



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

September 19 - 25

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-SEPTEMBER-

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International support

19.09

- **Slovenian** Prime Minister Robert Golob and **German** Chancellor Olaf Scholz agreed on a "round exchange" scheme, as a result of which Ukraine will receive 28 modernized M-55S tanks.
- The largest **Turkish** private bank, Isbank, announced termination of services for cards of the Russian Mir payment system, which the Russian Federation introduced after the withdrawal of Visa and MasterCard.

20.09

- The Minister for Foreign Affairs of **Latvia**, Edgars Rynkevičs, called on the international community to react to the planned fake "referendums" of the Russian Federation with new sanctions and more weapons for Ukraine. In the morning of the same day, the occupiers announced their intention to hold pseudo-referendums on joining the Russian Federation in the occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions from September 23 to 27.
- According to Biden's National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, **the United States** will never recognize any Russian claims to annex parts of Ukraine and will make Moscow pay the price if it tries to do so.
- President of **France** Emmanuel Macron criticized Russia's intentions to hold the so-called 'referendums' in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, calling them provocation and cynicism.
- **NATO** Secretary General Stoltenberg said that pseudo-referendums have no legitimacy and do not change the nature of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. This is a further escalation in Putin's war."
- Reuters says that **the UK** plans to spend at least \$2.63 bln on the Ukraine war effort in 2023.
- **Turkish President** Erdogan says that the return of the seized territories of Ukraine by Russia will facilitate the negotiation process on ending the war. He also emphasizes that since 2014, at meetings with Putin, he has been urging him to return the annexed Crimea.
- **The EU** made a final decision on the quick allocation of a €5 billion tranche of macro-financial assistance to Ukraine to support it in wartime conditions.



21.09

- Here is the world's reaction to mobilization in Russia:
- **Germany:** Mobilization in Russia is the wrong development of events.
- **The UK:** The latest statements of the President of Russia about partial mobilization will lead to an escalation of the situation in Ukraine.
- **China:** We call on all parties of the military conflict in Ukraine to cease fire and resolve it through dialogue.
- **Latvia:** We will not issue humanitarian or other types of visas to citizens of Russia seeking to avoid mobilization.
- **Estonia:** We will ban Russians who took part in hostilities in Ukraine from returning to the country.
- **British Prime Minister** Liz Truss and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen say that partial mobilization announced by Putin indicates the failure of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- At the session of the UN General Assembly, **French President** Emmanuel Macron said that the countries that refuse to take Ukraine's side in the war against Russia are, in a way, complicit in the new Russian imperialism.
- In his speech at the UN General Assembly, **US President** Joe Biden accused Russia of violating the Charter of the Organization and assured that Ukraine would not be left without support of Washington and its allies.
- **Turkey's Foreign Ministry** has condemned Russia's plans to hold the so-called referendums in the occupied territories of Ukraine, saying it will complicate the diplomatic process and threaten to deepen instability.
- **Ukrainian Prime Minister** Denys Shmyhal said the UK is ready to provide Ukraine with \$500 million for purchasing gas and promoting Ukrainian gas production.



22.09

- According to High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, EU foreign ministers have agreed to prepare **new sanctions** against Russia and increase weapons supply to Ukraine.
- **US** Department of Defense spokesman Brigadier General Patrick Ryder says that Putin's threats to use nuclear weapons will not affect military support for Ukraine.
- The court in the **Netherlands** has confirmed that on November 17 it will issue a final ruling in the case of the downed Boeing 777 passenger plane in the sky over the occupied Donetsk region in 2014.
- **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan** have banned their citizens from fighting in Ukraine. Criminal liability is provided there - from 5 to 10 years of imprisonment.



23.09

- In a joint statement, **G7 leaders** said that the countries will never recognise the results of pseudo-referendums in territories not controlled by Ukraine. Erdogan's administration also states that Turkey does not recognize the 'referendums' held by the occupiers in Ukraine. US President Joe Biden threatens Russia with serious economic penalties in the event of pseudo-referendums.
- **Ukraine** decided to deprive the **Iranian** ambassador of accreditation and significantly reduce diplomatic personnel of the Iranian embassy due to the supply of attack drones to Russia.

24.09

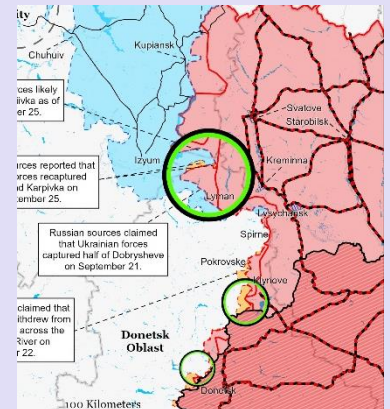
- The President of the **European Council** called for suspension of Russia's membership in the UN Security Council.
- **US** National Security Adviser **Jake Sullivan** says that the Biden administration has non-publicly warned the Kremlin that any use of nuclear weapons in the war against Ukraine will have "catastrophic consequences" for Russia.

