine.
  - Spain is planning to transfer 53 Leopards.
  - Sweden may send Strv 122 tanks to Ukraine (the exact number was not named).
  - Norway is planning to transfer 8 tanks.
  - Finland has also expressed readiness to supply tanks but did not disclose the number.
  - > A total of about 111 tanks have been declared by January 25.
- > US President Biden confirmed the provision of 31 M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, which forms one tank battalion. The total cost of this aid package is \$400 million.









➤ The EU has prepared a new package of sanctions against Belarus due to its supporting a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. The proposed sanctions in many ways duplicate the restrictions that the European Union has already introduced against the Russian Federation, in particular, regarding the export of key technologies and the energy sector. Minister of Foreign Affairs Catherine Colonna informed that France has not made a decision on

the transfer of **Leclerc tanks** to Ukraine, but promises to help with air defense systems.

> According to Defense Minister Anita Anand, Canada will hand over four Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and send Canadian military personnel to train Ukrainian crews.

According to the Slovakian Ministry of Defense, the country will transfer 30 T-72 tanks to Ukraine

> The Baykar company handed 2 TB2 Bayraktars free of charge to help the Armed Forces of

and is ready to discuss the transfer of its MiG-29s.

Ukraine and the people of Ukraine to defend against the occupier.

The US Ministry of Finance has recognized Wagner PMC as a transnational criminal **organization** and introduced sanctions against it and its related organizations.

> Ukrainian Ambassador to France Vadym Omelchenko said that western countries in general have promised to provide Kyiv with 321 heavy tanks. He did not clarify which countries were meant. "Ukraine needs this help as soon as possible. Waiting till August or September would be too late."

> Germany handed over another batch of military aid to Ukraine. It includes missiles for the IRIS-T air defense system, 13 trucks, two 15-ton forklifts, 12 tractor-trailers and 4 semi-trailers, 12 border quard vehicles and 2 pickup trucks. The German government did not specify exactly how many missiles for IRIS-T will be sent to Ukraine.

National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications John Kirby said the delivery of the recently announced tranche of Abrams tanks to Ukraine will take 'many months' before they can be on the battlefield.

> According to Prime Minister Morawiecki, Poland is planning to transfer another 60 modernized Soviet tanks to Ukraine, including the PT-91 Twardy, in addition to the Leopard 2 company.

The Belgian government has approved the largest package of military aid for Ukraine in the amount of 92 million euros. These are anti-aircraft missiles, anti-tank weapons, machine guns, grenades, and ammunition.

> German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius spoke out against the provision of German fighter iets to Ukraine aimed to deter full-scale Russian aggression.

Italian Foreign Minister, Tajan, informed that Italy will not supply offensive weapons to Ukraine. "We are ready to supply defensive weapons, but we will never send offensive weapons. We are not at war with Russia, only defending the independence of Ukraine," he said.

Scholz opposed the transfer of fighter jets to Ukraine. Germany will not transfer modern fighter jets

in order not to 'raise the stakes'. In addition, Berlin wants to avoid a possible escalation between NATO and the Russian Federation. "Our only goal is to prevent Russia from moving the borders by force," Scholz said.

Estonian Prime Minister Kaya Kallas criticized the decision of the International Olympic Committee to allow citizens of Russia and Belarus to participate in the Olympic Games in 2024 under a neutral flag: "It's time to strengthen isolation, not give in to Russia.







23.01

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seen on satellite imagery just two months ago.



- ✓ Losing a large number of troops, Russia attempts further offensive operations towards Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Novopavlivka. However, the enemy stays on the defensive towards Kupiansk, Lyman, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson.
- ✓ Towards Volyn, Polissia, Siversk, and Sloboda, there are no changes and no offensive groups of the enemy identified. Certain units of the Russian 6th Motorized Rifle Division, 3rd Army Corps undergo training in Belarus. There remains a threat of enemy air and missile strikes across Ukraine.

