



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

September 4 – 10

Subscribe to our exclusive papers [here](#)

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

04.09

- The President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi has announced that **France** has agreed to join the countries that will **train Ukrainian pilots**.
- Having purchased Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles from Germany, Belgium intends to transfer them to Ukraine. Brussels will send a total of eight units. The estimated cost of each missile is approximately 7,000 euros.
- NYT: **North Korean** leader Kim Jong Un plans to visit Russia this month to meet with Vladimir Putin and discuss the possibility of **supplying more weapons to Russia** for the war against Ukraine in exchange for advanced satellite and nuclear submarine technologies, as well as humanitarian aid for North Korea.

05.09

- The Federal **Ministry of Defense of Germany** reported that the Armed Forces of Ukraine received German-made ammunition for the Gepard anti-aircraft tank. The Federal Ministry of Defense also noted that the construction of a production line for the manufacture of ammunition was successfully completed ahead of schedule, which allowed the **first delivery of a five-digit number of shells to Ukraine**.

06.09

- **Danish Prime Minister** Mette Frederiksen arrived in Kyiv on an unannounced visit. Volodymyr Zelenskyi and Mette Frederiksen discussed a new **defense support package**, as well as expanding opportunities for military training, accelerating the integration of modern fighter jets into Ukraine's defense system, and demining.
- **U.S. Secretary of State** Antony Blinken made his **third visit to Ukraine** since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. During a press conference with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba, Antony Blinken announced a **new aid package** for Ukraine totaling more than **\$1 billion** and stated that the United States would soon **transfer assets seized from Russian oligarchs** to Ukraine. During the negotiations, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi emphasized the need to strengthen Ukraine's capabilities in air defense and underscored the importance of U.S. assistance in the energy sector.
- In the new **military aid package** worth \$175 million, the United States is providing Ukraine with depleted uranium ammunition for Abrams tanks, equipment to support Ukrainian air defense, additional ammunition for HIMARS, artillery shells of 155mm and 105mm caliber, mortar systems and rounds, TOW missiles, anti-tank systems, small arms ammunition, and communication systems.
- The Minister of Defense of the Republic of Estonia Hanno Pevkur has announced that Europe plans to **double the production of artillery ammunition** for the needs of the Ukrainian military. In a political document sent to member states this year, Estonia states that the bloc has the capacity to produce approximately 300,000 rounds per year. It is expected that next year, the capacity will reach 1 million rounds.
- The German-British company Rheinmetall BAE Systems Land (RBSL) has announced that the **United Kingdom** will provide Ukraine with Scimitar Mk II modernized **reconnaissance vehicles**. Repair work will be conducted on these vehicles before transportation.

06.09

- Bucharest has acknowledged that **pieces of a drone** had fallen on the Romanian territory during Russia's attack on the Ukrainian Danube port infrastructure. The President of Romania stated that an "urgent and professional investigation" is needed. *"If it is confirmed that these fragments are part of a Russian drone, such a situation will be absolutely unacceptable and will be a serious violation of the sovereignty and **territorial integrity of Romania**,"* he said.

07.08

- Most EU countries are opposed to extending the **ban on the import of Ukrainian agricultural products** beyond mid-September, despite calls from five Eastern European member states to keep the restrictions in place - Politico.
- President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi had a phone conversation with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Rishi Sunak. The two leaders discussed threats to the **safety of navigation in the Black Sea** and noted the importance of the **grain corridor** for global food security. Volodymyr Zelenskyi stated his readiness to continue exporting grain through alternative routes.
- The United States has announced a new **\$600 million military assistance package** for Ukraine. This package is provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI) and includes equipment for demining and air defense support, HIMARS ammunition, 105-mm shells, and electronic warfare equipment.
- European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** has **met with the UAE leader** to negotiate the export of sanctioned goods, including technology, from the UAE to Russia - Bloomberg. The EC President was expected to urge the UAE leader to stop being a gateway for Russia to **circumvent EU sanctions**. The EU has already imposed sanctions on several organizations registered in the UAE, accusing them of directly supporting the **Russian defense industry**.

