



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

March 13 – 19

Subscribe to our exclusive papers [here](#)

International support	2
Military positions	3
This week shelling and strikes	4
Humanitarian crisis	6

International support

13.03

- The Ukrainian crews are completing their intensive **training in the use of Leopard 2 tanks in Germany**. Another 10 Ukrainian crews are in the final stage of training in **Spain**. Already this month, Ukrainian soldiers are scheduled to return to Ukraine together with the armored vehicles provided by the allies.
- According to a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), in 2022 **Ukraine** became the **third largest arms importer** in the world (after Qatar and India) thanks to the military aid of the United States and European countries after the invasion of the Russian Federation.
- Rade Basta, **Serbia's Minister of Economy** advocated sanctions against Russia. He said that "Our country is already paying a heavy price for not imposing sanctions on Russia... I am in favor of imposing sanctions on Russia."
- Chinese leader **Xi Jinping** plans to speak with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyi for the first time since the start of the Ukraine war — likely after a trip to Moscow next week. According to the WSJ publication, the conversation may take place in the format of a video conference.
- According to Peter Stano, Spokesperson for the External Affairs of the European Commission, **the EU does not see Russia's readiness for any peace negotiations** in the war against Ukraine, and without this, any ideas of mediation in such negotiations cannot be implemented.

14.03

- **The Prime Minister** and the Head of the Foreign Ministry of **Iceland** arrived on a **visit to Ukraine**. In the morning, both representatives of Iceland visited Bucha and Borodianka, after which they met with Volodymyr Zelenskyi. After the trip, further support for Ukraine was discussed. As a result of the meeting, the President of Ukraine and the Prime Minister of Iceland signed a Joint Statement.
- Kajsa Ollongren, **Dutch Defence Minister** announced during her visit to Odesa that in 2025 the Netherlands would provide Ukraine with **two mine-searching ships**. In the second half of 2023, the Netherlands will begin training the Ukrainian military to use these ships. In addition, Ollongren announced sending Ukraine an amphibious military vehicle to create a **temporary crossing**, as well as a **radar system** for detecting drones.
- According to Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, the number of countries participating in the **Core Group on the Special Tribunal** for the Russian crime of aggression has increased to **32**.

15.03

- Denmark agreed to create a **\$1 billion fund** for civil, military, and economic **aid to Ukraine**. Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen states that "Ukrainians are **fighting** not only for their own freedom but also **for the security of the whole of Europe**. With the Ukrainian Fund, we are taking Danish support to Ukraine to a new level."
- The Prime Minister of **Latvia**, Kristianis Karinsh, believes that after the end of hostilities, Ukraine should become a **member of NATO** in order to prevent a new war. He noted that while hostilities continue, no one within NATO would seriously consider incorporating Ukraine, since that would immediately bring all of NATO into the war that Russia is waging in Ukraine.
- **9 countries** have promised to provide Ukraine with more than **150 Leopard tanks** - the Head of the Pentagon Lloyd Austin before the tenth **meeting** in the **Rammstein format**. He emphasized that "the coalition of countries that are donating Leopard tanks to Ukraine continues to grow." However, he did not specify which country he was talking about. According to the results of "Ramstein":
 - The **Swedish government** has decided to send 10 Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine in preparation for the upcoming counteroffensive.
 - **Canada** will provide Ukraine with about 8,000 155 mm caliber shells from its arsenal, as well as 12 anti-aircraft missiles for air defense systems.
 - **Spanish** Defense Minister Margarita Robles confirmed that Ukraine will receive four more Leopard 2 tanks in addition to the six ones that were pledged to send earlier.

15.03

- The **Danish Ministry of Defense** announced the allocation of the **ninth package of military aid** for EUR 130 million with military equipment "specifically requested by Ukraine". The aid package includes, among other things, ammunition for small arms, heavy machine guns, anti-tank mines, and missiles for air defense systems.

