



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

May 8 – 14

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International support	2
Military positions	3
This week shelling and strikes	5
Humanitarian crisis	7

08-09.05

- The Minister of Defense of Poland Mariusz Blaszczak claimed that his country has already **transferred 10 MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine**.
- The President of the European Commission **Ursula von der Leyen came to visit Kyiv**. “Good to be in Kyiv again, where the values which are important to us, are being protected every day. So, this is a very proper place to **celebrate Europe Day** precisely here”, she noted.
- The European Parliament has voted to extend the **duty-free agricultural trade with Ukraine** for another year. This has been done to support the Ukrainian economy in war conditions.
- The USA has announced a **new military aid package** for Ukraine of **\$1.2 billion**. It will include additional air defense systems, missiles, and radars to them, equipment for integrating Western air defense launchers in the Ukrainian system, as well as 155 mm shells. The aid is being provided as part of the USAID program.
- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has stated, that **all NATO allies agree on Ukraine’s joining**, but the question of when will it happen remains open. According to Stoltenberg, now the organization is helping the Armed Forces of Ukraine to become **compatible with NATO forces**, to reform and modernize the institutions of defense and security, etc.

10.05

- **The Czech Republic** is ready to transfer to Ukraine two **anti-aircraft missile systems "Cube"** and ammunition for them. These air defense systems are designed to destroy aircraft and missiles at low altitudes. Czech President Petr Pavel also promised to consider transferring **L-159 light attack aircraft** to Ukraine. The Czech Republic recently completed the modernization of all 16 of these aircraft.
- For the first time **the USA** has given permission to **transfer the confiscated Russian assets to Ukraine**. They belong to oligarch Konstantin Malofeev who, according to American Ministry of Justice data, was financing separatists in Crimea. “While it is the first transfer by the USA of confiscated Russian money for the restoration of Ukraine – **it won’t be the last one**”, - prosecutor general Merrick Garland claimed.
- Great Britain is transferring several **long-range Storm Shadow cruise missiles** with an action range of up to 300 km, stated the Head of the British Defense Ministry Ben Wallace. The Ukrainian party promised to use Storm Shadow only on its territory. Politico, referring to the sources, writes that the USA doesn’t plan to provide Ukraine with long-range missiles because this will be done by Great Britain.

11.05

- The Polish mission to the European Union said that the West has already transferred **575 tanks** to Ukraine. 325 of them were provided by Poland. This is followed by the Netherlands (85 tanks), Germany (80 tanks), and the United States (76 tanks). But the precise types of tanks are not indicated: the West transferred both old Soviet tanks and modern Western ones. In addition, Ukraine has already received **28 aircrafts**. Of these, 14 are Polish MiG-29 fighters.

12.05

- The US Minister of Defense Lloyd Austin has claimed that Ukraine will receive **31 Abrams tanks** at the beginning of autumn. At the same time, the training programs for the Ukrainian military for the work with it are to be finished. Austin added that at the end of April, NATO countries and members of the Ramstein Contact Group delivered more than 230 tanks, 1,550 armored vehicles, and other equipment and ammunition to Ukraine for the support of more than **nine** new armored brigades.
- The **Chinese special representative** Lee Hwei will visit Ukraine next week, approximately on May,15, to **discuss “the political settlement” of the war**, the Chinese MFA has informed.

13.05

- Zelenskiy has begun the visit to Rome. During the **meeting in Vatican** Volodymyr Zelenskiy asked the pontiff to condemn Russian crimes in Ukraine. He also called on Pope Francis to make every effort for the tens of thousands of deported by Russia Ukrainian children to return home.
- **Germany** is preparing the **largest aid package** for Ukraine to strengthen its air defense - Der Spiegel. According to the German Foreign Ministry, the country is preparing to transfer to Ukraine:
 - 18 wheeled howitzers;
 - 4 IRIS-T SLM + 12 IRIS-T SLS launchers together with missiles;
 - artillery ammunition;
 - 30 Leopard 1 A5 battle tanks;
 - 20 Marder infantry fighting vehicles;
 - more than 100 armored combat vehicles.
- During a meeting in Japan, finance ministers of the Group of Seven countries agreed to **increase economic and budgetary support for Ukraine** for 2023 and the beginning of 2024 to \$ 44 billion.



