



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

September 18 – 24

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18.09

- The **International Court of Justice in The Hague** has resumed hearings in the **case of Ukraine v. Russia**, in which Ukraine argues that Russia abused the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to launch an unjustified invasion. It is alleged that Russia justified its attack on Ukraine by "protecting" it from genocide in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Ukraine filed this lawsuit on February 26, 2022. Subsequently, **33 more countries became plaintiffs**, an unprecedented number of states: 34 countries, or 20% of UN members, are involved in the process.
- The First Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of Economy Yuliia Svyrydenko announced that following the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, **Ukraine has requested consultations with Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary within the WTO**. The states continue to ban imports of Ukrainian grain despite the decision of the European Commission to lift the restrictions.
- **South Korea** will provide Ukraine with two **K600 Rhino vehicles**, built based on the South Korean equivalent of the M1 Abrams tank, **to clear minefields**, the Korean Cabinet reports.
- **German** Defense Minister Boris Pistorius announced a new **military aid package** for Ukraine worth 400 million euros. The new package will include explosive munitions, mortar rounds, and rockets.
- The European Union plans to convene a **gathering of foreign ministers in Kyiv** in early October, as reported by ANSA, Italy. The purpose of the meeting, according to the agency's sources, is to continue the path of "**political integration**" and to demonstrate the EU's support at a critical stage of Ukraine's full-scale invasion.
- In **Mexico**, a **military contingent** from the aggressor state of **Russia** took part in the country's Independence Day parade. The Ambassador of Ukraine to Mexico, Oksana Dramaretska, criticized President Andrés López Obrador for inviting Russians to the country amid Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

19.09

- Danish Defense Minister Troels Lund Poulsen announced that **Denmark plans to provide 45 tanks** to the Ukrainian military. The new aid package includes 30 Leopard-1 tanks and 15 T-72 tanks. They are being purchased in cooperation with other partner countries.
- Minister of Defense of Ukraine Rustem Umierov summarized the results of the meeting of the **Ukraine Defense Contact Group** in the **Ramstein** format: the participants agreed to launch the initiative to create a *Capabilities Coalition*. The main goal is to train the Ukrainian Defense Forces of the future. For this purpose, the Ministry of Defense has identified five clusters that will require priority attention: **air defense; artillery; aviation; navy; and armored vehicles**.
- Also at Ramstein, **Lithuanian Defense Minister** Arvydas Anušauskas presented a new **aid package** for Ukraine, including demolition systems, maritime surveillance radars, and ammunition for the Carl Gustaf anti-tank grenade launcher.

20.09

- President of Ukraine Volodymyr **Zelenskiy arrived in New York** to meet with Ukrainian soldiers undergoing treatment and rehabilitation in America. The President also visited the **UN General Assembly**, where he called on states to join the preparation of a summit on Ukraine's "peace formula" and met separately with Biden in Washington.
- During his speech at the UN Security Council meeting, Volodymyr Zelenskiy stated that the United Nations is at a standstill regarding aggressions and that humanity no longer has any hope for the UN. He also proposed **reforming the UN Security Council** by expanding the permanent members and allowing the **General Assembly to override the veto**. Russia's permanent representative to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, tried to disrupt Zelenskiy's speech.
- According to a study by Harvard professor Laurence Tribe, the US president has the **right to transfer frozen Russian assets to Ukraine** under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). The United States may transfer \$300 billion of frozen Russian assets to Ukraine.

21.09

- The Ukrainian and Slovak ministers of agriculture have agreed to establish a **grain trade licensing system**. This will allow the ban on imports to Slovakia to be lifted once the system is in place. Ukraine also agreed not to file a lawsuit with the WTO. It is still unclear how the licensing system will work.
- The **Polish government** started raising the possibility of **reducing its support for Ukraine** due to the grain crisis. Later, Polish government spokesman Piotr Müller stated that Poland's arms supplies to Ukraine under previously agreed contracts, including the transfer of Krab howitzers, would continue despite the disagreement between the countries over Ukrainian grain.
- **Sweden** has handed over **10 Stridsvagn 122 tanks** to Ukraine, which are a modernized analog of the German Leopard 2A5. The tanks will be returned to Ukraine by Ukrainian soldiers who have been trained in Sweden.
- **Bulgaria** has **deported** Archimandrite Vassian (Zmeev), **rector of the Russian Orthodox Church** in Sofia, and two other priests of the Russian Church. The measures were taken in connection with their **activities against the national security** and interests of the Republic of Bulgaria