16.03

- **Latvian Prime Minister** Krišjānis Kariņš **arrived in Kyiv**. "Visiting Kyiv to reiterate Latvia's unwavering support for Ukraine as long as it takes. Ukrainian victory is crucial for a free Europe", - he wrote.
- The **Swedish** government decided to transfer **8 Archer howitzers** to Ukraine – Minister of Defense Paul Jonson. According to him, Archer self-propelled guns "will allow Ukrainians to defeat Russian artillery systems"
- **Germany** has handed over another **package of military assistance** to Ukraine. The next package included: 5,000 artillery 155 mm shells; 55 mm high-precision ammunition; 500 SFP9 pistols; rockets for MARS II multiple-launch fire systems and others.
- President Andrzej Duda says **Poland** will give Ukraine **four MiG-29 fighter jets** in the coming days. This was announced by him during a press conference in Warsaw. "We will hand over 4 planes in the coming days. And during the year we will gradually hand over the rest," said Duda.
- **The United States** still does **not plan to send American F-16** aircraft to Ukraine, despite Poland's decision to provide fighter jets - the spokesman of the US National Security Council, John Kirby.
- Sébastien Lecornu, the French Minister of Defense, announced the arrival of the first batch of **French AMX-10 RC wheeled tanks** in Ukraine. According to him some of them have already gone to the front line.
- Prominent European politicians, scholars, and cultural figures have sent a joint appeal to the heads of state and government of the 27 EU countries calling for the start of negotiations on **Ukraine's accession to the EU in June 2023**
- Syrian dictator **Bashar Assad**, after negotiations in the Kremlin, declares that he recognizes the territories of Ukraine seized by Russia as "Russian ones".

17.03

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an **arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin** in connection with the situation in Ukraine. All 123 member states of the ICC are now legally bound to detain and bring Putin to court if he comes to their territory. The ICC also issued a warrant for the arrest of **Maria Lvova-Belova**, who is the representative of the President of the Russian Federation for children's affairs. Putin and Lvova-Belova are **suspected of committing a war crime** — the illegal deportation of children from the occupied regions of Ukraine to the Russian Federation.
- **Slovakia** joined the decision to **transfer fighter jets** to Ukraine. The country's government approved the transfer of 13 MiG-29 fighter jets.
- Several European Union countries will sign a pact to jointly procure 155 mm artillery shells on Monday to team up to buy artillery rounds for Ukraine. A senior EU official told Reuters that "the pact is the basis for the European Defense Agency and its member states to move forward... In fact, it is a technical task that is the legal basis for moving forward".
- **Irish Prime Minister** Leo Varadkar is convinced that "appeasing" Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not force him to stop the war against Ukraine. Varadkar emphasized that there will be no lasting peace "if it is not a just peace". According to him, this means that **Ukraine must preserve its independence, sovereignty, democratic European path**, and right to self-determination.
- **Belgium's Defence Ministry** is planning to hand over **240 military trucks** to the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The first Volvo Cargo, Volvo Shelter, Volvo Fassi, and Volvo Manumat vehicles are scheduled for delivery next week.
- A Ukrainian mural was opened in the center of Nairobi (Kenya). The name "Cultural Grains" is symbolic. It emphasizes cooperation and exchange between Ukraine and Africa.



Military positions

- ✓ The enemy's main goal remains to reach the administrative borders of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. To this end, the Russian army focuses its main efforts on operations towards Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Mariinka, and Shakhtarsk.
- ✓ Towards Kupiansk and Lyman, the enemy had repeatedly tried and failed to break through Ukrainian defenses.
- ✓ Towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, the enemy continues to defend itself, while intensively shelling settlements along the contact line.
- ✓ Towards Volyn, Polissia, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv, the operational situation did not change much. The Russian Federation continues to maintain its military presence in the Republic of Belarus but without obvious formation of offensive groups. The threat of missile strikes throughout Ukraine remains quite high.