Military positions

- ✓ The occupier continues to concentrate its main efforts on the Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka directions.
- ✓ Towards Bakhmut, the enemy continues to conduct offensive actions. Heavy fighting continues for the city of Bakhmut. Along with conducting positional defense, Ukrainian defenders also conduct active actions, in particular, offensive ones.
- ✓ Towards Mariinka, units of the defense forces repelled numerous enemy attacks in the area of the city of Mariinka.
- ✓ Towards Kupiansk, the enemy conducted unsuccessful offensives in the Novoselivka region and the eastern outskirts of Stelmakhivka.
- ✓ The enemy continues to conduct defensive operations towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson.
- ✓ In the Volyn and Polissia directions the operational situation has not changed significantly, there are no signs of the formation of enemy offensive groups detected.
- ✓ In the Chernihiv and Kharkiv directions, the enemy maintains a military presence in the areas bordering Ukraine.
- ✓ The probability of missile and air strikes on the entire territory of Ukraine remains high, because Russia continues to use terror tactics.

08.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the day, the Air Force of the Defense Forces carried out 11 strikes on areas of concentration of Russian personnel and military equipment. In addition, during this day, Ukrainian defenders destroyed a reconnaissance UAV of the "Zala" type. Missile and artillery units hit 3 manpower concentration areas, 2 ammunition depots and 3 more important enemy targets. ➤ Russia is trying to disrupt the planned counteroffensive of the Armed Forces, but due to poor intelligence, it is hitting residential buildings instead of barracks. Andrii Yusov, representative of the Defense Intelligence of the Ukrainian MoD, stated. "That is, the goals now are logistics, supply routes, equipment, manpower," Yusov emphasized. ➤ In the Bakhmut direction, the Russian military has lost about 100,000 personnel over the past 9 months, said Colonel Serhii Cherevatyi, representative of the Eastern Group of Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. "This is an approximate calculation. I am sure that further verification will only increase this number," he said. ➤ The Russians fired at Bakhmut with self-igniting and phosphorus ammunition prohibited by the Geneva Convention, reports the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
09.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces carried out 4 strikes on the areas of concentration of personnel and military equipment of the Russian Federation, as well as 2 strikes on anti-aircraft missile systems. And units of missile troops and artillery hit 2 areas of concentration of manpower and a radio electronic warfare station of the Russian forces. ➤ Yevgeny Prigozhin said that Wagner's PMK will continue the fight for Bakhmut and will defend its demands in the next few days, despite the fact that the Russian Ministry of Defense did not provide additional shells by the deadline of May 10. Prigozhin's failure to follow through on his threat to withdraw from Bakhmut indicates that he is aware of his dependence on and lack of leverage over the Russian Ministry of Defense, ISW argues. ➤ Pentagon spokesman Patrick Ryder confirmed that the Defense Forces of Ukraine shot down a Russian Kinzhal hypersonic missile from a Patriot air defense system. Although the Patriot is successful against ballistic missiles, the ability of this air defense to shoot down hypersonic missiles was purely theoretical. The event on May 6, when the theory was confirmed by the Ukrainian military, is considered significant in the Pentagon.
10.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to Andrii Yusov, a representative of the Ukrainian Defense Intelligence, the Russian stockpile of Kinzhal and Kalibr missiles is at a critical level. However, the Russian Federation has a large number of certain missile weapons, especially the S-300, which threatens the front-line territories. ➤ The enemy continues to concentrate its main efforts on the Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka directions. During the day, the enemy carried out more than 30 attacks on certain areas of the front. ➤ On separate sections of the front in Bakhmut, the enemy could not resist the onslaught of Ukrainian defenders and retreated to a distance of up to 2 kilometers. This was announced by the commander of the Eastern Group of Forces, Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrskyi.
11.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the day, the Air Force of the Defense Forces carried out 13 strikes on areas of concentration of enemy personnel and military equipment. In addition, during this day, Ukrainian defenders destroyed 7 enemy UAVs of various types. ➤ The United States sees no signs of the departure of the Wagner PMC from Bakhmut, despite the statements of its curator Yevgeny Prigozhin, — Politico. The Wagnerites hold at least 85% of the city and have significant stockpiles of ammunition - this is how American officials assess the situation.

Losses of the Russian army from 08.05.2023 to 14.05.2023	
Liquidated personnel	4490
Tanks	29
IFVs	83
Artillery systems / MLRS	119/8
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	10
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	106
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	76
Special equipment	23





11.05

- They are trying to bring Ukraine to the negotiating table with Russia and on Moscow's terms, - reports the Secretary of the NSDC, Oleksii Danilov. "Now a very big campaign has been launched in this regard. There are many offers from different countries," Danilov said. But, according to him, if Volodymyr Zelenskyi decides on negotiations with the Russian Federation, "it will be only on the terms of our country. No one is going to surrender national interests, no matter how much the representatives of some countries want it."

