



# Transatlantic Dialogue Center

## Weekly briefing

**March 20 – 26**

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20.03

- The EU agreed on a plan to **accelerate the supply of ammunition to Ukraine** by 2 billion euros. The initiative provides for the supply of 1 million artillery shells over the next 12 months. It is expected that the document will be adopted in the near future. Hungary's refusal to participate in a joint EU project is indicative.
- **Great Britain** has signed a historic **digital trade agreement with Ukraine**, which will support the country's economy and significantly strengthen UK-Ukraine trade and investment relations. From now on, Ukrainian businesses will be able to trade with Britain more efficiently and cheaply with the help of electronic transactions, electronic signatures, and electronic contracts.
- **The United States** announced a new **\$350 million package of military aid** to Ukraine. It will include ammunition for HIMARS, shells for Bradley, HARM missiles, anti-tank systems, and boats.

21.03

- **Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida** arrived with a visit to Ukraine. The head of the Japanese government visited Bucha and declared that he "feels great anger for the impunity for the killing of innocent civilians." As a result of the meeting with Volodymyr Zelenskyi, the Prime Minister of Japan promised to allocate \$30 million for **non-lethal military aid** for Ukraine and **\$470 million for the energy sector** and other industries.
- According to Deputy Minister of Defense of Great Britain Anabel Goldie, Ukraine will receive **shells with depleted uranium** intended for Challenger 2 tanks **from Great Britain**. "Alongside our granting of a squadron of Challenger 2 main battle tanks to Ukraine, we will be providing ammunition including armor-piercing rounds which contain depleted uranium", the official said. She noted that such rounds are highly effective in defeating modern tanks and armored vehicles.
- The head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that the **EU is transferring another tranche of 1.5 billion euros to Ukraine** as part of the macro-financial aid program.
- Ukraine and the **International Monetary Fund** agreed on a **new \$15.6 billion program** over four years. The agreement still needs to be approved by the IMF Board of Directors. The support program should contribute to long-term growth in the context of post-war reconstruction and Ukraine's path to EU membership.
- **The Pentagon** will accelerate the delivery of **Abrams tanks** to Ukraine. For this purpose, it was decided to send a repaired older tank model to Kyiv instead of the newer M1A2. Earlier, the US planned to send 31 M1A2 Abrams tanks to Ukraine in at least a year. Now, they plan to deliver 70-ton combat vehicles to the combat zone in eight to ten months.

22.03

- According to Eupinions survey, **65% of Europeans support Ukraine joining the EU** in the coming years. The most favorable attitude towards Ukraine's accession to the EU is in Poland and Spain. There 81% and 80% of the population, respectively, are in favor of it. In Germany, only 54% of respondents believe that Ukraine can become a member of the EU in the coming years
- **Spain** has announced that it will **join** the EU-approved initiative to purchase one million artillery shells for Ukraine during the year. Thus, Spain became the nineteenth country to participate in the project.



23.03

- The **Swedish** Parliament approved the government's proposal to transfer to Ukraine a new package of **military aid**, which includes Archer self-propelled guns and Leopard 2 tanks. According to the Parliament, the Swedish government can transfer military equipment and ammunition to Ukraine for a total amount of 6.2 billion kronor (**554 million euros**).
- **Finnish** Defense Minister Kaikkonen announced the transfer of three Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine as part of the **14th military aid package** approved by President Niinisto today.
- **The Gift for Putin** project in the Czech Republic has raised over 30 million crowns (over 1.2 million euros) for the purchase of RM-70 anti-aircraft missiles for Ukraine. The transfer is planned for the coming weeks. "The car we want to buy costs 17 million crowns. Our ambition is to send 365 more missiles to the front so that the weapons are completed", an initiator of the Gift for Putin said.
- **Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Maloni**, during her speech in the Senate on Wednesday, explained the **importance of further support to Ukraine** to Eliza Scutella, a deputy of the Five Star Movement party. In response to Eliza Scutelli's proposal to stop supporting Ukraine, the Italian Prime Minister emphasized: "If we stop, it will mean that we approve of the invasion of Ukraine!,"
- The Parliament of **Iceland** recognized the **Holodomor man-made famine** of 1932-1933 as **genocide** of the Ukrainian people.
- The head of Orbán's administration said that despite the Arrest Warrant for Putin issued by the International Criminal Court, **Hungary will not arrest the Russian president** if he enters the country.
- Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin and Secretary of the International Criminal Court Peter Lewis signed an **agreement** in The Hague **to open a representative office of the International Criminal Court** in Ukraine.
- According to the Ministry of Defense of the country, **Spain** will send the first **6 Leopard 2 tanks** to Ukraine by the end of next week.