08.09

- **The United Nations** is secretly negotiating the lifting of sanctions against Russia in exchange for the **resumption of the "grain agreement,"** the Bild newspaper reports. The publication refers to a secret letter from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Secretary-General Guterres proposes to connect the Russian Agricultural Bank to SWIFT, insure Russian ships against Ukrainian attacks, return money frozen in the EU to Russia, and allow Russian ships to dock in Germany.
- The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry responded to a letter from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, saying that **Ukraine's position remains unchanged:** weakening part of the sanctions regime against Russia in exchange for the resumption of the grain agreement would be a **victory for Russian food blackmail**.



Military positions

- The Ukrainian army continues to conduct defensive operations in the east and an offensive operation in the south of Ukraine, destroying the Russians and liberating the temporarily occupied territories step by step.
- Towards Volyn and Polissia, the situation remains without significant changes.
- Towards Chernihiv and Kharkiv, the Russian army holds troops to cover the national border and conducts active diversionary acts in the border communities in order to prevent the transfer of Ukrainian soldiers to menacing areas.
- Towards Kupiansk, Lyman, and Bakhmut, the Russian forces tries to break through the defense of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. In order to make up for the irreversible losses, the Russians continue to transfer reserved troops to separate frontlines by completing the assault columns mainly with prisoners.
- Towards Avdiivka, Mariinka, and Shakhtarsk, the Ukrainian Defense continues to pressure the Russian troops by carrying out assaults and regain the Ukrainian land meter by meter.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully held the defense near Avdiivka and Mariinka, where the Russians made ineffective attempts to dislodge units of the Ukrainian defense forces from their positions. Moreover, all the attacks carried out by the Russian occupants in the Novokalynovo, Krasnohorivka, and Prechystivka communities of the Donetsk oblast, ended with significant losses in both their manpower and equipment.
- Towards Melitopol, the Ukrainian Defense continues the offensive operation, causes significant damage to Russian manpower and equipment, and forces the Russian troops to withdraw from the occupied positions. In their turn, the Russians relocated the most combat-capable units of the airborne troops and tried to restore the losses. In fact, the Ukrainian army has repelled more than 10 such attempts near Robotyne in Zaporizhzhia oblast.
- Towards Kherson, the Ukrainian army holds the captured positions on the left bank of the Dnipro river, conducts a counter-battery fight, destroys ammunition depots and successfully damages the Russian rear.