12.05

- The Armed Forces began "forming operations" on the eve of the long-awaited counteroffensive, a high-ranking representative of the Pentagon told CNN. According to him, the strikes on Russian weapons warehouses, command centers, and accumulations of equipment, which have intensified recently, are the preparation of the battlefield for the start of offensive operations.
- During three days of counteroffensive actions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Bakhmut direction, 17.3 km² were liberated, said the speaker of the Eastern Group of Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Cherevatyi.
- ISW believes that the Russian Federation has "largely" abandoned the idea of encircling Ukrainian forces in Bakhmut. This is evidenced by the deployment of low-skilled Russian forces on the flanks around the city.
- In an interview with Dmytro Komarov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Valerii Zaluzhnyi said that victory for Ukraine is the de-occupation of all its territories and a strong army. The main points of the interview of the Commander-in-Chief:
 - The command of the Ukrainian army clearly knows what needs to be done to liberate Crimea, Luhansk and Donetsk regions, but it will not happen quickly.
 - The command was aware that the Russian army was stronger, so the only way to survive in this war was the tactic of stretching the front line to weaken the Russian army.
 - As of May 12, 2023, the front line in the Russian-Ukrainian war reaches 3,750 kilometers. This is comparable to the scale of hostilities of the First and Second World Wars.
 - The most valuable resource of the Ukrainian army is its people: soldiers, sergeants, and officers, who continue to perform their duty even in the face of injury and loss.
 - According to Zaluzhnyi, the chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation Valery Gerasimov cannot be underestimated. This is a strong and insidious opponent.

13.05

- About 40 battles took place on the front line during the day, Bakhmut and Mariinka remained at the epicenter of the fighting.
- During the day, the Air Force of the Defense Forces made 8 strikes on areas where the enemy's personnel and military equipment were concentrated, as well as a strike on the enemy's anti-aircraft missile complex. Also, our defenders shot down two enemy reconnaissance UAVs of the Orlan-10 type.
- Units of missile troops and artillery struck 4 areas of concentration of manpower, 2 ammunition warehouses, as well as 2 radio electronic warfare stations of the enemy.
- The Armed Forces of Ukraine have regained at least a kilometer of territory in the southern part of Bakhmut, and Russian troops have retreated, British intelligence reports. It is noted that this area has some tactical significance, as it was a Russian bridgehead on the western side of the Donets-Donbas canal, which marks the front line in some parts of the sector.
- ISW confirms the local advance of the Armed Forces to the northwest of Bakhmut. Analysts refer to the video that appeared on the network, and which managed to be geolocated. This footage shows Russian troops fleeing from Ukrainian artillery fire on the southern bank of the Berkhiv Reservoir, approximately 4 km northwest of Bakhmut.
- Soon, the first important steps in the counteroffensive of the Armed Forces will be taken. This was stated by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi during a meeting with representatives of the Italian mass media. "We are preparing very seriously and very serious steps will definitely be taken. I know that we are all very motivated. Not only those who know the plan, but also the whole people," Zelenskyi said.

Losses of the Russian army from 08.05.2023 to 14.05.2023

Liquidated personnel	4490
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Special equipment	23

✓ This week, the Russians carried out **82 missile and 377 air strikes**, and fired over **588 MLRS attacks**.

Attack on the night of 8 May

Air defense forces destroyed all 35 Russian kamikaze drones that attacked the Kyiv region. In Sviatoshyno district, 7 cars were damaged and 1 car caught fire. Debris fell on the roadway and on a residential building, damaging windows, and facades. Five people were injured. In the Solomiansky district, a diesel fuel tank was damaged by a leak. 15 trucks and 5 cars were vandalized in a car park.

Russian occupiers fired 8 missiles from Tu-22m3 long-range bombers at the Odesa oblast. Some of the missiles did not reach their targets. Warehouses with humanitarian aid from the Ukrainian Red Cross burned down. A warehouse guard was killed.

Attack on the night of 9 May

Air defense forces destroyed 23 of 25 Russian missiles (eight Kalibr cruise missiles and 17 X-101/X-555 cruise missiles).