22.09

- During a recent meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, US President **Joe Biden** announced that the first **Abrams tanks** would arrive in Ukraine next week.
- US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken announced that the United States will provide Ukraine with \$128 million in new **security assistance** and \$197 million in **weapons and equipment**, as part of previously authorized cuts. The aid package includes artillery ammunition, anti-tank weapons, and cluster munitions. It also includes additional **air defense equipment** such as AIM-9M missiles and Avenger systems.
- Following his **visit to the United States**, Zelenskiy announced an agreement to **jointly manufacture weapons**, including air defense systems. The parties also discussed the restoration of Ukraine and the strengthening of Ukrainian institutions to clear them "of any hostile and corrupt influences."
- During Zelenskiy's visit to **Canada**, the Canadian government announced **new sanctions** against Russia, as well as a new military aid package worth **\$482.6 million**.



Military positions

- The Russians continue to ignore international humanitarian law, shelling not only the Ukrainian positions but also the civilian infrastructure.
- Towards Volyn and Polissia, the situation is without significant changes.
- Towards Chernihiv and Kharkiv, Russians hold troops covering the Ukrainian border, conduct agile diversions in order to prevent the Ukrainian army from relocating to threatening areas near the border, and increase the mine and explosive barriers along the Ukrainian border in the Belgorod oblast.
- Towards Bakhmut, the Ukrainian Army successfully repelled Russian attacks near Minkivka, Orikhovo-Vasylivka, and Hryhorivka in Donetsk oblast. The Russians tried to restore the lost position near Andriivka in Donetsk oblast, but the attempt was unsuccessful. The Ukrainian defense forces continue their assault actions south of Bakhmut in Donetsk oblast, inflict losses in Russian manpower and equipment, and settle at the reached positions.
- Towards Avdiivka, the Ukrainian Army successfully repelled Russian attacks near Avdiivka and Sievierne in Donetsk oblast. Towards Mariinka, the Russian army conducted unsuccessful offensive actions near Mariinka and Krasnohorivka in Donetsk oblast. Overall, on September 16 they made twelve unsuccessful attempts to dislodge the Ukrainian units from their positions.
- Towards Zaporizhzhia, the Russian attacks near Robotyne and Verbove in Zaporizhzhia oblast led to significant losses of both their manpower and equipment. The Ukrainian Army maintained defense on the settled positions, causing losses to the Russian forces. Towards Melitopol, the Ukrainian Army continued the offensive operation, inflicting significant losses to Russian manpower and equipment, exhausting the Russians along the entire front line, and forcing them to withdraw from their positions.
- Towards Kherson, the Ukrainian Army continues the counter-battery fight, destroys Russian support depots, and inflicts successful damage on their rear.

18.09

- On the night of September 18, the Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 18 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones and 17 cruise missiles. A total of 24 strike UAVs were recorded towards Mykolaiv and Odesa oblasts. Also, the Russians involved eight aircraft carriers to launch 17 X-101/555/55 cruise missiles.
- The Ukrainian Counteroffensive is slow-moving, but it is necessary to 'not give Putin time to rest,' – said Volodymyr Zelenskyi. "We have to liberate as much of our territory as possible and move forward. Even if it's less than half a mile or 100 meters, we have to do it. We cannot give Putin a break.' He also added that as of now, both Ukraine and Russia each produce 40 thousand shells per day.
- Volodymyr Zelenskyi said that he knows where the Ukrainian Army intends to break through the Russian defense. "We want to break through the defense line very much. There's no easy way. But we will, I'm sure. I can't say where, of course, I can't talk about it... because I know where we're going to break through and it will be powerful," – said the Ukrainian president in an interview with CBS News.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces can still cut the land connection between Russia and Crimea by winter, – said Kyrylo Budanov, the head of The Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (HUR MO), in an interview with The Economist. Budanov added that the first Russian defense line in Zaporizhzhia oblast has already been breached in some places, meaning that breaking the "land corridor" will become possible soon.
- A wreckage of a UAV was found near Romania, on the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria, – stated the Ministry of Defense of Bulgaria. It is reported that an 82-mm mine was attached to it. The wreckage was found near Tiulenovo village, located 30 km from the Romanian border. Navy specialists are going to examine the object and dispose of it.
- Residents of Donetsk, which is temporarily occupied by Russians, witnessed explosions. The local media reported that the blast might have taken place in the city center, near the administration building of the "head of the DPR" (unrecognized Donetsk People's Republic, which was created on the temporarily occupied Donetsk oblast).
- Kyrylo Budanov stated that Russia will receive a response for strikes on Ukraine's critical infrastructure. The head of HUR MO said that he is developing a program of "deterrence and retaliation" to counter Russia's expected winter campaign of shelling Ukrainian infrastructure. "Let them begin. They will also receive an answer," he added.
- The head of HUR MO also named the three main goals for launching drones over Russia: first – to exhaust the Russian air defense system; second – to disable military transport and bombers, and, third – to cause damage to military production facilities, such as, for example, the recent attack on a plant that manufactures rocket fuel in the Tver oblast. Kyrylo Budanov is sure that "drones will certainly help to liberate our territories." "Drones are fearless. We won't be sorry for them," he added.

