



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

December 25 – 31

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International support

25.12

- US President Joe Biden has signed a record \$886 billion for the **US defense budget** into law. For Ukraine, as part of the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative (USAI), the package reserved \$300 million for this fiscal year, The Hill reports.
- In January 2024, a new **international artillery Coalition** to strengthen the Armed Forces will begin working in Paris, the press service of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine reports. The Ukrainian military is interested in further purchasing Caesar self-propelled artillery units of 155 mm caliber, which are already used by the Ukrainian army. Ukraine is ready to buy them.
- This year, **Latvia** has handed over **271 cars** confiscated from drunk drivers to Ukraine. Their total value is almost one million euros. Another 34 cars are currently being prepared for transfer.
- Ukraine has received **\$1.34 billion** as part of the World Bank's Public Expenditures for Administrative Capacity Endurance in Ukraine (PEACE) in Ukraine project. The funds will be used to partially compensate for **non-security** and defense-related **expenditures** of the Ukrainian State Budget, including old-age social payments and payments to employees of the State Emergency Service (SES).
- The EU is mobilizing a further **500 power generators** from its strategic reserves to strengthen Ukraine's **energy resilience**, the European Commission reports. The goal is to keep vital services running. Also, 40 of the 500 generators are to be used by schools.
- The foreign shareholders of the **Russian Arctic LNG-2 project** - France's TotalEnergies, China's CNPC and CNOOC, and a consortium of Japan's Mitsui and JOGMEC - have declared force majeure on their participation in the project. This was reported by the Russian newspaper Kommersant. This could lead to Arctic LNG 2 losing long-term contracts for LNG exports. And the Russian oil company Novatek will have to finance the project on its own. According to Bloomberg, Arctic LNG 2 is crucial to Russia's drive to more than triple its LNG production by the end of the decade.
- London Mayor Sadiq Khan changed his decision to **send vehicles to Ukraine** that were supposed to be scrapped, The Telegraph reports. Khan had previously blocked the shipment of vehicles that did not meet the Ulez standard to the war zone. The mayor changed his mind and asked the Transport Secretary Mark Harper to make it possible for Londoners, and others across the country, **to donate suitable vehicles** to Ukraine through scrappage schemes.
- **Iceland** joins two coalitions that support Ukraine in the areas of IT and demining. Iceland is also allocating €340 thousand through NATO's Comprehensive Assistance Package to purchase **medical supplies** for Ukraine. The ministry notes that since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Iceland has provided humanitarian, economic, and security support to Ukraine, mainly through international organizations.

26.12

- In the UK, the first group of Ukrainian pilots has **completed basic training** with the Royal Air Force. Now the pilots will learn to fly F-16 fighter jets in Denmark.
- **Taiwan** has expanded the list of **sanctioned goods** for Russia and Belarus. They are prohibited from exporting machinery and equipment that can be used for military purposes. The sanctions include equipment for the production of semiconductors, as well as certain chemicals and medicines — 45 items on the list.
- **South Korea** expands **export ban** with nearly 700 items from Russia and Belarus, as they may be used for military purposes. According to the country's Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy, the government has added to the list items related to heavy construction equipment, batteries, aircraft components, machinery, and more.

26.12

- British Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said that the **destruction of the Novochoerkassk large landing ship** of the Russian Black Sea Fleet in Feodosia demonstrates that "those who believe that the war in Ukraine has reached a dead end are wrong." *"They have not noticed that 20% of the Russian Black Sea Fleet has been destroyed in the last 4 months,"* he added.

27.12

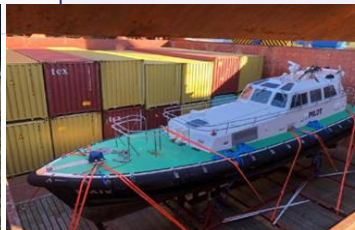
- US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announces a new \$250 million **military aid package** for Ukraine, which will include additional ammunition for NASAMS and HIMARS, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, and 155mm and 105mm artillery rounds.
- **France** has donated a **pilot boat** to Ukraine to help the **Danube Grain Corridor**, This was reported by the Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine.