- At least six "arrivals" were recorded in Kharkiv and the oblast. There was a hit in the Kharkiv district.
- In the Holosiivskyi region of Kyiv, a fire broke out in the yard of a private house after rocket fragments fell; in the Shevchenkivskyi district, fragments were found on the roadway.
- All 8 Kalibr sea-launched missiles were shot down over the Dnipro region. The debris fell on a four-story building, and a 32-year-old woman was hospitalized with injuries.
- Russian occupiers also attacked the Cherkasy region with two missiles. There were no casualties. The blast wave damaged windows in a municipal institution.

Donetsk oblast

The enemy continues to shell remote settlements in the oblast and shoot along the entire frontline. On 10 May, Russians shelled the relatively remote Oleksandrivska community, wounding 2 people and damaging the building of a former agricultural enterprise. On 11 May, one person was wounded in the shelling of Kostiantynivka. The Russians shelled the town with Smerch and artillery, damaging 28 private houses, 2 multi-story buildings, a shop and 2 gas pipelines. On 13 May, Russian occupiers shelled Kostiantynivka again – 2 dead and 11 wounded. One child was among the dead and two children were wounded. One private house was completely destroyed, 4 multi-story buildings, 3 private houses, 2 shops, an administrative building, and a cultural institution were damaged.

In the Donetsk sector, Kurakhivka, Kurakhove, Mariinka, Kurakhivka, and Ocheretyn communities, Avdiivka, Maksymilianivka, Ostrovske, Hostre, and Heorhiivka came under fire. Private houses, multi-story buildings, administrative buildings, and an industrial enterprise were damaged.

In the Horlivka sector, Kostyantynivka, Toretsk community, Shcherbynivka, Nelipivka, Petrivka, Bakhmut, Toretsk, Soledar and Chasovi Yar communities, Nikyforivka, Vasiukivka, Chasiv Yar, Novodmitrivka, houses and non-residential premises, an administrative building, a cinema, and an infrastructure facility were damaged.

In the Lysychansk sector, Zarichne, Lyman community, Yampil, Siversk, Zvanivka, Torske, and Dibrova came under fire. Residential buildings were damaged.

In the Volnovakha sector, Novoukrainka, Vuhledar community, Vuhledar, and Prechystivka are affected. Private houses were damaged. There are wounded or dead in all sectors.

Attack on the night of 13 May

Air defense forces shot down 17 of the 21 Shaheds.

- In Kyiv oblast, debris fell on a 2-storey building.
- In Mykolaiv, a 5-storey residential building was damaged and a 2-storey building at an enterprise was destroyed. Three people were injured.
- In the Khmelnytsky district of Khmelnytsky region, hundreds of infrastructure facilities were damaged as a result of the attack - windows and doors were smashed, roofs were partially destroyed. 30 people were injured.

Mykolaiv and Mykolaiv oblast

On the night of 7 May, Russians attacked the region with 5 X-22 missiles. The building of an industrial enterprise was damaged. On 7 May, a mobile hospital of the regional organization of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society was damaged by shelling in Mykolaiv. Some of the medical equipment, technical means and furniture that were there are unfit for further use. Russians also fired at the water area of the Ochakiv community. There were no casualties.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

Russians continue to terrorize the region by striking at frontline settlements. Private houses and cars were damaged. In Malokaterynivka, 8 people were injured by cluster shells. Three of them were ambulance workers who responded to a call. On 13 May, Russians attacked Huliaipole. There were about 15 hits in the center of the town. A man was injured.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

Russian occupiers shelled the oblast more than 200 times - 7 dead, 5 wounded. The Russians hit residential areas of the oblast's settlements and the territory of a plant in Kherson.

Sumy oblast

The enemy fired mortars at the territory of the Novosloboda community. The occupiers also continue to shell the border of the oblast. A residential building was destroyed, a shop, an agricultural lyceum and a farm were damaged.