04.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of September 4, the Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 23 out of 32 HESA Shahed 136 drones launched by Russia from Chauda Cape (Crimea) and Primorsko-Akhtarsk (Russia). The UAVs attacked Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts. ➤ According to Hanna Maliar, the Ukrainian Deputy Minister of Defense, the Russian Army conducts approximately 8 thousand shellings along the entire eastern front every week, using almost 400 thousand missiles. She also added that the Russians are restoring their troops, replacing people, and bringing new equipment towards both Kupiansk and Lyman.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Acts of Russian saboteur groups have increased in Chernihiv oblast. The spokesperson of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine noted that recently Russian saboteur groups made more attempts to enter the Chernihiv oblast. However, according to him, once those groups are immediately discovered, fire is opened upon them, and they depart from the Ukrainian border. ➤ Russia, North Korea, and China want to hold trilateral naval trainings. This statement was made by a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Yoo Sang-beom, reports the Yonhap News Agency. The South Korean intelligence specified that the Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu made a proposal to conduct joint exercises during a face-to-face meeting with the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.
05-06.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There might be "labyrinths" on the second line of Russian defense in Zaporizhzhia oblast, as stated by the spokesman of the Defense Forces of the Tavria region, Colonel Oleksandr Shtupun. "The only thing that might play into our hands is that the Russian defensive fighting positions are not that strong," he added. ➤ On the night of September 6, Russia launched another shelling. The Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 15 out of 25 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones and 8 rockets, including a 9K720 Iskander short-range ballistic missile system and 7 X-101/555/55 cruise missiles. ➤ The Romanian authorities informed NATO about a drone falling on the country's territory, as reported by journalist Rikard Jozwiak. According to him, the members of the Alliance have expressed their strong solidarity with Romania and added that they will observe the situation closely.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The confirmation of Yevgeny Prigozhin's (leader of the Wagner Group) death might take a little more time, as stated by Andrii Yusov, the representative of Defense Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. "Now, we can be 100% sure that Dmitry Utkin and some other passengers are dead. As for Yevgeny Prigozhin, let's say, some questions remain unanswered," Yusov said. ➤ The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine elected Rustem Umerov as the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, after the previous Minister, Oleksii Reznikov, resigned on September 4.
07.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of September 7, the Ukrainian Air Defense systems shot down 25 out of 33 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones. Russia attacked Sumy and Odesa oblasts by several groups of drones launched from North, Southeast and South (Kursk and Primorsko-Akhtarsk in Russia; Chauda Cape in Crimea). ➤ Towards Melitopol, to the south of Robotyne, and to the west of Verbove, the Ukrainian Armed Forces successfully conducted counteroffensive acts and currently are strengthening the achieved positions, as stated by Andrii Kovalov, the spokesman of the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, during the state telethon. ➤ As part of rotation, Russia withdrew almost all its units from the territory of Belarus, stated the spokesman of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Andrii Demchenko. "At the same time, new troops were not sent in," he added.

Losses of the Russian army from 04.09.2023 to 10.09.2023	
Liquidated personnel	3970
Tanks	78
IFVs	106
Artillery systems / MLRS	229/21
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	7
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	149
Ships/boats	1
Vehicles & fuel tanks	236
Special equipment	31



Military positions

08.09

- As reported by the press service of the Romanian Navy, during September 11-15, Romania, the US, and Ukraine will conduct multinational naval training in the Black Sea and the Danube Delta. Military personnel from Bulgaria, France, the United Kingdom, and Turkey will also participate in the exercises. The main goal of training is to develop operational and tactical compatibility in the field of detecting explosive items, particularly naval mines, to ensure freedom of navigation.
- The speed of Ukraine's counteroffensive exceeds the speed with which the new sanctions packages against Russia are adopted, as stated by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyi during the annual 'Yalta European Strategy' meeting. "There is a specific impact a specific weapon has. The more powerful and long-range it [the weapon] is, the faster the counteroffensive is. If we are not in the sky, but Russia is, it's straightforward - if they stop us from being in the sky, they stop our counteroffensive," Zelenskyi added.
- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg harshly responded to critics of the Ukrainian counteroffensive. "The starting point is that the Russian army was the second strongest in the world. Now the Russian army is the second strongest in Ukraine... The reality is that Ukrainians are actually exceeding expectations over and over again. And we must remember what our responsibility is. Our responsibility is to help them."

09.09

- During the previous day, more than 30 military engagements took place. The Russians launched 13 missile and 64 air strikes as well as conducted more than 50 shellings using multiple launch rocket systems hitting the Ukrainian army's positions and civilian objects.
- The previous day, Russians launched 20 HESA Shahed 136/131 drones, 16 of which were shot down by the Ukrainian Air Defense systems. Moreover, civilians of Sumy and Kryvyi Rih were affected by the lethal shellings.
- The US plans on sending additional fighter jets to Romania in order to enhance NATO's air control, as stated by Caitlin Kavalek, United States Ambassador to Romania, during a meeting with the Minister of National Defense of Romania Angel Tîlvăr. "Washington is concerned about the security situation in the Black Sea region," added Kavalek.
- North Korea and Russia are ready to conclude an agreement on the supply of weapons, as reported by the Financial Times. It is currently unclear what this agreement entails. However, it is known that North Korea can offer ammunition, rocket launchers and short-range ballistic missiles.