19.09

- On the night of September 19, the Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 27 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones and one reconnaissance UAV. A total of 30 attack UAVs were launched from the southeastern direction (Primorsko-Akhtarsk in Russia), as well as one Iskander M-type ballistic missile from the temporarily occupied Crimea towards Kryvyi Rih.
- Ukraine needs to expel more than 200 thousand Russian soldiers to win, – said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman, General Mark Milley. He stated that Ukraine's complete victory over Russia may take a long time since it is necessary to kick out all the Russian invaders, and this is a "high bar". "The current Ukrainian offensive is important, yet has limited operational and tactical goals. Even if they are fully achieved, the Ukrainian Armed Forces will not eliminate all Russians, which is even a larger strategic goal set by President Zelenskyi," Milley said.

Losses of the Russian army from 18.09.2023 to 24.09.2023

Liquidated personnel	3530
Tanks	42
IFVs	86
Artillery systems / MLRS	230/13
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	8
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	146
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	197
Special equipment	18

Military positions

20.09

- On the night of September 20, Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 17 out of 24 HESA Shahed 136 drones launched by Russia from the south-eastern and northern directions. The 'Shaheds' were shot down along the surveillance route within Sumy, Poltava, Kirovohrad and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts.
- On the morning of September 20, the Ukrainian Armed Forces struck the command post of the Black Sea Fleet near the temporarily occupied Sevastopol. The missiles hit the target precisely resulting in the base destruction. It was a joint special operation of the Ukrainian Security Service, the Air Force and the Navy. The Russian generals designated this base as their backup command post so that they would not be caught behind the main deployment site. The strike was carried out after the Security Service verified that the commanders of the Russian fleet were indeed in the military unit. As of now, not only the Russian manpower was affected, but also expensive military systems, located at the base.
- The Russian Black Sea Fleet has removed all submarines from Sevastopol – local media. Earlier it was reported that most of the vessels were relocated to Novorossiysk.
- Unknown saboteurs blew up two planes and a helicopter in Moscow suburbs – HUR MO of Ukraine stated. The explosion took place at the Chkalovsky airfield, where government planes, so-called "doomsday planes" and reconnaissance planes are based. The saboteurs planted explosives and blew up the AN-148 and IL-20 aircraft, as well as the Mi-28N helicopter, which had previously been actively used to shoot down attack drones over the Moscow oblast.
- Russia is conducting intelligence activities to find out the state of Ukraine's energy infrastructure, said the representative of HUR MO Andrii Yusov. He noted that Russians will not be capable of volleying fire 120 missiles, as it was last year. But Yusov also did not exclude the possibility that mass shelling may resume, around the autumn-winter period.

21.09

- On the night of September 21, the Ukrainian Security Service (SBU) and the Navy launched a large-scale fire attack on the Saki military airfield in occupied Crimea, causing serious damage to the Russian equipment. To hit the target, the SBU launched drones and overloaded the Russian air defense, and then the Navy set in motion R-360 Neptune missiles.
- On the night of September 21, Russia launched another massive missile attack, aiming at Ukrainian energy infrastructure facilities. A total of 43 cruise missiles were launched several times from 10 Tu-95M strategic aircraft, west of Engels in Saratov oblast. The rockets entered the Ukrainian airspace from different directions, constantly changing their route. The Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 36 missiles.
- Towards Lyman, Bakhmut, Melitopol and Kherson, the artillery Ukrainian National Guard performed about 900 fire missions during the week, as reported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. It was confirmed that 2 field storage facilities with ammunition, 11 artillery systems, 2 anti-tank missile systems, 3 units of automotive equipment, and 2 motor boats were destroyed.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces established fire control over the Bakhmut-Horlivka road, which "significantly complicated the logistics of Russian troops." – stated the spokesperson of Ukrainian Operational Command East Illia Yevlash. He added that the Russian army suffered 7-8 times more losses in defense than the Ukrainian army in the offensive.