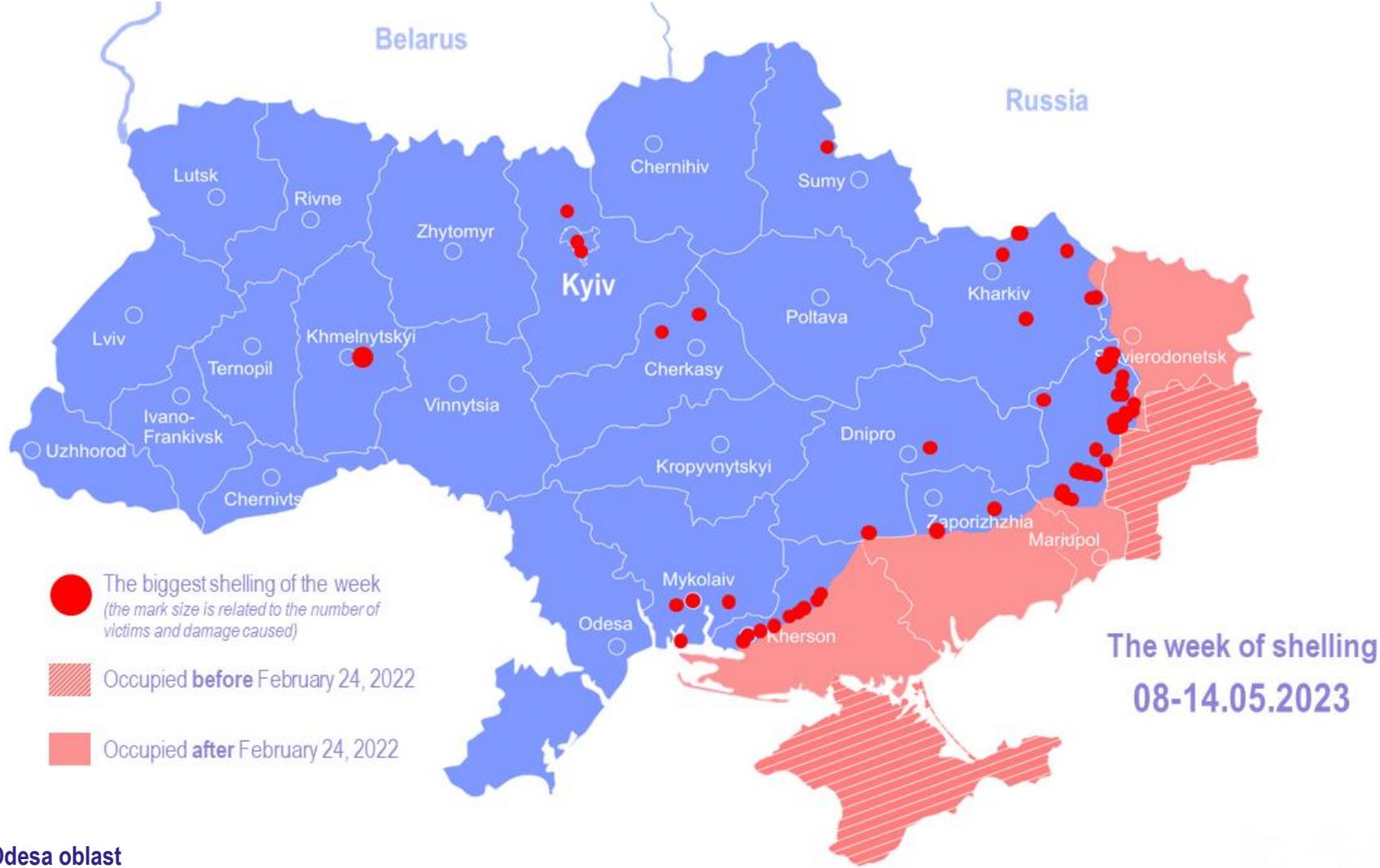
Dnipropetrovsk oblast

On the night of 7 May, Russians shelled Nikopol with artillery, killing a 72-year-old woman. Two other locals were injured. Private houses, a multi-storey building, a college dormitory, outbuildings and cars were damaged.

Kharkiv oblast

The enemy continues shelling frontline settlements. In Vovchansk, a shop building, a monument to the DOSAAF Aviation Centre, and several private houses were damaged. On 7 May, Russians attacked Balakliia. An S-300 missile hit the territory of one of the car parks, causing 5 casualties. On 9 May, Russians launched a missile attack on Kupiansk, hitting a civilian industrial facility and damaging residential buildings. Three people were injured - one person was treated on the spot, and two others were hospitalized. On 10 May, the occupiers shelled Vovchansk again, killing a 67-year-old man and damaging at least 5 private houses. In the village of Fiholivka, a 49-year-old man was wounded during a mortar attack. On 11 May, Russians shelled the Kupiansk district. They fired from multiple rocket launchers at the local market and private houses. Three people were wounded, including a 16-year-old girl.