<ul> <li>When the enemy's sabotage and reconnaissance group tried to land on one of the so-called Potemkin Islands on the Dnipro River, the Defense Forces hit a light motor civilian boat that the occupiers had appropriated and equipped for military purposes.</li> <li>Ukrainian intelligence believes that the spring and early summer will be decisive in the war. Vadym Skybytskyi, a representative of the Main Intelligence Agency of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, said in an interview with DELFI that "if Russia's big offensive planned for this time fails, it will be the collapse of Russia and Putin". According to him, the change of the Russian military leadership, the end of the first stage of mobilization, and the regrouping of the Russian army indicate that the main activity of the Russians will unfold in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. This is also confirmed by the battles for Bakhmut and Soledar. "When spring and the beginning of summer are over, perhaps we can start talking about the end of the war."</li> <li>The Norwegian national broadcaster NRK reported, citing a representative of the police immigration department, that the Norwegian police detained the former commander of the PMC Wagner Group Andrey Medvedev, who recently fled to the Scandinavian country and asked for political asylum. Medvedev, who fled Russia by crossing the Russian-Norwegian border in the Arctic, said he feared for his life after witnessing the killings and abuse of Russian convicts brought to fight in Ukraine.</li> <li>On January 20-21, the enemy conducted offensive operations towards Zaporizhzhia near Mali Shcherbaky but encountered units of the Defense Forces. As a result, 16 occupiers were killed and more than 35 injured. 1 tank, 6 units of IFVs, and a Tiger armored vehicle were destroyed, and another 4 units were damaged.</li> </ul>
On the night of January 24, a special unit of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense, with the support of the Armed Forces, carried out a raid in the area of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson oblast. Despite the dense mining of the coastline and the installed fortifications, the unit crossed the river and landed on the opposite bank. Entering into battle with the Russians, the Ukrainian military destroyed a building of the enemy's command post with a grenade launcher. The occupiers decided that Ukrainian fighters were trying to break through the defense line, and pulled up combat reserves, in particular, aviation and armored vehicles. This allowed intelligence to obtain comprehensive data on the number, composition and location of enemy reserves. During the battle, the enemy suffered significant losses. Ukrainian fighters destroyed at least 12 occupiers, an 82A armored personnel carrier and captured a prisoner. Having completed the task, the group returned to the right bank of the Dnipro.
According to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Russia is preparing for a new wave of aggression with the forces mobilized. Now, the occupiers are already increasing the pressure towards Bakhmut, Vuhledar, and other areas. The military situation is escalating. In order not to recognize the fallacy of aggression, the Russian masters want to throw more of their people and equipment into combat.  The Ukrainian command withdrew Ukrainian troops from Soledar. According to Speaker of the Eastern Group of Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Serhii Cherevatyi, it was done to save the lives of the personnel. The Defense Forces retreated from Soledar, they entrenched themselves on pre-prepared defense lines. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation reported about the 'capture' of Soledar on January 13. On January 19, American intelligence gave an assessment of the fighting near Soledar, according to which the Russians, despite their claims, did not have full control over the settlement.
➤ Vadym Skybytskyi, a representative of the Main Intelligence Agency of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, stated this during the national telethon. According to him, on the territory of Belarus, the ground component consists of 5,800 Russian military personnel. The second mechanized division moved to Russia and entered the territory of Ukraine in Luhansk oblast. Currently, units of the sixth division and units of the territorial troops are entering there for training."

> Over the past 2 months, the death toll of Wagner mercenaries has increased by 7 times. According to the New York Times, a satellite image captured on January 24 shows about 170 burial plots in an area of the cemetery known to hold Wagner fighters, a number that has increased to nearly seven times that

Losses of the Russian army from 23.01.2023 to 29.01.2023	
Liquidated personnel	5400
Tanks	52
IFVs	98
Artillery systems / MLRS	51/8
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	1
Aircraft / helicopters	6/7
UAVs	55
Ships/boats	1
Vehicles & fuel tanks	105
Special equipment	6