13.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Russian troops continue to fortify the border areas of Bryansk and Kursk oblasts. ➤ Towards Kupiansk and Lyman, there were unsuccessful offensive actions of the Russian army against Hriannikovka, Masiutivka, Nevske, Serebriansky forestry, Bilohorivka and Verkhniokamiianka. ➤ According to the General Staff, the enemy continues to suffer losses. Thus, on the territory of the Bilovodsk regional hospital of the temporarily occupied territory of Luhansk oblast, 150 mercenaries of the Wagner PMC were brought for treatment. ➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine inflicted 10 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers. Units of rocket troops and artillery hit 5 buildups of enemy personnel and military equipment, 3 ammunition depots and 4 facilities of electronic warfare of the occupiers.
14.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Belgorod oblast, Russian forces are holding troops to carry out demonstrative actions in order to prevent the transfer of Ukrainian units to other areas. ➤ Ukrainian troops repulsed enemy attacks towards Bakhmut in Yahidne, Khromove, and Orikhovo-Vasylivka. ➤ President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy held a regular meeting of the Headquarters of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief. There were presented reports of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and commanders of operational-strategic groups of troops on the current situation at the front. "Having considered the course of the defense operation towards Bakhmut, all members of the Headquarters expressed a common position to further keep and protect the city of Bakhmut," the press center of the President's Office said. ➤ Ukroboronprom began to produce 125-mm shells for Soviet tanks T-64, T-72 and T-80, for the Ukrainian military to knock out the Russian occupiers. For the first time since independence, Ukraine has launched its own production of ammunition, which will soon be used on the battlefield.
15.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to Colonel Yuriy Ihnat, Spokesman of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, MiGs from partners will strengthen the Air Force, but this is not a very effective weapon against Russia. "This will strengthen our capabilities, because the aircraft perform a number of functions: patrolling the airspace of Ukraine and fighter cover. But the Soviet equipment in our service, namely those MiGs, is not an effective weapon against terror. Morally outdated MiG missiles, radars and radar onboard of the aircraft cannot be very effective," he explained. According to him, to defeat Russian troops, Ukraine needs fourth-generation multipurpose modern Western aircraft like the F-16. ➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine inflicted 16 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers. Also, a Russian Su-25 aircraft and 3 unmanned aerial vehicles of various types were shot down.
16.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the battles for Bakhmut, Russia has already suffered huge losses. This was announced by Senior Military Adviser to the British delegation to the OSCE Jan Stubbs during a meeting of the Forum on Security Cooperation in Vienna. "Russia is suffering extremely heavy losses. Since May last year, only in the area of Bakhmut, from 20 to 30 thousand people have been killed and wounded. The Wagner mercenaries and regular Russian military are suffering huge human losses with a total advance of about 25 kilometers," he said. ➤ Towards Kupiansk and Lyman, the enemy conducted unsuccessful offensive operations in the areas of Grianykivka, Kreminna, Kuzmine, Verkhniokamianske and Spirne. ➤ According to the General Staff, on the territory of the Oleshky regional hospital of the temporarily occupied territory of Kherson oblast, more than 20 severely injured occupiers were brought for treatment. The enemy continues to suffer losses.
17.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Military expert Oleksii Hetman said that the Russians were trying to surround Bakhmut from the north and south. They were hindered by the Bakhmutka River, near which fighting is now ongoing. "They haven't crossed that river yet. It is small — several tens of meters. But this has become an obstacle that they cannot overcome and so far we are defending there," said the military expert. ➤ Earlier, the Commander of the Land Forces, Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrskyi, noted that the situation around Bakhmut remains difficult. "Wagner assault units are advancing from several directions, trying to break through the defenses of our troops and advance to the central areas of the city," he said. Ukrainian defenders inflict significant losses on the enemy. The fire of artillery, tanks, and other fire means reflects all attempts by the Russians to seize the city. ➤ The General Staff notes an increase in the number of severely injured Russian military. Evacuation flights to the territory of Russia increased from two to three per week. ➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces inflicted 6 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers.
18.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Bakhmut, border guards destroyed the enemy's assault group, and also hit a warehouse of Russian ammunition. ➤ In just one day, the Aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine inflicted 6 strikes on enemy buildups of personnel, and units of rocket forces and artillery struck 2 buildups of enemy personnel and 1 position of its air defense system. ➤ Towards Avdiivka, Marinka, and Shakhtarsk, the enemy carried out unsuccessful offensive actions near Kamianka, Sieverne, Pervomaiske, and Marinka.