28.12

- More than **€4 billion worth of Russian assets** have been **blocked in Germany**. This information was provided at a briefing by a representative of the press service of the German Ministry of Finance, Nojnan Niminde-Dundadengar. The representative of the ministry explained that this is "frozen money, economic resources of individuals, blocked money of the Russian central bank."
- The Ministry of Defense of Japan has handed over PC-065B **engineering vehicles** to Ukraine for the needs of the Armed Forces. The Japanese Embassy in Ukraine noted that Japan's support will continue next year. The Armed Forces of Ukraine also received Mitsubishi Type 73 Kogata vehicles.
- The United States is pushing forward with a G7 plan to **confiscate \$300 billion worth of Russian assets** to help Ukraine, according to Financial Times sources. The United States, with the support of the United Kingdom, Japan, and Canada, has proposed to continue preparatory work so that options for a potential **meeting of G7 leaders** around February 24, 2024, are ready. The three working groups proposed by Washington would examine the legal issues regarding confiscation; how to implement such a policy and mitigate risks; and options for how best to direct support to Ukraine.
- Lieutenant-General Martin Wijnen, Commander-in-Chief of the Netherlands Army, who is standing down on January 1, says **the Netherlands and its society must prepare for a war with the Russian Federation**. *"There is only one language that Russia understands, and that is the language of a strong army,"* he said, emphasizing the importance of the country eliminating the shortage of personnel in the army.
- Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andrii Yermak spoke on the phone with Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, and they **agreed to meet** for the first time in January and discussed organizing a meeting between the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi and the President of Hungary Viktor Orbán. According to Szijjártó, maintaining a high level of dialogue is important *"because it gives hope that we can improve our relations."* He added that Budapest is interested in maintaining the best possible cooperation with all its neighbors.

29.12

- Following Russia's massive shelling of Ukraine, British Secretary of State for Defense Grant Shapps announces that **"hundreds of anti-aircraft missiles"** will be sent to Kyiv for British air defense systems.
- US President Joe Biden emphasized the need for Congress to approve **additional aid for Kyiv** as soon as possible, commenting on the massive Russian shelling of Ukraine. The American president emphasized that the Russian shelling is "a stark reminder to the world that after nearly two years of this destructive war, **Putin's goal remains the same**. He seeks to destroy Ukraine and subjugate its people. He must be stopped."



Military positions

- Russia continues to wage a war of aggression against Ukraine. As a result of Russian terrorist attacks, there are dead and wounded among the civilian population. Private residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure have been destroyed or damaged.
- In the Volyn and Polissia directions, the operational situation remains without significant changes.
- In the Siversk (Chernihiv Oblast) and Slobozhanshchyna (Kharkiv Oblast) directions, the enemy maintains a military presence in the border areas, conducts active diversionary activities to prevent the transfer of Ukrainian troops to threatening directions, and increases the density of mine and explosive barriers along the state border in the Belgorod Oblast.
- In the Kupiansk direction, Ukrainian defenders repelled a number of enemy attacks near Synkivka, where the enemy unsuccessfully tried to break through the defenses of our troops. The enemy did not conduct offensive operations in the Lyman direction.
- In the Bakhmut direction, Ukrainian soldiers repelled the attacks of the occupiers in the Bohdanivka and Andriivka areas. In the Avdiivka direction, Ukrainian defenders continue to restrain the Russian troops, who keep trying to surround Avdiivka.
- In the Marinka direction, the Defense Forces continue to restrain the Russians in the areas of Marinka and Novomykhailivka. The occupiers did not conduct offensive actions in the Shakhtarsk direction.
- In the Zaporizhzhia direction, the Defense Forces repelled enemy attacks west and northwest of Verbove.
- In the Kherson direction, Ukrainian troops continue measures to expand the bridgehead. Despite significant losses, the enemy does not stop trying to knock out Ukrainian units from their positions. At the same time, the Defense Forces of Ukraine continue to actively inflict losses in manpower and equipment on the occupying troops, exhausting the enemy along the entire front line.