22.09

- Ukrainian Aviation struck the headquarters of the Russian Black Sea Fleet Command in the temporarily occupied Sevastopol. The strike killed at least 9 people and injured 16, including Russian generals.
- "The Ukrainian Armed Forces, for the first time, managed to cross the last line of Russian defense towards Zaporizhzhia," the ISW reported. "By doing so, the Ukrainians ensured the breakthrough of this layer's first two lines, which is enough to move their equipment forward."

23.09

- On the night of September 23, the Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 14 out of 15 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones, launched by Russia.
- On September 22, the Ukrainian Army conducted 12 strikes on areas of concentration of Russian personnel, weapons and military equipment as well as 4 strikes on Russian anti-aircraft missile systems.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces broke through the Russian defense in Verbove, Zaporizhzhia oblast. "Not as fast as expected, not like in the World War II movies... It's important not to lose this initiative," – said Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, the commander of the Ukrainian Tavria operational-strategic group, in an interview with CNN. But the biggest breakthrough will happen after the Ukrainian Armed Forces reach Tokmak. "Tokmak is a minimum goal. The main goal is to reach our state borders," Tarnavskiy added.

Losses of the Russian army from 18.09.2023 to 24.09.2023

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Special equipment	18

✓ During the past week, Russians launched 103 missiles and 440 air strikes and carried out over 366 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems.

Attack on the night of September 18

- Ukrainian air defense forces destroyed all 17 cruise missiles and 18 out of the 24 Shahed drones used by the Russians to attack Ukraine.
- In Odesa oblast, the recreational infrastructure of the Vylkove community was hit and a fire broke out there. No one was injured or killed.
- In the Snihurivka community in Mykolaiv oblast, the wreckage of a downed drone fell on a non-residential building and a fire broke out. No one was injured.
- In Khmelnytskyi oblast, rocket fragments damaged a railroad track and a manufacturing plant. Several houses were also damaged, without casualties.

Attack on the night of September 19

- Ukrainian air defense forces shot down 27 Shahed drones. In total, the Russians fired 30 attack drones and an Iskander ballistic missile toward Kryvyi Rih.
- In Lviv, an industrial warehouse containing humanitarian aid (about 300 tons of clothes, shoes, food and generators) was set on fire by drones and burned to the ground. However, we managed to rescue vehicles with humanitarian supplies from the warehouse. Two people, a woman and a man who suffered a broken limb were rescued from the rubble. In addition, the body of a deceased man who worked at the warehouse was discovered under the debris.
- In Kryvyi Rih, a multi-story building was on fire due to a hit, and the facades of three buildings were damaged.

Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

On September 18, Russians struck three times in the Kholodnohirsk district of Kharkiv, setting a non-residential building on fire. Without injuries. On September 19, the Russians hit Kupiansk with a Grom-E1 (Thunder-E1) guided missile. Eight people were killed. Russians fired at a car of volunteers who were evacuating civilians.

Sumy oblast

On September 17, the Russians shelled the Velyka Pysarivka community, killing a 47-year-old man and injuring a 40-year-old woman.

Donetsk oblast

Russians continue to terrorize the Donetsk oblast, shelling both remote settlements and along the entire front line. On September 21, Russians shelled Rodynske of the Pokrovsk community, damaging 16 houses. The rear of the Udachne community is also under attack - a man was wounded in Molodetske. On the night of September 22, the occupiers launched two rocket attacks on Kurakhove, wounding 15 civilians and damaging 20 high-rise buildings. In the Volnovakha sector, Vuhledar, Novoukrainka, Zelenyi Hai, communities of Komar and Velyka Novosilka, Vilne Pole, Urozhaine, Bohoiavlenska, Maksymivka and Bahatyr came under fire. Damage was done to private houses, multi-story buildings, a farm, and outbuildings in Novoukrainka and Vuhledar was shelled 17 times. In the Donetsk sector, Kurakhove, Krasnohorivka, Maksymilianivka, Yelyzavetivka, communities of Marinka, Hrodivka and Ocheretyne, Avdiivka, Prohres, Vovche, Yevhenivka, Katerynivka, Novoselivka Persha, Kostiantynivka, and Heorhiivka are affected. As a result, residential buildings were damaged.