## 27.01

28.01

- > According to Ukraine's Deputy Defence Minister, Hanna Maliar, the Russians are increasing the pressure towards Bakhmut and Vuhledar. Heavy fighting is going on. The enemy is throwing a significant number of personnel, weapons and military equipment into the battle, trying to break through the Ukrainian defenses, suffering significant losses, but does not give up its plans. The intensity of the fighting is increasing."
- > The Russian Federation launched a massive missile strike on the territory of Ukraine. The enemy fired 55 air and sea-based missiles (Kh-101, Kh-555, Kh-47 "Kinzhal", "Kalibr", Kh-59) by Tu-95, Su-35 and MiG-31K aircraft as well as ships from the Black Sea water area. 47 cruise missiles were shot down by the Air Defense of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, 20 of them in the area of the capital. Besides, three out of four Kh-59 guided air-to-surface missiles did hit their targets.
- > According to Natalia Humeniuk, Head of the United Coordinating Press Center of Security and Defense Forces of the South of Ukraine, Russia launched Shahed kamikaze drones ahead of the massive missile attack to wear down Ukraine's air defenses.
- > The Armed Forces of Ukraine have resumed a counteroffensive near Kreminna, and are also repelling Russian attacks near Bakhmut. Active fighting continues in Donetsk oblast. The Russians could not capture Vuhledar.
- > British intelligence reports that Russians are lying about successes near Vuhledar and Orikhiv. According to the British intelligence daily report, Russian units are likely to have carried out localized test attacks near Orikhiv and Vuhledar but it is unlikely that Russia has actually made any significant progress. It is noted that over the past six days, Russian Internet commentators have claimed that Russian troops have achieved significant success, breaking through Ukrainian defenses in two areas: in Zaporizhzhia oblast near Orikhiv and 100 km to the east, in Donetsk oblast, near Vuhledar. At the same time, the Russian army somewhat increased its presence in Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- > Russia has serious problems with platoon or company level commanders. The frontline units of the occupying forces are missing approximately 40 percent of their junior commanders. This was reported by Andrii Cherniak, a representative of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. According to him, the shortage is observed in particular in enemy units fighting in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. According to him, the Russian Federation will continue offensive actions, because it has not achieved its main goal - the full occupation of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- > The Russians continue to suffer losses. So, in particular, up to 50 wounded occupiers were brought to the city hospital of Tokmak settlement of Zaporizhzhia oblast in recent days. Most of them, after receiving formal help, are sent back to the front line.
- > During the current day, the aviation of the Defense Forces made 4 strikes on buildups of the occupiers, and the units of rocket forces and artillery hit 2 control points, 2 air defense positions and 3 buildups of the enemy's manpower.
- > As reported by Yurii Ihnat, Spokesperson for the Air Force Command of Ukraine's Armed Forces in a comment to El Pais, Ukraine expects to receive the first batch of 24 fighters from international allies, or 2 battalions of 12 aircraft. The priority is the American F-16, although there may be both the French Rafale and the Swedish Gripen. However, it takes at least six months to train pilots and ground crews.

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# Week

✓ During the week, the Russians launched 107 missile and 193 air strikes, and fired more than 591 MLRS attacks.

### Attack on January 26

On the morning of January 26, Russia launched another barrage of missile attacks on Ukraine. The night before, a number of regions were attacked by Shahed kamikaze drones. All 24 drones used in the attack were shot down by air defense. Most of the kamikaze drones were destroyed in the center of the country. In particular, 15 enemy drones were destroyed in Kyiv's airspace. In Kyiv oblast, 5 residential buildings and 7 other facilities and structures were damaged. More than 40 vehicles were mutilated. The enemy launched 55 air- and sea-based missiles (Kh-101, Kh-555, Kh-47 "Kinzhal", "Kalibr", X-59) from Tu-95, Su-35, MiG-31K aircraft and ships from the Black Sea. The air defense forces destroyed 47 cruise missiles, 20 of them in the capital. In addition, three out of four Kh-59 guided missiles failed to reach their targets. 1 person was killed and 11 wounded after the occupiers' attack at night and in the morning. Enemy drones and missiles targeted 11 oblasts. 35 buildings were damaged.

About 20 missiles of various types were recorded in Kyiv's airspace during the attack, and all air targets were destroyed by air defense. In the Holosiivskyi district, a 55-year-old man was killed and two people injured when a rocket debris fell in a non-residential building. In Kyiv oblast, police found rocket fragments in several districts. Civilian infrastructure facilities, private and multi-storey buildings, and cars were damaged in some areas of the oblast. A power facility was also hit.

- > Enemy missiles were recorded in Vinnytsia oblast.
- > In Odesa oblast, two energy infrastructure facilities were damaged as a result of shelling. Air defense systems shot down three Kalibr missiles over the oblast.

### Sumy oblast

Russians continue to shell the border of the oblast with cannon artillery and mortars. The enemy fired at Znob-Novhorod, Shalyhyne, Bilopillia, Miropillia, Krasnopillia, Velykopysarivka and Novoslobidka communities. The village headman's house, the village club, a two-story shop and a power line were damaged. An apartment building in the town of Vorozhba was badly damaged, namely a gas pipeline, power lines, railroad facilities and tracks. In Kucherivka village, a young woman, a mother of two children, was killed by shelling; three other locals were wounded. In the evening of January 24, Russians fired lighting shells at the town of Seredyno-Buda and damaged a residential building. No one was injured.

### **Dnipropetrovsk oblast**

Russians continue shelling the Nikopol region. More than 20 enemy shells hit the communities of Myrove and Marhanets. A shop, a bakery, a beauty salon were damaged, as well as a dozen residential buildings and outbuildings, gas pipelines, and power lines. Also on January 25, an industrial enterprise in the city of Dnipro was hit. There were no casualties.