24.03

- **Germany** provided Ukraine with a new package of **military aid**, which included three Dachs engineering vehicles, 70 MG3 machine guns, spare parts for Leopard 2 tanks and Marder infantry fighting vehicles, 30 drone detection systems, as well as 3 Dachs armored engineering vehicles.
- The Council of Europe removed Ukraine from the blacklist of countries that destroy the fight against corruption. The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) has welcomed **progress in preventing corruption** among members of parliament, judges, and prosecutors in Ukraine.
- **Poland** will continue to insist on **increasing the European Peace Fund**, which finances the supply of weapons to Ukraine, despite the opposition of several EU countries. In order to increase the budget of the European Peace Fund, Poland will have to convince several countries: France, Germany, Italy, and Greece, which do not support this idea.
- The Portuguese Ministry of Justice stated, **Portugal** will financially **support the investigation of Russian war crimes in Ukraine**. The country announced a **voluntary contribution of 75,000 euros** to support the international collection of forensic evidence on the territory of Ukraine.
- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US President Joe Biden assured Ukraine of their support and that their countries "will stand by Ukraine."

- ✓ The Russian army concentrates its major efforts on conducting offensive operations towards Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, and Mariinka.
- ✓ Towards Volyn, Polissia, Chernihiv, and Kharkiv, the operational situation remained without significant changes, and there were no signs of offensive groups formed. On the territory of the Republic of Belarus, combat training of units of the armed forces of the Russian Federation continues. Russian forces continue to maintain a military presence in border areas of Kursk and Belgorod oblasts.
- ✓ Towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, the Russian army is on the defensive. They continue to put pressure on the local population of the de-occupied right bank of Kherson oblast. Suffering losses on the left bank of the region, the invaders intensified their aircraft.
- ✓ The threat of missile and air strikes throughout Ukraine remains high.

20.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Over the past three weeks, Russian forces have been gradually advancing towards Avdiivka. According to British intelligence, the key territory of future fights will be the Avdiivka Coke and Chemical Plant. Tactically, the situation is similar to that in the city of Bakhmut, located in the north. Ukrainian forces continue to defend themselves in an organized manner, but their supply lines from the west are increasingly threatened with the round up.</li> </ul>
21.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Russia continues to conduct offensive operations in the direction of Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Mariinka, and Shakhtarsk. The fiercest battles continue for Bakhmut and Avdiivka directions. During the day, the enemy inflicted 4 missile and 24 air strikes, as well as carried out more than 30 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems.</li> <li>➤ Ukroboronprom State Defence Concern has established mass <b>production of an artillery 122-mm projectile</b> abroad and has already managed to ship the batch to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense reports. Ammunition was being developed in cooperation with an unnamed NATO country. This is a projectile used by Ukrainian artillery and designed for self-propelled installations and howitzers of Soviet production.</li> </ul>
22.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the day, the Russian army inflicted 41 air strikes. In particular, occupiers used 21 UAVs of the "Shahed-136" type from the Bryansk oblast of RF, 16 of them have been shot down.</li> <li>➤ The fiercest battles continue in southern and northern parts of Bakhmut, the enemy also conducted offensive actions in Avdiivka direction in order to establish control over Avdiivka and Mariinka.</li> <li>➤ Russia removes some of the oldest tanks T-54 and T-55 from storage and sends them to Ukraine. A railway train with these tanks was spotted in the west of the Russian Federation. This was reported by a group of investigators of the Conflict Intelligence Team. Analysts have also studied the satellite images from the city of Arsenyev, Primorsky Krai, where the 1295th Central Base for Reserve and Storage of Tanks is located and where T-54s were stored. From July to October, at least 191 tanks left the base, but the figure can be much higher.</li> </ul>
23.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ According to ISW, Russia is slowing down the pace of its offensive against Bakhmut, while it has intensified in the Avdiivka area. As a result of March 21 and 22, the Russians made little progress in the south of Bakhmut, while the Armed Forces of Ukraine conducted counterattacks on the southwestern and northwestern outskirts of the city. At this, analysts believe that the activation of Russian troops in new directions is unlikely to greatly affect the battlefield since in general the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine is approaching its punchline.</li> <li>➤ Yevgeny Prigozhyn, the head of the Wagner PMC, refuted the Kremlin's claims that Russia is at war with NATO in Ukraine, and also questioned the existence of "Nazis" in Ukraine, which the Russian authorities constantly talk about. Prigozhyn said Russia is at war "exclusively with Ukrainians" who are equipped with ammunition provided by NATO and some "Russophobic" mercenaries who voluntarily support Ukraine, but not with NATO itself, experts from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) claim.</li> <li>➤ "Putin is not stopping. The West should be ready for the long-lasting support of Ukraine". Such a claim was made by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in an interview for The Guardian. According to him, the West should be getting ready for the long-lasting conflict in Ukraine, this is the "war for exhaustion".</li> </ul>