In the Horlivka sector, Toretsk, Druzhba, communities of Chasiv Yar, Toretsk, Soledar, Illinivka and Kostiantynivka, Pivnichne, Nelipivka, Zalizne, Rozdolivka, Vasiukivka, Pleshchiivka, Rusyn Yar, Dylivka came under fire. Damage was done to infrastructure facilities, residential buildings, industrial building, multi-story buildings, and an outbuilding.

In the Lysychansk sector, communities of Zvanivka and Lyman, Siversk, Torske, Zarichne and Yampil are affected. Damage done to private houses and non-residential buildings. There are wounded or dead in all directions.

Attack on the morning of September 21

- The major missile attack was the first time in half a year that Russia has attacked the energy system, hitting several power plants in central and western Ukraine. Air defense systems took down 38 out of 44 cruise missiles.
- Air defense forces destroyed about 20 targets in and around Kyiv. As a result of the falling debris, a fire broke out at a service station in the Darnytsia district, and there was destruction in Solomianka and Shevchenkivskiy districts. Seven people were injured, including a child. In Kyiv oblast, two people were injured as a result of falling debris.
 - In Kherson, the Russians hit a dormitory, killing three people and hospitalizing four with varying degrees of severity. Another woman was treated on the spot.
 - In Cherkasy, 11 people were injured in a rocket attack on a hotel building. Ten more people were evacuated and one person was rescued from the rubble. Two of the victims are in serious condition.
 - The occupiers launched three rocket attacks on Drohobych in Lviv oblast. Twice they hit an industrial facility. One workshop was on fire, and a warehouse building was a total loss. Another missile hit a private warehouse. In both cases, there were fires and no casualties.
 - In Kharkiv, a warehouse building was destroyed as a result of the attack, and three people were hospitalized.
 - In the Rivne oblast, a rocket attack hit the energy and civilian infrastructure of the regional center. A service station and five cars on its territory were damaged.
 - In the Khmelnytskyi oblast, Ukrainian air defense forces were operating.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

On September 17, Russians shelled Sadove. A policeman was injured in the back. Also in Kherson, a man was wounded in a shelling. He was on the street during the attack. On the night of September 18, two people died and three others were injured in the shelling of Kherson oblast. Russians shelled Kherson, Kizomys and Olhivka. On the afternoon of September 18, the occupiers dropped explosives on Beryslav. They hit people near the local bus station, resulting in injuring four locals. In the evening of the same day, a garage cooperative was hit in Kherson. A wounded 66-year-old man was hospitalized in serious condition. On September 19, the occupiers shelled the Korabelnyi district of Kherson. They hit a trolleybus moving through the city. A policeman who was nearby and one of the passengers were killed. Another person was injured. On the same day, Russians attacked the Korabelnyi district of Kherson again. Two people were wounded. One of Kherson's higher education institutions was also shelled with artillery, and two women were injured. On September 21, the Russians attacked Bilozerka. One person was killed and two were wounded. On the same day, the occupiers dropped four guided aerial bombs on Lvove: one woman was killed. Russians also fired at Tiahynka, Odradokamianka and Mykolaivka in the Kherson oblast. No one was injured there. On the evening of September 21, the occupiers shelled Kherson oblast once again. In Zelenivka, a private house was hit: the body of a dead woman was pulled out of the rubble. In Kozatske, a 76-year-old man was injured in his own apartment during the attack. On September 22, Russians shelled the Dniprovskiy district in Kherson. The shells hit houses: a 25-year-old man was killed and another was wounded. On the night of September 23, Russians fired mortars and artillery at Kherson, Naddniprianske, and Inzhenerne. On September 23, the occupiers shelled Kherson, killing a 65-year-old woman and injuring a 27-year-old man.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

On the night of September 19, a 71-year-old man was wounded in the shelling of Nikopol district. On the night of September 23, 12 "Shaheds" were shot down over Dnipro oblast, and the debris damaged a critical infrastructure facility in Dnipro. No people were injured. The shelling also damaged private houses, gas stations and a gas pipeline in the oblast.