### Chernihiv oblast

On January 24, about 50 explosions were recorded in the border communities of Novhorod-Siverskyi, Snivsa and Semenivka. No people were injured.

### Mykolaiv oblast

The enemy launched mortar, artillery and MLRS attacks on the waters of the Ochakiv and Kutsurub communities. There were no casualties.

### Kherson and Kherson oblast

During the week, the occupiers shelled the territory of the oblast more than 120 times using artillery, MLRS, mortars, tanks, aircraft and missiles - 5 people were killed and 21 wounded. In Kherson, enemy shells hit a shipyard, residential buildings, medical facilities, including a maternity hospital, and one of the city's schools, where an Invincibility Centre was set up. Fortunately, there was no one there when it was hit. On January 25, Russians shelled Beryslav, resulting in two deaths and three injuries, and hit a grocery store when there were people inside. Also on January 24, Russians hit the Turkish-flagged Tuzla ship in the seaport of Kherson. After the attack, a fire broke out on the captain's bridge. There was no crew on board. Another Turkish ship, Ferahnaz, which was next to Tuzla, sustained minor damage.

### Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

The enemy continues terrorizing Zaporizhzhia oblast. Zaporizhzhia, Polohivsk, Orikhiv, Huliaipole and Vasylivka regions are under fire. Residential buildings were destroyed and infrastructure facilities were damaged. On the afternoon of January 25, Russians attacked Zaporizhzhia, striking a residential building. A disabled 34-year-old local resident died under the rubble. On the night of January 26, the occupiers launched 2 missile strikes (previously with S-300 missiles) on the Pavlivka community of the Zaporizhzhia region. One of the energy infrastructure facilities was damaged. There were 3 killed and 7 wounded. In the afternoon, during a large-scale attack, the facility was shelled again while a search and rescue operation was underway. On the night of January 28, Russians attacked several infrastructure facilities in Zaporizhzhia - 1 person was injured.

### Kharkiv oblast

The enemy shelled the settlements of Kupiansk (2 killed), Kharkiv (1 wounded), Bohodukhiv and Chuhuiv (1 wounded) regions. In Kupiansk, a shell hit the yard of a residential building, and in Vovchansk, the occupiers also hit a private house - 1 person was wounded. A 67-year-old woman was killed in the village of Petrivka. In the Chuhuiv region, residential buildings, civilian industry and infrastructure facilities were damaged as a result of shelling. A man was wounded and hospitalized in moderate condition. The shelling in Vovchansk damaged a sports and recreation center. In Kupiansk-Vuzlovyi, two private households, outbuildings and a gas pipeline were damaged by enemy shelling. Private houses in Dvorichna were also destroyed.

### **Donetsk oblast**

The enemy continues to strike along the entire front line. Towards Volnovakha, Vuhledar, the outskirts of Novoukrainka, Prechystivka, Bohoiavlenka, Rozlyv and Bohatyr came under fire. Private houses were damaged. Towards Donetsk, the enemy actively fired from Grad and Smerch artillery with cluster munitions at Avdiivka, Kurakhove, Marinka and Ocheretyne communities, Dachne. Residential buildings, a garden cooperative and garages were damaged. Towards Horlivka, Bakhmut, Soledar, Paraskoviivka, Rozdolivka, Fedorivka, Vasiukivka of the Soledar community; Chasiv Yar, Kostiantynivka, Nykyforivka and Ivanopillia of the Kostiantynivka community are the most affected. The city council, the Palace of Culture, the Center for Social Services, a boiler house, residential and apartment buildings, and civilian infrastructure were damaged. Towards Lysychansk, Siversk, Torske and Zarichne of the Lyman community are under constant shelling. There are casualties in all areas.

The Russians also launched missile attacks on Kramatorsk, hitting an industrial area, a psychiatric hospital (about two dozen people were there, no one was injured) and a private house, a school in Iverske of the Novodonetsk community. In Sloviansk, some buildings were damaged and in Pokrovsk - an enterprise.