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Military positions

- The enemy continues to focus its efforts on trying to fully occupy **Donetsk region** and hold the captured territories, as well as disrupt the advance of the Defense Forces in certain areas. There are attacks at the positions of Ukrainian troops along the entire contact line. The enemy tries to restore lost positions, conducts aerial reconnaissance and continues striking civilian infrastructure and homes of civilians. There remains a threat of the enemy launching air and missile strikes on the entire territory of Ukraine.
- The situation towards **Volyn and Polissia** has not changed significantly. In other directions, the Russians fire from tanks, mortars, artillery, launch missiles and air strikes.
- Servicemen of the Russian occupation forces continue to commit crimes against the civilian population and are engaged in looting.

- On September 19, the Armed Forces destroyed a base of the Russian military in **Kadiivka** (Stakhniv) in the local Palace of Culture. On the territory of the Novoaidar Forestry (the temporarily occupied territory of Luhansk region), enemy equipment and military personnel were destroyed.
- The Armed Forces of Ukraine performed mopping-up operations and took full control of **Bilohorivka**, Luhansk region. The head of the Luhansk OVA stated that the liberation of the oblast will be much more difficult than that of Kharkiv region. There will be a hard fight for every centimeter of the Luhansk land.
- According to the ISW, the AFU's counteroffensive in the **Kherson region** is "progressing". The Russian army is trying to slow it down and retreat to more convenient positions, rather than stopping or discarding it. Analysts suggest that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are likely to liberate a significant part, if not all, of the western Kherson region in the coming weeks.
- On September 20, the Ukrainian military liberated the **Yarova** village in the north of Donetsk region.
- In the **Svatove** district (Luhansk region), units of the Defense Forces hit the buildup of Russian troops. It is known that 70% of the military personnel were killed.



- On September 21, **Putin announced partial mobilization** in Russia. According to his announcement, mobilization measures begin on that day, during which 300,000 reservists will be called up. However, experts say that mobilization of people who have completed mandatory military service will not result in a significant military force for Russia. This may be sufficient to maintain only the current amount of the armed forces.
- On September 22, Ukrainian resistance forces destroyed two command posts of Russian troops in **Kherson**. They also hit two control points in Novovoskresenske and Dudchany, some ammunition depots in Piatykhatky and Kherson, three buildups of weapons and personnel in Dudchany and Nova Kakhovka.
- On September 23, towards **Donetsk** the Defense Forces of Ukraine repelled enemy attacks in the areas of Spirne, Soledar, Bakhmutse, Odradiivka, Kurdyumivka, Zaitseve, Mayorsk, Kamiianka, Avdiivka and Opytne.
- The Armed Forces established control over the settlement of **Yatskivka** in Donetsk Oblast, and regained their position near Bakhmut
- According to the 'South' Operational Command, the **Russian army began to increasingly use Iranian Shahed-136 kamikaze drones** marked as Geran-2. They are used for attacks far from the front line and can cover a distance of up to 2,500 kilometers. A kamikaze drone has a so-called loitering munition, can stay in the air for a long time and quickly attack a target after a command from the operator. Air defense anti-aircraft missiles are not very effective against Shahed-136, in particular because the drone flies low. At the same time, the Armed Forces are looking for "weak spots" of such weapons. On September 23, 6 such kamikaze drones were shot down. The Ukrainian military also shot down an Iranian-made multi-purpose strike drone "Mohajer-6" for the first time, which is capable of conducting reconnaissance and striking. It has up to four high-precision munitions.
- On September 24, aviation of the Defense Forces performed 19 strikes. It is confirmed that 14 buildups of enemy manpower and military equipment and 5 air defense positions were hit.
- Rocket troops and artillery hit 4 control points, more than 10 buildups of enemy manpower and equipment, 3 air defense positions and 4 warehouses of ammunition.
- During the 7 months of the Russian-Ukrainian war, **the Ukrainian defense forces liberated more than 1,400 settlements. 802 people have returned from Russian captivity as a result of 20 exchanges. In total, more than 14,000 units of Russian equipment were destroyed.**

➤ Losses of the Russian forces from September 18, 2022 to September 24, 2022:

- Liquidated personnel - 2050
- Tanks - 60
- Armored personnel vehicle - 106
- Artillery system / MLRS – 3/6
- Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 2
- Aircraft / helicopters - 4/4
- UAV - 45
- Vehicles & fuel tanks - 110
- Special equipment – 5



The week of shelling

19.09

- The Russians hit **Zaporozhzhia** with 8 missiles.
- The occupiers opened fire in **Sumy region** twice. There were 52 shells launched. One person was killed. A local farm was also affected, about 100 pigs and one horse killed.
- The Russians targeted **Mykolaiv** with a missile, and the yard of a private house was damaged.
- In **Donetsk region**, the occupiers hit Kramatorsk and Toretsk with missiles.
- In Dnipropetrovsk region, over 2,500 families were left without electricity due to shelling.
- At night, the Russian invaders struck the **Pivdennoukrainsk nuclear power plant**, an Iskander-type missile fell 300 meters from the nuclear reactors.



20.09

- The Russians hit two communities of **Sumy Oblast**. There are wounded civilians.
- The invaders hit **Bakhmut** at night, destroying a high-rise building.
- The Russians hit the S-300 missiles in **Zaporozhzhia region**.

21.09

- There were missile strikes on **Kharkiv**, rescuers saved 10 people, one person was wounded.
- The Russians hit the Chuhuiv district of the **Kharkiv region** with two missiles: as a result of shelling at the **Pechenihiy dam**, the upper gate was destroyed.
- In **Zaporizhzhia**, five missile attacks were recorded in three districts of the city. Infrastructure and private sector homes were hit.
- Russia shelled the **ZNPP** again at night, damaging communication equipment of power unit No. 6.



- At night, the occupiers shelled **Nikopol and Kryvyi Rih** regions. There are dead and injured civilians.

22.09

- The invaders used Grad systems to attack **Nikopol**. A 35-year-old man was killed.
- At night, Russia fired 9 missiles at **Mykolaiv** from S-300 systems. Multi-storey buildings, a gas pipeline, water supply, cinema and theater courtyards, and administrative buildings were destroyed.
- The Russians hit **Zaporozhzhia**, firing 9 missiles. They hit a hotel and a TV tower, and 1 person was killed.
- Russia hit an enterprise in **Kramatorsk** and an art school in **Chasiv Yar**.



23.09

- In the **Sumy region**, there were 130 shells launched by Russians, four people were injured.
- **Odesa** was attacked by **Shaheed-136 kamikaze drones**. Drones destroyed an administrative building in the port area, killing a civilian.
- In **Zaporizhzhia**, the occupiers fired about 10 missiles at night. The civilian infrastructure of the city was damaged, three people were injured.
- The occupiers fired almost 30 shells at **Nikopol and Marhanets**, killing two and wounding 9 residents.
- In the **Donetsk region**, Russians killed 7 civilians.



24.09

- The Russians hit border communities of the **Sumy region** with 140 shells.
- One enemy missile hit the residential sector of **Zaporizhzhia** and caused a fire in a multi-storey building. One person was killed and another 7 injured.
- The Russians fired on **Marhanets**. Several civilians are in hospital.
- At night, Russians fired at the communities of **Pokrovske, Kramatorsk and Bakhmut districts** of Donetsk region, using MLRSs and S-300 air defense systems



25.09

- In the morning, **Odesa** was again attacked by kamikaze drones that hit an administrative building in the city center three times. People were not injured.
- At night, the occupiers launched a massive missile strike on **Zaporizhzhia** - 10 missiles in total. Infrastructure facilities suffered damage, and an electric substation was de-energized in one of the districts. At least three wounded are known.
- They also launched missile strikes on **Mykolaiv and Ochakiv**. In Mykolaiv, residential buildings are damaged, there are hits in the water supply network. In Ochakiv, the coastline was shelled.
- In the **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**, there were five blows during the night. The invaders shelled the **Nikopol** region with artillery.
- In the **Kharkiv region**, five regions were shelled. An educational institution, an agricultural enterprise were damaged. Seven people were hospitalized with injuries in the **Kupiansk** district.



Humanitarian crisis



19.09

- A **prison and a torture room** were found in the **Izium** City Police Station, which the Russian army had turned into its base during the occupation.
- The so-called 'Supreme Court' of the LPR allegedly 'sentenced' OSCE employee Dmytro Shabanov to 13 years in prison for treason.
- At night, Russian invaders carried out a missile strike on the **Pivdenoukrainsk Nuclear Power Plant**. The missile fell **300 meters from the nuclear reactors**.



20.09

- In the urban-type settlement of **Kozacha Lopan**, the Kharkiv district, Kharkiv region, the police found **torture rooms** of the Russian military in the basements of a railway station and a shop.
- In the temporarily occupied territories of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions, the occupation authorities announced that they would hold 'referendums' on joining the Russian Federation on September 23-27.