Poltava oblast

On the night of September 20, Russians hit an oil refinery in Kremenchuk. As a result, a fire broke out. The work of the refinery was temporarily suspended. On September 22, the occupiers again launched missile attacks on Kremenchuk. One missile was shot down by the Ukrainian air defense forces. There were hits to civilian infrastructure. As a result, one person was killed and 32 others were injured, including three children.

This week shelling and strikes

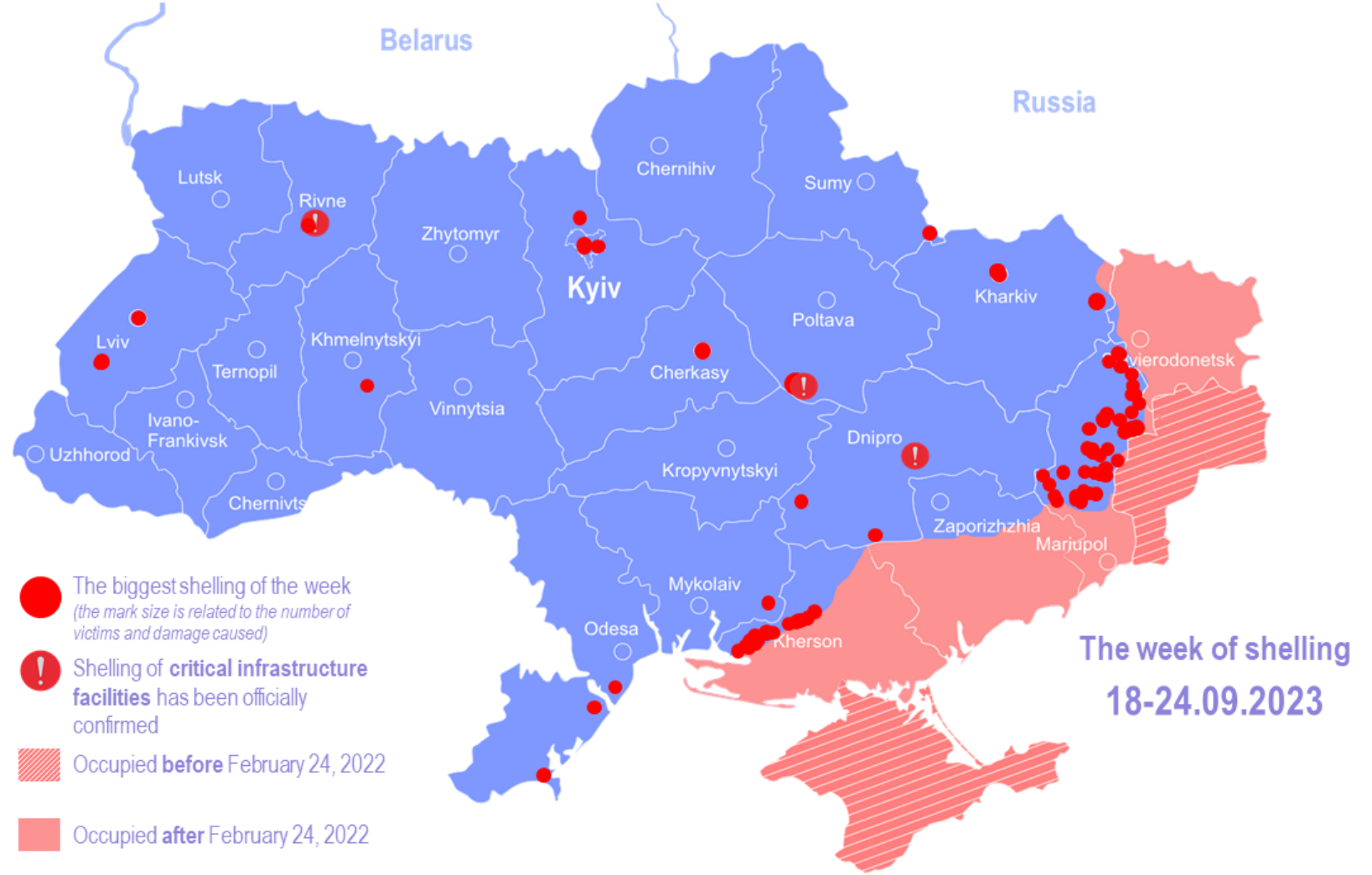
Lviv oblast



Kherson oblast



Donetsk oblast



Odesa oblast

On September 21, Russians attacked the Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy district of Odesa oblast with rockets. There were hits to recreational infrastructure. A fire broke out at the site. Without casualties. On the night of September 23, the occupiers attacked the Odesa oblast with Onyks (Onyx) missiles, two of which hit a recreational zone in an open area. There was no critical damage or injuries.