Losses of the Russian army from 04.09.2023 to 10.09.2023

Liquidated personnel	3970
Tanks	78
IFVs	106
Artillery systems / MLRS	229/21
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	7
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	149
Ships/boats	1
Vehicles & fuel tanks	236
Special equipment	31

✓ During the past week, Russians launched **43 missiles and 450 air strikes** and carried out over **340 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems**.

Attack on the night of September 6

Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 23 out of 33 Russian air targets launched at Ukraine: seven X-101/X-555/X-55 cruise missiles, one Iskander M-type ballistic missile, and 15 Shahed drones.

- The Ukrainian Air Defense System was activated in Kyiv and no damages were caused. As a result of falling debris in the Kyiv oblast, fires broke out and the retail unit was damaged.
- The Izmail district of the Odesa oblast was attacked by drones, killing an employee of an agricultural enterprise. In addition, the port infrastructure and agricultural facilities were also damaged.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

At dawn on September 3, the Russians launched a Grad rocket attack on the Nikopol district. As a result, 5 high-rise buildings, infrastructure, and vehicles were damaged. No casualties were caused. On the night of September 4, a drone attack in Dnipro oblast resulted in hitting an infrastructure facility. On the night of September 8, the occupants shelled the Pokrovsk community with heavy artillery, causing damage to a transport enterprise, without casualties or injuries. On September 8, the Russians launched a rocket attack on Kryvyi Rih, destroying one of the police administration buildings and damaging 79 houses, nearly 2,000 apartments and 52 vehicles. There were 74 people injured, 35 of which were hospitalized, three men in serious condition and one person died. On the night of September 9, the Russians again shelled Nikopol with heavy artillery, damaging the utility company. Without casualties.

Sumy oblast

On the night of September 3, there was a mortar attack on Sumy oblast. No casualties were caused. On the night of September 8, a Russian missile hit the private sector of Sumy. One house was a total loss, and there was damage to 20 other houses and 8 vehicles. From the rubble were rescued two people and a dog. Four victims in total.

Donetsk oblast

The Russians continue to terrorize the Donetsk oblast, shelling outlying settlements and along the entire front line. On September 6, the Russians shelled the center of Kostiantynivka resulting in damaging 20 shops, power lines, an administrative building and the 5th floor of a multi-apartment building. Several cars and eight commercial buildings were burned to ashes. As a result of shelling 17 people were killed and 32 injured.

In the Volnovakha sector, Vuhledar, Novoukrainka, Komar and Vuhledar communities, Vesele, Shevchenko, Prechystivka, Maksymivka came under fire. Damage was done to a cultural institution, residential buildings, and a storage facility.

In the Donetsk sector, Kurakhove, Avdiivka, Vovchenka, Ocheretyne, Kurakhiv, Novohrodivka and Marinka communities, Dalnie, Krasnohorivka, Maksymilianivka, Ocheretyne, Halytsynivka, Novomykhailivka are affected. As a result, household buildings were damaged.

In the Horlivka sector, Toretsk, Soledar, Kostyantynivka and Chasiv Yar communities, Rozdolivka, Vasiukivka, Toretsk, Dylivka, Oleksandro-Shulytne, Kostiantynivka, Petrivka, Pryvillia came under fire. Damage was done to residential buildings, a store, power lines, a substation, a church, industrial premises, garages, high-rise buildings, and a non-residential building.

In the Lysychansk sector, several areas including Zvanivka, Vasiukivka, Lyman community, Siversk, Torske, Zarichne, and Yampil came under fire. Private residences have suffered damages. There are injured or dead in all directions.