21.09

- Ukraine has returned **215 people from Russian captivity**, including 108 fighters of the Azov Regiment. Among the Ukrainians who came back are the military, border guards, policemen, sailors, National Guardsmen, Territorial Defense soldiers, customs officers, and civilians. The Head of the Office of the President says that among those released are 10 foreigners who fought for Ukraine and were threatened with the death penalty. They are now in the capital of Saudi Arabia. 5 Azov commanders will be staying in Turkey until the end of the war. The other defenders have returned to Ukraine. All Ukrainians released from captivity are in **bad physical condition**. Most of them were tortured and physically bullied during interrogations. The detention conditions of the prisoners were terrible. Some lost tens of kilograms and got chronic diseases because they did not have normal nutrition and medical care, had no water for days and would do on a piece of bread during the day. The photo shows military man Mykhailo Dianov before and after Russian captivity.
- Residents of the occupied areas of the Kherson region are being urged to evacuate as soon as possible in connection with the announcement of partial mobilization by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The head of the Regional Military Administration emphasizes a high risk of the so-called 'partial mobilization' being held in the occupied territories.
- In the Kharkiv region, near Izium, Russians broke a stone statue of a polovets baba (a polovets woman), which is a thousand years old. This was reported by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy.
- The Russians carried out two missile strikes in the Chuhuiv district, Kharkiv region. As a result of shelling on the **Pechenihiy Dam**, the upper gate was destroyed.
- In the occupied Crimea, the Russian court sentenced **Nariman Dzhelyal**, First Deputy Head of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, to 17 years in prison and a fine of 700,000 rubles, and brothers **Asan** and **Aziz Akhtemov** — to 15 and 13 years respectively, and 500,000 rubles fine.
- President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for solidarity in bringing Russia to justice for provoking starvation. He says that any state that provokes famine and tries to make protection of people from hunger dependent on the smile of fortune or the mercy of some dictator should face the toughest response from the world.



22.09

- In the temporarily occupied territories, the Russian invaders are **intensifying terror** and force local residents to obtain Russian passports before holding pseudo-referendums.
- Russian curators ordered the militants of the occupied Donetsk region to expand the 'electoral base' and make underage Ukrainians, including those from orphanages, participate in the pseudo-referendum. According to the documents intercepted by the intelligence service, the invaders want to involve children aged 13 to 17.

23.09

- On September 23, the exhumation from the **mass grave of Izium** residents killed by the invaders was completed in the Kharkiv region. A total of **447 bodies** were discovered, including those of children. Most of them reveal signs of violent death, and 30 have signs of torture. Among those killed were **215 women, 194 men, 5 children, and 22 military**. Also, the gender of 11 people found cannot be identified.
- In the occupied parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson regions, and Melitopol, Kremlin puppets announced that they launched **pseudo-referendums on joining Russia**. Representatives of the invaders, who collect votes, come to the residents' homes accompanied by armed soldiers of the Russian Federation.



24.09



- Some videos appeared online showing armed Russian invaders walking around apartments in the Zaporizhzhia region to force people to participate in the **pseudo-referendum**. Information comes from the locals who were unlucky enough to meet with the "panel" in person. People tell about an armed Russian soldier poking in a piece of paper with the muzzle of his submachine gun and eloquently showing where exactly a checkmark had to be put.
- Due to the war in Ukraine, 11 combined **heat and power plants (CHPP)** and 3 thermal power plants were **damaged**. Of the 11 CHPPs shelled, 4 were destroyed and 7 were damaged. In total, the invaders have hit 349 objects of critical infrastructure of heat supply.

25.09

- The Russian occupiers are holding Ukrainian prisoners in inhumane conditions, preventing representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross from reaching them. The Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights stated: "*Never has a single person released during his entire stay in captivity seen a representative of the ICRC, which is already a violation by the Russian Federation (in terms of non-compliance with the Geneva Conventions). Similarly, we record that torture, physical and psychological violence have been applied to almost everyone, so on every fact we are legally working it out and this will become one of the components of the international criminal tribunal, which I hope will eventually be launched by the international legal community.*"
- Released from Russian captivity at the 9th month of pregnancy, military medic and defender of Azovstal Mariana Mamonova gave birth to a girl on the night of September 25.
- Head of the occupied Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said that measures related to partial mobilization will end on September 25 by the end of the day. The mobilization campaign launched in Crimea primarily concerns the Crimean Tatars. Of all the subpoenas handed over in Crimea, **80% were received by representatives of the Krymly people, peninsula's indigenous people.**

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