Losses of the Russian army from 13.03.2023 to 19.03.2023	
Liquidated personnel	5820
Tanks	66
IFVs	84
Artillery systems / MLRS	81/14
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	9
Aircraft / helicopters	1/1
UAVs	78
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	60
Special equipment	20

✓ During the week, the Russian forces conducted **43 missile and 185 air strikes** and fired more than **540 MLRS attacks**.

Attack on the night of 18 March

Russians attacked Ukrainian cities with drones. Air Defenses destroyed 11 of 16 Shahed-136s:

- Six drones were spotted in Lviv oblast. Air defense forces destroyed three of them, while three more hit non-residential buildings in the Yavoriv region. There were no casualties.
- Three drones were shot down over the Dnipropetrovsk oblast. Two more hit a critical infrastructure facility in Novomoskovsk. There is heavy damage there.
- Russians hit a residential complex in Zaporizhzhia with S-300 missiles. A restaurant located near the residential complex was destroyed. The blast wave smashed windows in 9 buildings.
- Air defense forces were on alert in Kyiv, Zhytomyr, and Khmelnytsky oblasts.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

On March 15, the Russians attacked the town of Marhanets. There were two killed and four wounded. The explosions damaged seven multi-story buildings and four private ones.

Odesa oblast

On March 14, Russian forces launched a missile attack on the Odesa oblast using tactical aircraft. Su-24 aircraft launched 4 anti-radar missiles, presumably X-31P, in the direction of the coast. The missiles were destroyed over the sea, but a kindergarten and several private houses were damaged by the debris and blast wave.

Donetsk oblast

Russians continue shelling both remote settlements of the oblast and the entire frontline. The enemy fired intensively at **Kostiantynivka**, shelling the town several times with Tornado-S and Urahan **cluster munitions**. 22 people were wounded, 1 killed; a school, a business, high-rise buildings, private houses, and civilian cars were damaged. A rocket attack on Kramatorsk killed one person and wounded at least three others. Russians hit the city center with a missile, damaging residential buildings.

On 18 March, the occupiers struck **Kramatorsk** with cluster munitions again - 2 killed and 10 wounded. 76 private houses, a multi-story building, 2 utility companies, a football arena, a part of the State Emergency Service, and Bernatsky Park were damaged.

Towards Donetsk, the following settlements came under air strikes and artillery fire with cluster munitions: Kurakhove, Lastochkyne, Krasnohorivka of Ocheretyn community, Avdiivka, Kurakhove and Marinka communities, Marinka, Kamianka, Sieverne, and Vodiane. Industrial enterprises, residential buildings, and a park were damaged.

Towards Horlivka, Bakhmut, Nykyforivka of Soledar community, Chasiv Yar and Toretsk communities, Toretsk, Ivanopillia, Fedorivka, and Vasiukivka came under fire. Multi-story buildings, private houses, and administrative buildings were damaged.

Towards Lysychansk, Torske and Zarichne of Lyman community, Siversk, Siversk community, and Serebryanka came under fire. Administrative buildings and residential houses were damaged. There are killed and wounded civilians in all directions.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

The occupiers attacked the oblast more than 400 times - 3 killed and 14 wounded. The enemy hit some enterprises, a medical facility, private and apartment buildings. On 12 March, a girl was injured during the shelling of a residential sector in Bilozirka.