Humanitarian crisis

18.09

- On September 18-27, the International Court of Justice in The Hague will hold hearings for **Ukraine's case against the Russian Federation** "Allegations of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide". In this case, Ukraine argues that it is Russia that has violated the 1948 Convention by **justifying its military aggression by baselessly accusing Ukraine of "genocide."**
- Since the beginning of the full-scale war, Ukrainian **emergency workers have rescued** more than 11,600 people, Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko reported. In total, **5,357** of those people were rescued **from the ruins of buildings** destroyed by Russian attacks.

19.09

- Six **Ukrainian children gave testimony in The Hague** about the cynical policies of Russian President Vladimir Putin. In the Netherlands, the children told European leaders about their **lives in captivity and the crimes they witnessed**. To identify the Ukrainian children abducted by Russia, the Netherlands will help to create a DNA database. This will also help at the International Criminal Court.

20.09

- Russian occupation forces are **abducting people in Mykhailivka**, Melitopol district, Zaporizhzhia oblast, according to the mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov. He clarified that the abducted people are sent to clean trenches if they do not have money to pay off. If they do have money, they are blackmailed and demanded a ransom.
- Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) occupied by the Russian military continues to employ **822 Ukrainian nuclear workers**, Energoatom President Petro Kotin reported. "We have communication with ZNPP employees, but it is unofficial because the plant's employees are not allowed to use communication equipment. As of today, 822 people continue to work at Zaporizhzhia NPP, and they are **under pressure from the occupiers**," he said. In addition, according to Kotin, 2083 ZNPP employees are still in Enerhodar, and the occupiers do not allow them to work.
- According to the National Resistance Center of Ukraine, the Russian invaders are **bringing their pedagogical students to "work with children"** in the temporarily occupied territories. All this is part of the "pedagogical landing" program. These "teachers" are going to **teach Ukrainian children history and the Russian language**. According to the National Resistance Center, Russian students from Saratov will teach "the history of their native land" to children in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

21.09

- The largest commercial energy operator in Ukraine DTEK has **reconnected** the Inhulets-Pivdenne **main water pipe in the Kryvyi Rih district** of the Dnipropetrovsk oblast, which had been out of service since June 6, 2023, when Russians blew up the dam at Kakhovka hydroelectric power station. As a result, residents of Dnipropetrovsk oblast faced the **risk of being left without access to water supply**. "We have connected a powerful transformer to the water supply system, which will provide water to homes, schools, hospitals and businesses in Kryvyi Rih district," the company stated.

22.09

- Office of the President of Ukraine: The United States has **returned** to Ukraine **cultural property stolen by Russian invaders** from the temporarily occupied territories. The return ceremony took place during President Volodymyr Zelenskyi's visit to the United States. The artifacts were illegally transported from Ukraine to the United States, where they were seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- Since the beginning of the year 2023, governmental and non-governmental operators have **surveyed more than 200 thousand hectares of agricultural land** marked for priority **demining**, 120 thousand hectares of which are already used by farmers. At the same time, the action plan for the demining of agricultural land is designed for four years and involves the return to economic use of more than 470 thousand hectares of the most valuable agricultural land, the Ministry of Economy reported.
- The Russian invaders are **reconnoitering Ukrainian energy facilities for further attacks**, and the Ukrainian Defense Forces are intensively preparing for such actions by the aggressor. The Ukrenergo National Power Company reported that the Russian night attack on September 21 was the first in six months on energy facilities. It resulted in partial blackouts in Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Dnipro, and Kharkiv regions.
- The Media Initiative for Human Rights has **identified and verified 1168 civilians from Ukraine who are being held hostage by Russia** on its own or in the occupied territories. At the same time, the number may be 5-7 times higher. According to Olha Reshetylova, director of the Media Initiative for Human Rights, the abduction and detention of Ukrainian civilians by Russia has all the signs of a crime against humanity, as it is systematic and involves many Russian officials.