Losses of the Russian army from 20.03.2023 to 26.03.2023	
Liquidated personnel	5640
Tanks	63
IFVs	94
Artillery systems / MLRS	63/25
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	9
Aircraft / helicopters	0/1
UAVs	57
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	78
Special equipment	20



24.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the Bakhmut direction, the Russian army does not abandon attempts to seize the city of Bakhmut, where constant positional battles continue.</li> <li>➤ During the day, the enemy inflicted 40 air and 5 missile strikes. He carried out more than 20 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems at the positions of our troops and civilian infrastructure of settlements. Civilians were killed.</li> <li>➤ About 10 Russian SU-35 fighters attacked targets in the Sumy region with guided aerial bombs on the night of September 24. This was stated on the air of a nationwide marathon at the Suspilne by the spokesman of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Colonel Yuriy Ignat.</li> <li>➤ Ukraine does not yet have enough equipment to launch the announced counteroffensive, Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an interview with the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri. <i>"We cannot start yet, and without tanks, artillery, and HIMARS, we cannot send brave soldiers to the front line,"</i> the President of Ukraine said.</li> <li>➤ On March 24, the bodies of 83 killed defenders of Ukraine were returned. The transfer took place in accordance with the norms of the Geneva Convention and in compliance with international humanitarian law.</li> </ul>
25.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the day, the enemy inflicted 1 missile and 23 air strikes, carried out more than 20 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems at the positions of Ukrainian troops and civilian infrastructure of settlements. Thanks to professional and coordinated actions, our defenders repulsed more than 50 enemy attacks in the Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka directions.</li> <li>➤ In Lyman's direction the enemy was conducting unsuccessful offensive actions during the day in the area of Synkivka, Kreminna, Bilohorivka and Vyimka settlements.</li> <li>➤ In Bakhmut direction the enemy continues the assault operations of the city of Bakhmut, which is being held by our defenders, as well as in the Predtechyno district, Donetsk oblast.</li> <li>➤ In the Avdiivka and Mariinka directions, the enemy conducted offensive operations in the direction of the settlements of Keramik, Tonenke, Pervomaiske, Mariinka of Donetsk oblast. Has not succeeded.</li> <li>➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces during the day inflicted 11 strikes on the areas of concentration of personnel and military equipment of the occupiers, and units of rocket troops and artillery hit 2 control points, 3 areas of concentration of enemy manpower, weapons, and military equipment.</li> </ul>
26.03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>"The tactics of missile strikes of the Russian Federation are now in a search state. They select what of the already applied can work because massive missile attacks are already a thing of the past, they don't have such potential anymore to launch 50-70-80 missiles at the time, - this is a very silly step, but it cannot be absolutely excluded",</i> - stated Natalia Gumeniuk, a spokeswoman for the Defense Forces of the South. At the same time, she noted that, obviously, "the Russian army will begin to use missile or „Shahed" point attacks against Ukraine.«</li> <li>➤ The Armed Forces of Ukraine managed to stabilize the situation in the Bakhmut direction, Serhiii Cherevatyi, spokesman for the Eastern Group of Forces, reports. "We see and control the actions of the enemy, we understand his intentions, we know our forces and means that we can count on, we know that we have enough of them to hold the front line." A day earlier, the Institute for the Study of War reported in its report that the Armed Forces of Ukraine carried out a successful counteroffensive on the northern outskirts of Bakhmut, Donetsk region, and took control of a part of the territory near the E40 route (Bakhmut - Sloviansk).</li> </ul>