Odesa and Odesa oblast

On the night of September 3, Ukrainian Air Defense Forces destroyed 22 out of the 25 drones that attacked the Odesa oblast. The port infrastructure was damaged by the strikes, and two port employees, aged 34 and 42, were injured. On the night of September 4, the Russians again attacked the Odesa oblast with drones resulting in destroying warehouses and enterprise buildings in two communities, without casualties. On the night of September 6, the occupiers attacked the Izmail district with attack drones. As a result, one employee of an agricultural enterprise was killed. Damage and fires were reported in several settlements, with port and agricultural facilities such as elevators, administrative buildings, and agricultural enterprises also experiencing damages. On the night of September 7, Russians once again launched a drone attack on the Izmail district, damaging both the civilian and port infrastructure and injuring one person.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

On September 3, the Russians dropped four aerial bombs on Burhunka. On the same day, residential buildings in Bilozerka were shelled. One family has been affected: a 35-year-old man died instantly, and his 36-year-old wife and 9-year-old daughter were hospitalized. A 37-year-old local resident also suffered facial injuries. Furthermore, the city of Kherson was also attacked by Russians. A 77-year-old man was hospitalized with shrapnel wounds to his forearm. On September 5, the occupying forces shelled Ivanivka in the Beryslav district. Two people were injured: women aged 53 and 73, who were in their courtyard. On the same day, the village of Tokarivka was shelled and one person injured. On September 7, the Russians launched an attack on Odradokamianka. The first time using artillery, the second time using drones. One person was killed and two others were injured. On September 8, the occupiers dropped a bomb on Odradokamianka. Three people died and four got wounded.

Kharkiv oblast

On the night of September 3, the Russians shelled the villages of Cherneshchyna and Shyikivka with guided aerial bombs. In Cherneshchyna, one bomb fell near the local school. On the night of September 8, the invaders attacked the villages of Petropavlivka and Hraniv. As a result, a local man and woman were hospitalized. In two other villages, forests were set on fire by the shelling.

Kyiv and Kyiv oblast

On the night of September 10, Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 26 out of 33 Shahed drones that attacked Kyiv oblast. As a result of the Russian attack, 4 people were injured, one person was hospitalized with a brain injury and limb injuries and the rest were slightly injured. In one of the districts of Kyiv oblast, the blast wave damaged more than 100 private houses and 30 apartments in 7 high-rise buildings, including smashed windows and doors as well as torn facades and roofs. Moreover, the blast wave damaged the premises of a school, kindergarten, village council, hospital, a training and rehabilitation center, a bus station, two shops, a warehouse and so on. Mainly, windows and doors were shattered.

Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

On September 6, Russian forces attacked one of the districts of Zaporizhzhia, resulting in damaging a civilian infrastructure facility and injuring two enterprise's employees. The blast wave caused damage to the windows of nearby high-rise buildings and educational institutions. On September 7, the invaders shelled Zaporizhzhia district with ballistic weapons, causing damage to high-rise buildings and an educational institution. As a result, one person was injured.