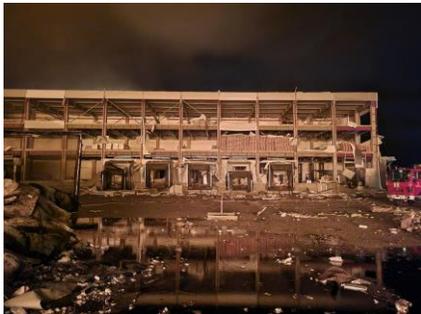
This week shelling and strikes



Kyiv oblast



Odesa oblast



Humanitarian crisis



08.05

- According to Viktor Liashko, the Minister of Health of Ukraine, during the **restoration of the medical infrastructure** damaged by the Russian aggressor, priority will be given to objects that can be restored quickly, as well as to **primary care institutions**. The minister notes that all efforts are directed at the destroyed primary healthcare centers for their speedy restoration.
- The Mariupol City Council states the Russians have begun **mobilizing** employees of budget institutions in the temporarily occupied **Mariupol**.
- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports the Russians are **deporting representatives of the occupation authorities** and their families from Skadovsk and other captured towns in Kherson oblast. Documentation, office equipment, and other property were taken away with a significant part of the administration.

09.05

- In Donetsk oblast, as a result of a Russian missile attack, **AFP journalist Armand Soldin was killed** near Chasiv Yar.
- The National Resistance Center informed that the occupation administration issued an unofficial order in the temporarily occupied territories in Kherson oblast, according to which the **Russian military must make "intentional mechanical damage to Ukrainian passports."** According to the National Resistance Center, Russia is currently putting pressure on local collaborators to pick up the pace of forced passporting.
- In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the Russians are **trying to eradicate Ukrainian identity** by torturing, imprisoning, and intimidating pro-Ukrainian local residents – Bloomberg. Through violence, economic pressure, and population replacement, Moscow has strengthened its control over parts of eastern and southern Ukraine, **triggering cultural and demographic changes**. Michael Carpenter, the US Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, noted that Russian forces were involved in “filtering” operations, torture, and executions.

10.05

- In Ukraine, the eVidnovlennia (**eRestoration**) program was launched. Within the program, people will be able to receive funds for the repair of their homes damaged by the war. The application can be submitted in the state application "Diia".
- The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports that over the past 3 days, the Russian occupiers have taken about 300 local residents, including children, to Berdiansk from the front-line territories of the Zaporizhzhia oblast. Under the pretext of the so-called **evacuation**, the Russians want to take approximately 3,100 people out of Enerhodar, of which 2,700 are workers of the occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. "Energoatom" informs that it concerns personnel, who signed a contract with "Rosatom" Russian State Nuclear Energy Corporation. Their deportation **threatens the safe operation of the NPP**.



10.05

- According to Oleksandr Sienkevich, the mayor of **Mykolaiv**, during the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation, the **city lost approximately 90% of its business**. "There are almost no factories in Mykolaiv. That is, all enterprises are closed, and many are relocated. Today, the city survives solely on the personal income tax of military personnel." - noted Sienkevych.
- According to the press service of the Mariupol City Council, in temporarily captured Mariupol, the Russians have already **dismantled 282 apartment buildings**.

11.05

- The latest round of **negotiations** on the extension of the **"grain agreement"** has so far not yielded any results, but new meetings are planned. Negotiations between representatives of Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, and the UN lasted for two days — May 10 and 11. So far, the parties have supported the proposal to evacuate merchant ships and crews, stuck in Ukrainian ports after the beginning of the invasion.

12.05

- The head of the IAEA Raphael Grossi plans to present an agreement with Russia and Ukraine on the **protection of the Zaporizhzhia NPP**. This will take place in May at a meeting of the UN Security Council. According to Reuters, the parties are allegedly close to signing an agreement. The IAEA wants, in particular, to **prohibit the placement of heavy weapons on the territory of the station and withdraw the military from there**. It is not known what kind of weapons are considered heavy there, and whether armed people fall under the category of military personnel. One of the clauses of the agreement provides security guarantees for the station's Ukrainian staff.
- The "Radio Svoboda" **journalist Vladyslav Yesypenko, imprisoned** since February 2022 in the Kerch Correctional Colony No. 2, is under psychological pressure from the occupation administration. This was reported by the ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets. Earlier the prosecutor's office of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol informed the Russian FSB operative about the **suspicion of torturing and imprisoning the journalist**.
- The Cabinet of Ministers decided to expand the preferential **lending program**, and now thermal power centers and stations will be able to use it to restore equipment damaged by hostilities. According to the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal, **reconstruction of heat supply facilities** and networks has begun in Kharkiv oblast and four other oblasts.