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✓ During the week, Russians launched **41 missile and 245 air strikes** and fired more than **487 MLRS attacks**.

## Kharkiv oblast

During the week, settlements in the Kupiansk, Chuhuiv, Bohodukhiv, and Kharkiv regions of the oblast came under fire. A 51-year-old woman was injured, and now she is in serious condition. In Vovchansk, the villages of Oleksandriivka, Timofiivka and the urban settlement of Vilcha, private residential buildings were damaged. The church building was damaged in the village of Cherneshchyna. The infrastructure object was destroyed in the Chuhuiv region.

## Kherson and Kherson oblast

The occupiers shelled the oblast more than 300 times — 4 killed and 32 injured (including a child). Shells hit residential areas, damaging private and apartment buildings, the Kherson Regional Cardiology Center, the administrative building of Beryslav DSA, the local history museum, the editorial office of the newspaper Maiak, the territory of the central city park, and the area adjacent to the Holy Assumption Cathedral. On March 24, Russian forces hit the floodplains in Kherson. Two men managed to cross the river, one of them died from the shrapnel wound already on the shore, the other was hospitalized with injuries to his limbs and chest. The Russians also beat the village of Kizomys - one person was wounded and hospitalized. The ammunition hit a private house. On March 25, the occupiers fired at the humanitarian aid delivery point in Kherson. Two people were injured - a 41-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man. They were hospitalized.

## Odesa oblast

On March 21, Russian Su-35 fighters launched three Kh-59 missiles from the direction of the Black Sea. Two missiles were shot down. One hit a 3-story building of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate). 3 people received minor injuries; 1 victim was hospitalized. Some of the missiles were destroyed by air defense forces.

## Donetsk oblast

The Russians continue to shell both remote settlements and the whole front line of the oblast. Kramatorsk and the outskirts of the city were shelled, and houses, a boiler room, and garages were damaged. The Russians also launched a missile attack on Kostiantynivka, targeting the Center for Registration of Homeless Persons. At that time, there were 10 people there - 3 people killed, and 2 injured.

Towards Volnovakha, in Bohoiavlenka, Vuhledar community, the house was destroyed. Towards Donetsk, Kurakhove, Ocheretyn, and Marinka communities, Tonenka, Sieverne, Krasnohorivka, Novomykhailivka, Avdiivka, Lastochkine, Marinka, Maksimilianivka, Heorhiivka, Orlivka, Berdychi, Umansk, Novokalynovka, Netailovka, Kostiantynivka, Hirnyk were shelled. Power lines, the Avdiivka Coke Plant, private houses, multi-story buildings, a food processing enterprise, and a non-working hospital were damaged.

Towards Horlivka, Kostiantynivka, Bakhmut, Chasiv Yar, Toretsk and Soledar communities, Vasiukivka, Rozdolivka, Predtechine, Stinky, Minkivka, Chasiv Yar, Niu York, Orikhovo-Vasylivka came under fire. Multi-story buildings, private houses, kindergartens, gas and water pipelines, and utility buildings were damaged.

Towards Lysychansk, shelling was recorded in Siversk and Serebrianka of the Siversk community, as well as in Torske, Zarichne, Yampila, and Terny of the Lyman community. There are killed and wounded civilians in all directions.