This week shelling and strikes

Donetsk oblast



Sumy oblast

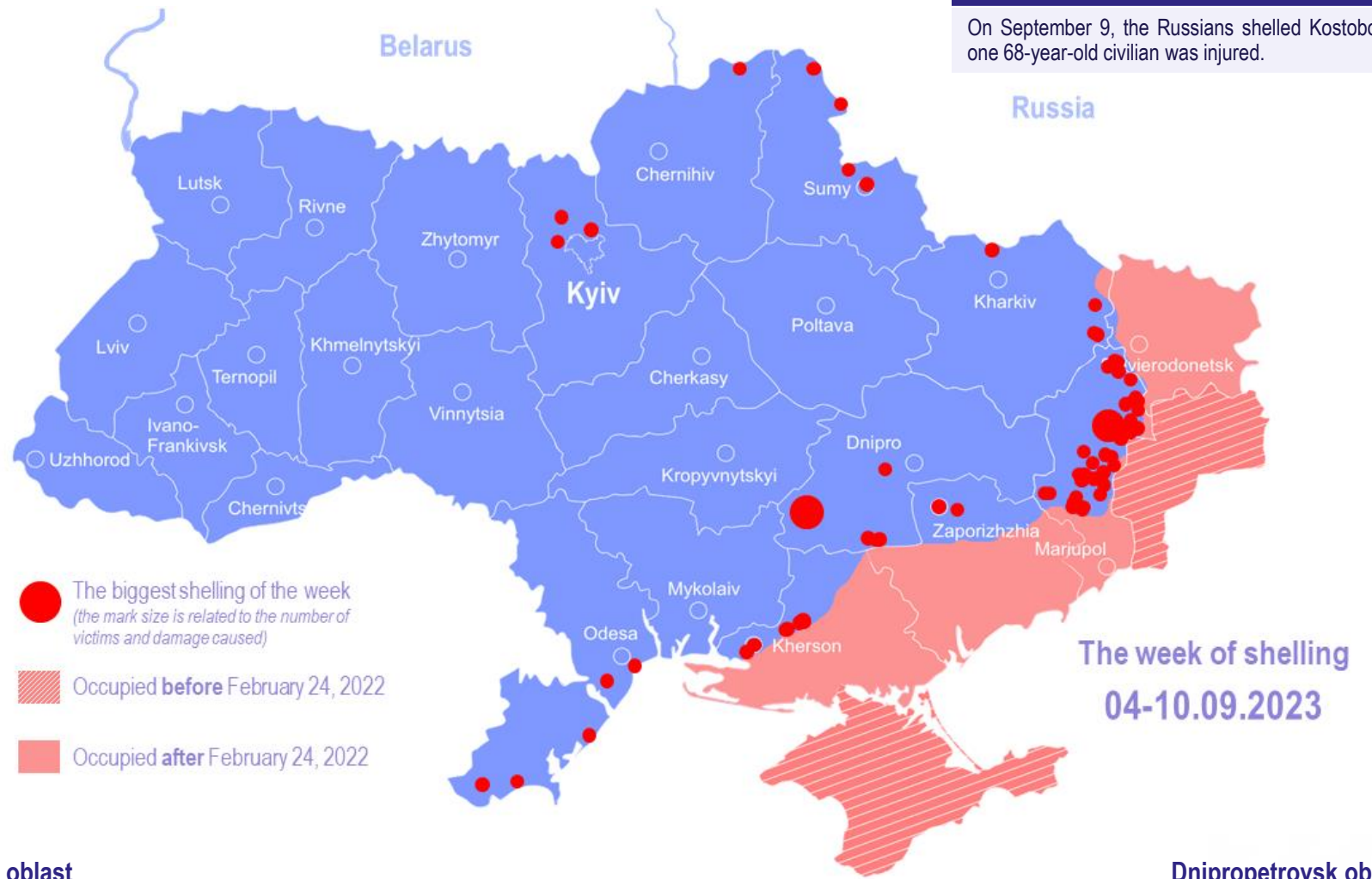


Odesa oblast



Chernihiv oblast

On September 9, the Russians shelled Kostobobriv. As a result, one 68-year-old civilian was injured.



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



04.09

- In the occupied part of the Donetsk oblast, the **so-called courts considered the cases of two Ukrainian prisoners of war** - Vitalii Prokopchuk and Maksym Ovcharenko. According to the Russian propagandist news agency TASS, both were **sent to a penal colony** for allegedly killing civilians. Prokopchuk was sentenced to **25 years in prison**, and Ovcharenko to **22 years**. Both prisoners are not the first to be tried in the Russian-occupied territories. For instance, prisoner of war Vasyl Shytria was sentenced to life imprisonment, while Azov defenders Pavlo Artemenko and Anton Romaniuk were sent to a colony for 24 years.
- The **Askania Nova Biosphere Reserve**, located on the occupied territory of the Kherson oblast, continues to suffer from **fires**. According to satellite imagery, the latest fire, which broke out in the reserve due to a lightning strike on September 1, burned 1,790 hectares of the steppe protected by the reserve. This is the seventh fire to break out in the reserve since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion and occupation. In total, the fire **destroyed more than 3,500 hectares of its territory**.