Mykolaiv oblast

Russian forces continue mortar shelling of Ochakiv, Kutsurub and Ochakiv communities. Private houses and multi-storey buildings were damaged. A man and a woman were killed. Three people were wounded, including a 7-year-old child.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

During the week, the occupiers shelled Orikhiv, Huliaipole, Zaporizhzhia, Polohy and Vasylivka regions. Civilian infrastructure was damaged.

Sumy oblast

Russians continue to terrorize the oblast, firing mortars, artillery, and grenade launchers at Shalyhyne, Bilopillia, and Znob-Novhorodske communities. In Znob-Novhorodske, a vocational agrarian lyceum was damaged - 1 killed, and 4 wounded.

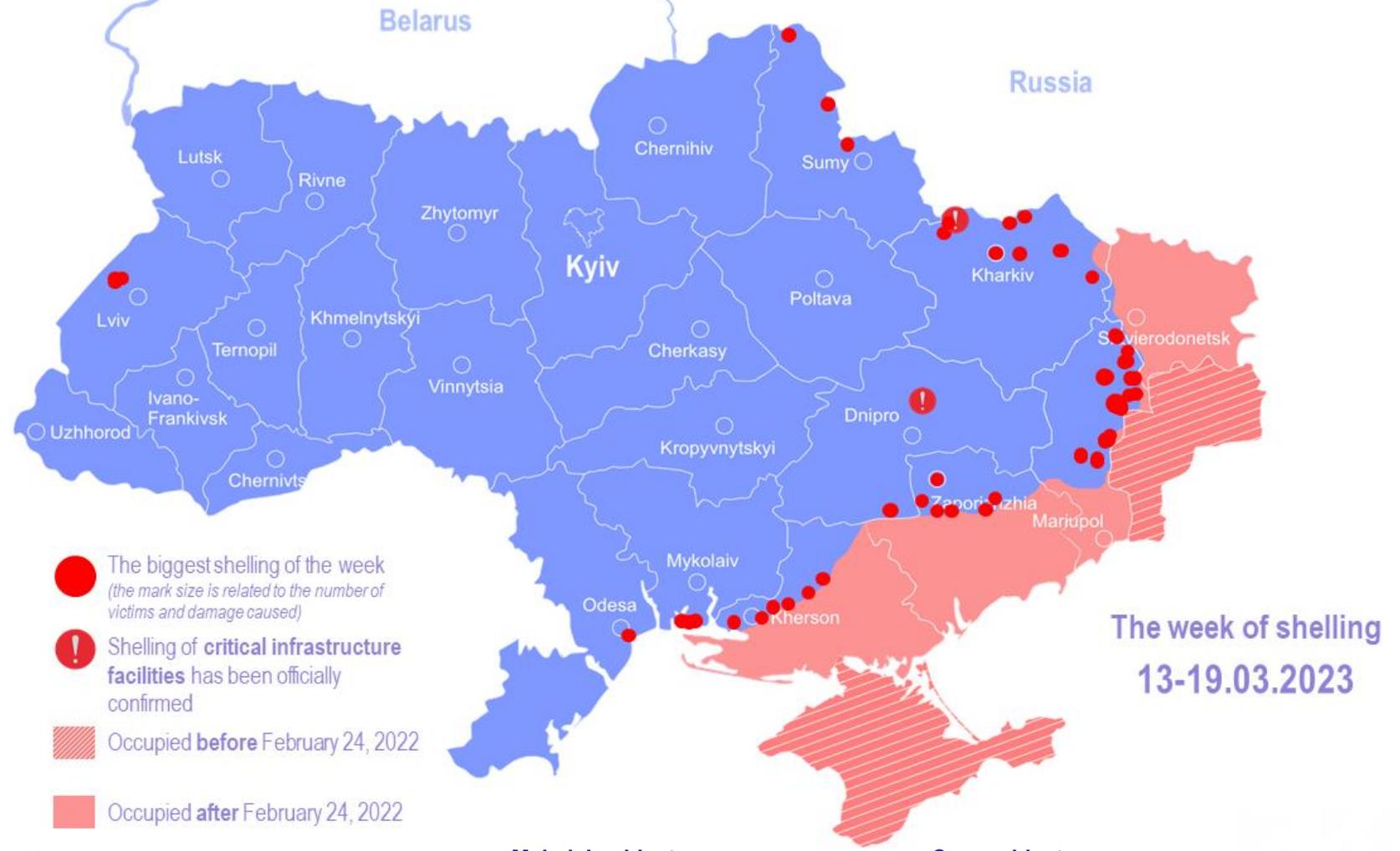
Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