## Sumy oblast

The Russian forces beat Seredyno-Buda, Velika Pysarivka, Bilopillia, Mykolaivka, and Nova Sloboda communities with mortars and barrel artillery. More than a hundred private houses were damaged. One person was killed, another one wounded. On the night of March 24, the Russians used 10 jet fighters, MLRS and barrel artillery to attack the Sumy oblast. As a result of the massive attack, 2 people were killed, and 9 more wounded. In the town of Bilopillia, an administrative building, a school, and a residential area were destroyed, a dormitory, multi-story and private houses were damaged. In Vorozhba, a residential building and an outbuilding were damaged, and 1 person injured. In the village of Vyry, a kindergarten, an administrative building and a school were destroyed. In the village of Richky, private houses, an administrative building and a gymnasium were destroyed.

## Zaporizhzhia oblast

Russian forces continue shelling of Orykhiv and Huliaipole, Zaporizhzhia, Polohy and Vasylivka regions of the Zaporizhzhia oblast. On March 22, two Russian missiles (probably fired from Tornado-S MLRS) targeted a residential multi-storey building in Zaporizhzhia. In total, 6 missiles were fired at Zaporizhzhia. 32 residents were injured, including 3 children. 1 person died in the hospital from injuries. The service technical station was damaged as well.

## Kyiv oblast

On the night of March 22, during a mass attack by Shahed kamikaze drones, the Russians fired at the dormitories, as well as the educational building of the vocational lyceum in Rzhyshev, Kyiv oblast. The 4th and 5th floors of two five-story dormitories and the three-story educational building were partially destroyed. There were 9 killed, including the ambulance driver who came to the call. 7 people were hospitalized, including an 11-year-old child.

## Other oblasts

In Zhytomyr oblast, on the night of March 22, an infrastructure object was damaged due to the drone attack.

In the Dnipropetrovsk oblast, the Russians shelled the Nikopol region. On the night of March 24, the Russian military attacked Kryvyi Rih with Shahed kamikaze drones: 1 was shot down by air defense forces. No casualties are reported.

In Mykolaiv oblast, during the week, Russian forces shelled the water area of the Ochakiv community. There were no casualties.

In Chernihiv oblast, on March 24, the Russian forces hit border areas of the oblast with mortars. In the village of Horodyshche, a local resident was killed and a private house burned down.