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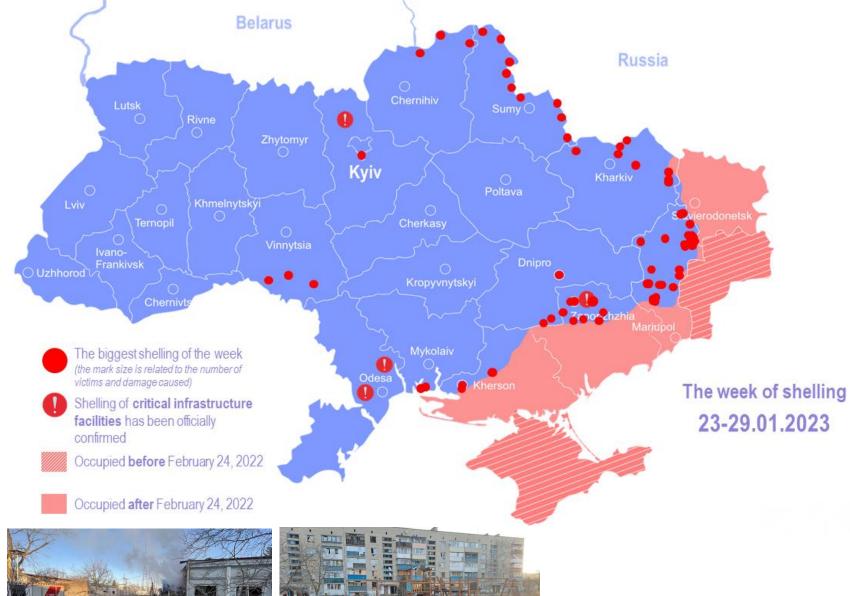
### Consequences of Jan 26 massive missile attack





Zaporizhzhia attacked with S-300 missiles









24.01

25.01



> The Russian government has ordered the creation of **24 penal colonies in the occupied regions of Ukraine**. The largest number is in the occupied Donetsk oblast.

➤ As of December 2022, **direct damage to Ukraine's infrastructure** due to the full-scale war unleashed by Russia amounts to \$137.8 billion.

➤ The first case of infection with a **new strain of Omicron** is recorded in Ukraine. This is a variant of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron XBB.1.5, or "Kraken". The new strain was contracted by a person from Sumy oblast who had not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

> Russians **suspend social payments** in the occupied settlements of Zaporizhzhia oblast. The Russians explain this by the lack of rubles and promise to rectify the situation, but do not provide a timeframe.

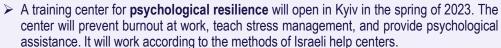
➤ The Ministry of Health informs that a **rehabilitation center** is being launched in Rivne oblast with the support of the WHO and the UK government. The center is intended **for patients with spinal cord injuries**. It will be launched at the Rivne Regional Hospital for War Veterans with an increased number of beds and new medical equipment for robotic rehabilitation installed. These are systems for **restoring walking skills** and developing lower and upper limbs.

➤ Due to the Russian missile attack, as of the evening of January 26, the most difficult situation with **electricity** is in Odesa, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Kyiv, Sumy, and Poltava oblasts - 6 out of 24 oblasts.

➤ In January, the average number of ships leaving Ukrainian ports was 2.7, meaning that it was 2-3 ships per day, one of the lowest figures for all the months of the **grain initiative**. This is due to the **artificial blocking of the grain corridor by Russian inspectors**.

➤ The National Bank has improved its **forecasts for inflation** in Ukraine in 2023 from 21% to 18.7%.

> The Dnipro City Council approved one million hryvnias in compensation to city residents who lost their homes as a result of Russian shelling.



As a reminder, according to the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, at least 60% of Ukrainians needed psychological assistance as of the summer of 2022. Ukrainians who live farther away from the fighting are more **anxious**. In times of war, people most often seek psychotherapy for the following reasons: **guilt, survivor's syndrome, witness trauma, and fear and anxiety**. They often complain of physical exhaustion, and problems with sleep, breathing, and concentration.

Diplomatic missions of Ukraine located abroad will now be able to use the State Register of Civil Status Acts. This will greatly simplify the process of **obtaining documents for Ukrainians** who are forced to flee the war in other countries.

> The IAEA reports strong explosions near the **Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant**. Foreign experts attribute them to the activities of the occupiers near the nuclear power plant.

➤ On February 2, the enemy set up a commission at the nuclear power plant in Enerhodar to inspect two 750-kilowatt power lines to plan restoration work and supply power for the transit of electricity from the Zaporizhzhia NPP to Russia.

➤ In the temporarily occupied resort village of Zaliznyi Port, Skadovsk region, Kherson oblast, the Russian so-called 'administration' conducts a census and **confiscates Ukrainian businesses** (boarding houses, cafes, restaurants) that have not been reregistered under Russian law.

➤ According to the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, as of January 28, 459 children have been killed and 917 wounded as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. In addition, 66743 war crimes and crimes of aggression have been registered (they include violations of the laws and customs of war; planning, preparation, and unleashing of war of aggression; war propaganda, etc.)