05.09

- The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine has received materials of large-scale research to **resume the investigation** of the **attack in Olenivka** committed by Russian invaders. This was reported by the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War. On July 28 last year, a powerful explosion occurred on the territory of the former penal colony No. 120 in the occupied town of Olenivka. **The explosion destroyed the premises where Ukrainian military prisoners were held**. The exact number of casualties is unknown, but according to ISW, there were 53.
- Entrepreneurs were paid UAH 126 million in compensation for hiring internally displaced persons. In total, nearly 6,000 entrepreneurs have provided jobs to more than 10,000 IDPs. According to the researchers, **almost 5 million Ukrainians have lost their jobs** as a result of the Russian invasion, with women and people from the east of Ukraine being hit hardest by unemployment.

07.09

- During the summit of Health Ministers held as part of the Third Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen, 16 countries signed a statement on the development of **international medical partnerships** and **support for the Ukrainian medical system**. *"This joint statement unites four key pillars. The first is mental health. The second is an international medical partnership. The third is the development of human resources in the healthcare system. And the fourth is the mental health of the healthcare workers themselves,"* informed Viktor Liashko, Minister of Health of Ukraine.

07.10

- According to Kharkiv regional police, one person was killed and two injured after Russian explosive devices were detonated in Chuhuiv and Izium areas. According to Ukraine's Minister of Internal Affairs Ihor Klymenko, **40% of the Kharkiv oblast's territory is considered to be potentially dangerous**. Pyrotechnics of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine have neutralized more than 76.5 thousand explosive devices.

08.09

- "We managed to return 9 more Ukrainian children to Ukraine," said Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights.
- *"The stories of these children are striking... each retrieval is like a special operation. The fates of the children are different, but each of them had to go through hardships. For instance, two children had spent a long time in the temporarily occupied territories, and now we have finally managed to bring them back to their parents. Another example is a **boy whom the Russians accused of blowing up a bridge and kept in prison for a month and interrogated**. He went through all the circles of hell, including filtration. Now he is with his mother, in Ukraine,"* reported Lubinets.
- A group of Chinese bloggers illegally arrived in the temporarily occupied Mariupol - the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded by initiating a **ban on entry to Ukraine for all "touring" Chinese**. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nikolenko also posted a video of a Chinese "opera singer" Wang Fan performing the Soviet song "Katyusha" (which has become an unofficial symbol of World War II) **on the ruins of a drama theater in Mariupol**. The Russian army killed more than 600 innocent people in it.

09.09

- Law enforcement officers have discovered **80 places of detention and torture in the liberated Ukrainian territories** where Russian occupiers illegally held and tortured civilians. This was stated by Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Kateryna Pavlichenko during a meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, Alice Gill Edwards. As reported earlier, the Prosecutor General's Office has identified more than **700 victims of torture** by the Russian military in the Kharkiv oblast. In **Kherson**, more than **160 people became victims of war crimes** committed by Russians. According to the Prosecutor General, the Ukrainian authorities have so far managed to identify 156 Russian military personnel and occupation officials who committed war crimes.
- Maria Böhmer, President of the German Commission for UNESCO, stated that six of the eight **World Heritage sites** in Ukraine are **under serious threat**. According to her, Russia is attacking the people, cultural heritage, and thus the identity of Ukraine. The day before, UNESCO placed 20 cultural heritage sites in Ukraine under **enhanced protection** due to Russia's aggression. The protection status allows for the prosecution or extradition of alleged perpetrators of the destruction.