# This week shelling and strikes

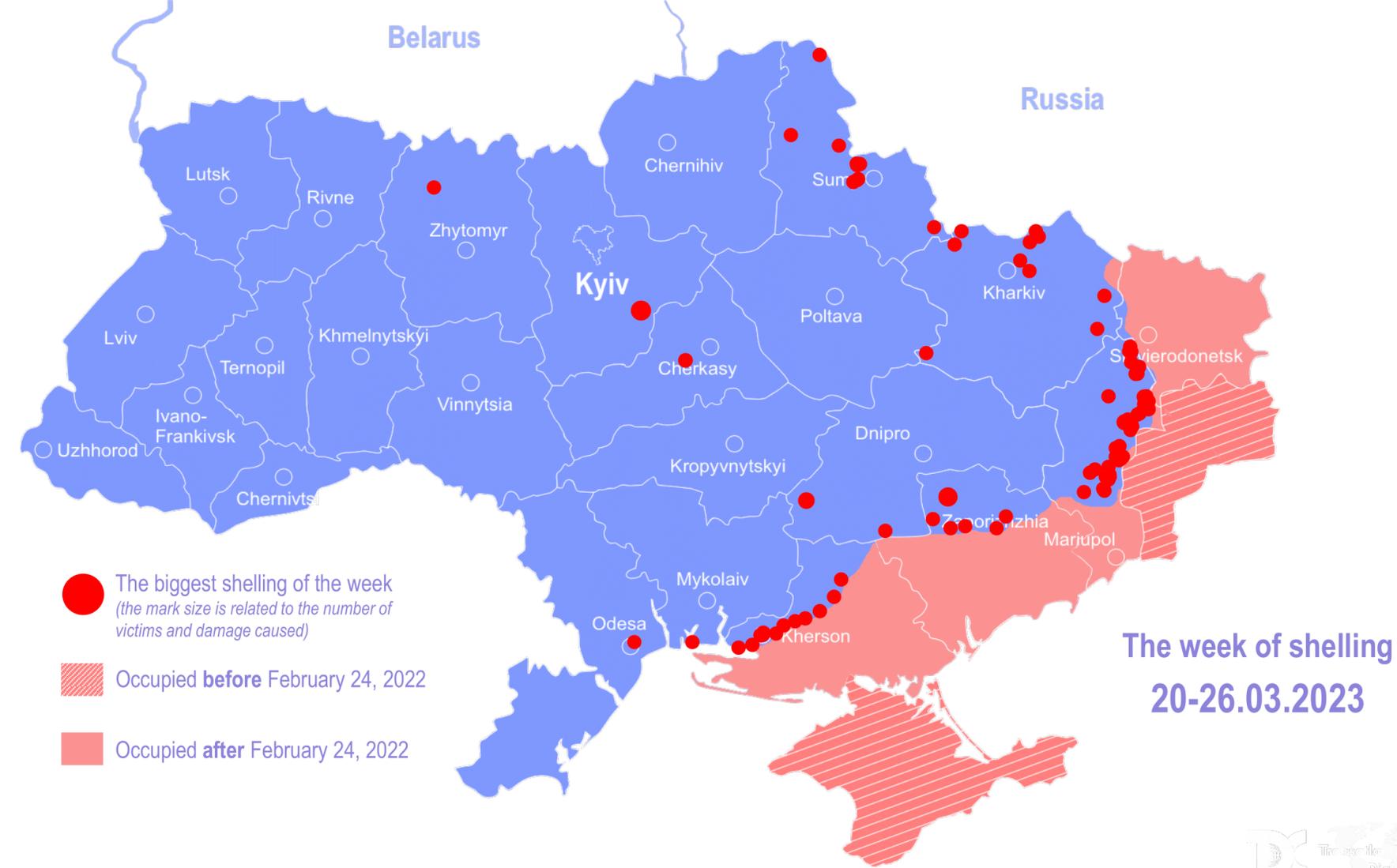
## Zaporizhzhia



## Kyiv oblast, Rzhyshev



## Donetsk region



# Humanitarian crisis

20.03

- Since February 2022, deminers of the Armed Forces have **discovered** and **defused** more than **45,000 ordnance**.
- Russian forces intend to **mobilize the entire male population** of the occupied Luhansk oblast for the war against Ukraine. As an incentive to do so, they have promised to hand over the expropriated housing of Ukrainian citizens to the new soldiers.
- According to a new study by the World Bank, the United Nations, and the European Union, it will take at least **\$411 billion to rebuild Ukraine** after the invasion started by Russia a year ago. This amount is a significant revision from the World Bank's previous estimate of \$349 billion, released last September. The largest revision considers the needs of the **energy sector**, whose losses are **five times higher** than they were in June 2022.

21.03

- The Ukrainian Ombudsman has announced that **15 more children**, their mothers, and legal representatives have been **returned to Ukraine** from Russia. To date, a total of 308 children abducted by Russians have been returned to Ukraine.
- Russia continues to practice **forced 'evacuations'** for the sake of propaganda stories and to justify the deportation of Ukrainians. In a recent incident, Russians forcibly transferred some residents of the occupied town of Oleshky in Kherson Oblast to Chaplynka, allegedly due to Ukrainian shelling. Meanwhile, according to the National Resistance Center, Russian soldiers have occupied the vacant homes of the locals.
- As Ukraine prepares for the upcoming sowing season, an **action plan** has been approved to **clear agricultural land of mines**. Preliminary estimates indicate that approximately 470,000 hectares of agricultural land across nine oblasts of Ukraine (Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, and Cherkasy) require inspection and, if necessary, demining.
- The Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine has reported that **residents of Avdiivka**, Donetsk oblast, are being **urged to evacuate** due to the daily shelling of residential areas.
- The National Resistance Center reports that Russian forces plan to spend **18.5 billion rubles** (~\$143.7 million) to create and operate **propaganda centers** for the *Movement of the First* in educational institutions **across** the temporarily occupied **Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts**. In 2023, they plan to open 200 branches of the Movement of the First, a Russian analog of the pioneer movement created for young people, which is voluntary in name only.