The enemy continues to shell settlements of Kharkiv, Bohodukhiv, Chuhuiv, and Kupiyansk regions of the Kharkiv oblast. Private houses and outbuildings were damaged. On the morning of March 14, Russians shelled Vovchansk, killing a 55-year-old woman, by hitting her car. A fire and rescue unit came under fire.

On March 15, the enemy attacked residential buildings and urban infrastructure in Kharkiv. An educational institution was damaged in the city and windows in a residential high-rise building were smashed. In the village of Lemishchene, 7 private houses and infrastructure facilities were destroyed.

On 17 March, the occupiers launched two rocket attacks on the village of Velykyi Burluk in the Kupiansk region. One of the rockets hit the yard of a residential building. At least 20 neighboring houses were damaged. The second rocket hit the Velykyi Burluk regional police department, causing damage to neighboring residential buildings as well.

This week shelling and strikes



Donetsk oblast

Mykolaiv oblast

Sumy oblast



Humanitarian crisis



13.03

- According to The New York Times, the **International Criminal Court** intends to open the first **two war crime cases against Russia**, connected with child deportation and strikes on infrastructure. The first case concerns the widely known **abduction of Ukrainian children**, ranging from small children to teenagers. Within the Kremlin's program, they were deported from Ukraine and sent to families for adoption or to orphanages and summer camps for 're-education'. As for the second, the Chief Prosecutor is expected to review Russian regular missile **strikes on civil infrastructure** of Ukraine, including water and gas supply systems, and power plants, located far from hostilities and not considered as legitimate military targets.
- The press service of the Luhansk MRA informs that in **temporarily occupied Sievierodonetsk**, electrical equipment could not withstand the loads. "In winter, the occupiers quickly tried to restore the power supply. But they did it without any safety measures. As a result, overconsumption has left more than a **thousand residents without electricity** for days."
- In Kherson oblast, the Russian military fired at a brigade of **power engineers** who were going to the repair works in one of the villages of the Daryiv community. One worker was injured.
- In the village of Posad-Pokrovske, Kherson oblast, **Russian explosives blew up four bomb disposal experts and a civilian**. The local resident was killed and the experts were hospitalized in a moderate condition.

14.03

- Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, **the UN has officially recorded 21,965 victims among the civilian population** of Ukraine. 8,231 people were killed and 13,734 people were injured. Among the killed, there are 3,664 men, 2,173 women, and 463 children. The bodies of over 1,900 civilians are yet to be identified. The **UN emphasizes** that the real **number of victims is much higher**.
- According to the Kyiv RMA, in Kyiv oblast more than **11,000 destroyed objects** as a result of the war, have already been **restored**. Civilian infrastructure objects were first to be restored, including 9,700 multi-story and private residential buildings, more than 5,900 of which were completely rebuilt and almost 3,800 partially.
- Ukrainian **prosecutors** showed The Guardian journalists a diagram with photos and names of **600 Russian officials and army commanders responsible for war crimes**. They were placed on a board 4 m long and 1.5 m wide.
- Ukraine plans to intensify the **'Financial Ramstein'** format to identify sources of financing **for reconstruction projects**. Denys Shmyhal, Prime Minister of Ukraine, noted that according to preliminary estimates, Ukraine needs **USD 17 bln dollars** for this year alone.
- In the occupied **Mariupol**, the Russian forces introduced 'patriotic' instruction in schools. They force students to listen to the Russian national anthem and raise the Russian flag. The city council reports that each week in schools begins with the so-called 'patriotic instruction', but in reality - with the brainwashing of children. Also, in Mariupol, the authorities want to carry out a 'quiet' mobilization of students of higher educational institutions. They are sent a request to urgently register for the military.
- The Russians continue to plunder temporarily captured territories. According to the General Staff, in Enerhodar the occupying forces began to remove training equipment from the educational and training center of the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant.