22.03

- On March 22, blogger Iryna Danylovykh began a **dry hunger strike** in the Russian-occupied Crimea "until her diagnosis and treatment are organized, or until her biological death." Danylovykh, a nurse and civil activist from Feodosiia, had been working on healthcare issues in Crimea and advocating for the rights of medical workers. In May 2022, she was sentenced to **seven years in prison on trumped-up charges** of 'possession of explosives'. After her imprisonment, she almost **lost her hearing**, experiencing constant headaches and coordination problems. She also suspects that she has suffered at least one micro-stroke in prison. The day before starting her hunger strike, she fainted while being transported to the Feodosiia Town Court. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is calling for **immediate hospitalization** of Danylovykh, stating that "her illness without urgent treatment can lead to death, as it has already happened to political prisoners Konstantin Shyring and Dzhemil Hafarov".
- Karim Khan, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, believes that **Russia is treating Ukrainian children as 'war booty'**. "And it seems that it is not just deportation to the Russian Federation, they are met by strangers who have suddenly become foster parents. But children are not property, not war booty," the prosecutor emphasized.

23-24.03

- According to President Volodymyr Zelenskyi, more than **50 villages** in the Ukrainian-controlled territory of **Kherson oblast** have been **almost completely destroyed** by the Russian Federation. In some areas, over 90% of the buildings have been destroyed.
- Ukraine has **unilaterally handed over to Russia all seriously wounded prisoners** captured since the beginning of the full-scale war who could be transported. The Coordination Headquarters for POW Treatment explained that this is not an exchange, but repatriation – the return of seriously wounded prisoners without any conditions, as provided for by international humanitarian law. Russia continues to hold captive Ukrainian citizens who should be returned through repatriation, including seriously ill and wounded, civilians, children, women, and the elderly.
- According to Ukrainian Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets, **Russia may start systematically returning Ukrainian children after the IRC warrant**. After the arrest warrant was issued, Ukraine received signals that may indicate the return of Ukrainian children on a regular basis.
- The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has approved the procedure for training and retraining the unemployed. The National Bank of Ukraine predicts that **unemployment will remain at 26% in 2023**, with a decline projected in 2025. According to a survey, 28% of military veterans are currently unemployed.
- Ukraine is preparing a **PACE resolution on the destruction of the cultural identity** of the Ukrainian people by Russia. The resolution will be based on the fact that Russia is conducting cultural genocide in the occupied territories, shelling cultural sites, and attempting to re-educate Ukrainian children using Russian curricula.
- According to Ruslan Strilets, Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, **about 5 million Ukrainians do not have access to drinking water** due to Russian aggression in Ukraine. Moreover, as a result of Russian shelling, 70% of residents may be deprived of this resource.
- Since February 24, 2022, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine has recorded 621 instances of Russian armed forces carrying out **enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions** of civilians. The mission has also documented the **deaths of over 8,000 civilians** and injuries to almost 14,000. Furthermore, it found that more than over 90% of civilian casualties resulted from missiles, explosive weapons, or mines.
- Ukraine returned home **seven children** from Kherson oblast who had been separated from their families for almost six months. In October 2022, the occupiers forcibly sent Ukrainian children to the temporarily occupied Yevpatoria, allegedly for 'rehabilitation' in a children's camp.
- The Wagner Group mercenaries have reportedly begun forcibly **deporting residents from the suburbs of Bakhmut**, located in Donetsk oblast, Ukraine. These locals are being taken to occupied areas in Luhansk oblast, where they are subject to **'filtration'**. Subsequently, they are being deported to remote areas in Russia such as Perm.
- Russians have taken control of the **Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve** of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine. This was reported by its employees on its Facebook page. The further preservation of the nature conservation and research institution of international importance (UNESCO Certificate of 15.02.1985) cannot be ensured by the Ukrainian administration and is under immediate threat. "We have done everything in our power and held out with dignity," the reserve's employees wrote.