15.03

- In Kyiv oblast, **199 bodies** of Ukrainians who were killed as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine have **still not been identified**. Also, **300 residents** of the oblast are **considered missing**.
- It is currently known that almost **1,300 objects of cultural infrastructure** have been damaged or completely destroyed in Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion.



15.03

- Kateryna Chuieva, Deputy Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, reported that the **Russian military took tens of thousands of cultural treasures** from Ukraine, but the exact number of such items will be known later. The Russians took away not only art objects, but also **documents**. According to Chuieva, returning of art objects, stolen by the occupiers, may take years. Historical heritage items, that were tried to be imported to the USA from Russia, have recently been returned to Ukraine. Among the items returned are Akinaki swords of the Scythian culture and a flint axe.
- The Ukrainian government has already paid UAH 63 mln (~\$1mln) for performing works within the framework of the **"Army of Recovery"** program. This project, which engages unemployed people in paid work to eliminate the consequences of emergency situations (debris removal, restoring damaged buildings, etc.), started in October 2022. As of today, 9.5 thousand unemployed people in 14 oblasts of Ukraine have been involved.
- According to the General Staff, the **Russians are intensifying regime measures in some settlements of the Kherson oblast**. The report says that "the Russian occupying forces usually move in civilian cars taken from local residents. On March 14, the occupiers' convoy with **looted property**, moving towards Crimea, was noticed". The General Staff also adds that in one of the settlements of Kherson oblast, the Russians are conducting counter-subversive measures accusing the village residents of murdering a Russian soldier whose body was found.

16.03 – 18.03

- In the so-called 'Luhansk People's Republic', the laws "On the administrative and territorial system" and "On the formation of city and municipal districts on the territory of the LPR" have been put into force. The Luhansk RMA informs that 11 city and 17 municipal districts were approved. There is no Popasna in any of the lists. This means that the **Russians themselves recognized that Popasna ceased to exist as a town**. Before the war, 22,211 people lived there, Popasna was the administrative center of the Popasna urban community of the Sievierodonetsk region of Luhansk oblast.
- In the temporarily captured **Melitopol**, Zaporizhzhia oblast, the occupiers **prohibited payments to local residents** who refused to obtain Russian passports.
- Oleksandr Prokudin, Head of the Kherson regional military administration, said that since the start of the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, more than **5,400 objects** have been damaged or destroyed, **including 3,700 residential buildings** due to the shelling in **Kherson oblast**.
- **Ukrainian Ombudsman** Dmytro Lubinets said that the shooting of Ukrainian POW Oleksandr Matsievskiy by the Russian military after the phrase "Glory to Ukraine" is **not an isolated case**. According to him, Ukraine has **evidence of other executions** of unarmed Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russian forces.
- **The UN** has recognized the **deportation of Ukrainian children to be a war crime** and a violation of international humanitarian law. The investigative commission found evidence of the illegal transfer of children to Russia. The report also says that Russia has committed other crimes in Ukraine: **torture, rape, murder, and attacks on hospitals and the Ukrainian energy system, which it called "crimes against humanity."** According to the Ukrainian government, more than 16,000 children were illegally deported.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan confirmed that the **"grain agreement"** for the export of agricultural products from Ukrainian ports has been **extended**. It will continue to function after March 19, when its term ends. Erdogan did not specify the extension period. Russia agreed to renew the deal for only 60 days. Instead, Oleksandr Kubrakov, Minister of Development of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure of Ukraine, said that the agreement was still extended for 120 days, and expressed his gratitude to the Turkish President and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