25.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reported that air defense forces destroyed 28 attack UAVs, two missiles, and two fighters. "Anti-aircraft missile units of the Air Force also destroyed two enemy aircraft: one Su-34 in Donetsk Oblast and one Su-30SM over the Black Sea." It has been confirmed that the Su-34 fighter bomber was hit by an anti-aircraft missile system in the direction of Mariupol. This was announced by the commander of the Air Force of the Ukrainian Armed Forces Mykola Oleshchuk. In the Odesa direction, combat fire on the Russian Su-30 in the Black Sea took place.
26.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Air defense forces destroyed 13 of 19 Shaheds. The anti-aircraft defense worked within Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Khmelnytskyi Oblast. ➤ Ukrainian defense forces struck the Russian ship Novochoerkassk in the temporarily occupied Feodosia. The Shahed-type unmanned aerial vehicles, which the Russian Federation uses for attacks on Ukrainian cities, were on board of the destroyed ship. This was reported by the Center for Strategic Communications. ➤ When asked by journalists about the Russians' statement about the complete capture of the city of Marinka, General Valerii Zaluzhnyi replied that the Ukrainian troops had withdrawn: in some places, they dug in on the outskirts of Marinka, and in others a little further. ➤ After the attack of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on the port in Feodosia, two Russian ships left the bay, writes Crimea.Realities. It happened a few hours after the missile attack on the Novochoerkassk amphibious assault ship. The publication writes that a military ship and a military boat left the port, but it was not possible to identify them precisely because of the fog. ➤ The UTS-150 training ship is the second ship sunk by the Armed Forces of Ukraine in occupied Feodosia, some media reported.
27.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the day, 49 combat clashes took place at the front. ➤ The Russians have sent a large group of operatives to Feodosia to search for those responsible for the destruction of the Novochoerkassk landing ship, reports Atesh. "Putin is furious because of the destruction of the Novochoerkassk amphibious assault ship. An order has been issued to punish the air defense forces of Crimea. It is expected that many commanders will be removed and sent to the front to participate in assault groups. In fact, they are getting rid of them," reports the Atesh partisan movement. ➤ According to BBC Ukraine, the commander of the Tavria operational-strategic group, Brigadier General Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, predicts that 2024 may be more difficult in terms of conducting military operations. "The Russians intensified their actions almost along the entire line of battle. Their strategic goal is the elimination of Ukrainian statehood," the general noted. ➤ Air Force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat denied information about the alleged presence of F-16s in Ukraine.
28.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The range of the Storm Shadow missiles transferred to Ukraine turned out to be twice as long as expected, said retired Bundeswehr general and military expert Erhard Bühler. This is how he commented on the destruction of the large Novochoerkassk landing ship in Feodosia, writes Bild. ➤ Almost five hundred chemical attacks have been carried out by Russia since the beginning of the full-scale war. The dynamics of chemical attacks are increasing: in one day, on December 19, the Russians carried out eight attacks using chemical substances, according to the Armed Forces Support Forces command. In addition, on December 14, the use of a new type of special RGO gas grenade containing an unknown chemical substance was discovered.

Losses of the Russian army from 25.12.2023 to 31.12.2023	
Liquidated personnel	5050
Tanks	84
IFVs	131
Artillery systems / MLRS	116/9
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	11
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	199
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	221
Special equipment	38

29.12

- On the night of December 28 and 29 and in the morning of December 29, the Russians conducted one of the most massive missile attacks this year. The Russians fired about 110 missiles over Ukraine. Dagers, ballistics, S-300, cruise missiles, UAVs, Kh-22 or Kh-32 were used. About 18 strategic bombers launched X-101/X-505. 27 Shahed-136/131 attack UAVs and 87 X-101/X-555/X-55 cruise missiles were destroyed by the forces and means of the Air Force in cooperation with units of the Defense Forces of Ukraine.
- Atesh partisan movement conducts sabotage on the left bank of the Dnipro, Kherson Oblast. "Agents from the 177th separate regiment of the Russian marines on the second and third lines of conflict in the Kherson Oblast disabled the combat equipment of the enemy. They managed to neutralize the enemy's 2 BMPs and 1 MT-LB," Atesh reported.
- The Center of National Resistance reports, as a result of the attack on the Russian Novochoerkassk ship, Russia lost 74 soldiers. Activists of Cyber Resistance have at their disposal a letter from the Chief of the Russian Armed Forces with a proposal to declare mourning in the city of Novochoerkassk about the losses.
- With such stockpiles of missiles as the aggressor state has, they can and will continue such attacks. This was stated by the Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Rustem Umierov. "For our part, we continue to work with the governments of the partner countries to provide Ukraine with a sufficient number of air defense equipment to protect our people from the deadly danger of future attacks," Umyerov writes.
- In turn, analysts of the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) believe that the Russian Federation is not capable of regularly attacking Ukraine with missiles on the same scale as on December 29.

30.12

- During the day, 56 combat clashes took place at the front.
- At night, the enemy attacked Ukraine with drones. 5 out of 10 UAVs were destroyed. The drones were shot down within the Mykolaiv, Kherson, and Khmelnytskyi Oblasts. The main blow was the front-line zone of the Kherson Oblast.
- Dragon's teeth are being installed in the border areas of the Northern Operational Zone (Chernihiv Oblast). These are tetrahedrons, anti-tank concrete blocking elements that are included in the defense system of platoon strongholds.
- The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation claims that 32 drones were allegedly shot down that night over the territories of the Bryansk, Oryol, Kursk, and Moscow Oblasts.

Losses of the Russian army from 25.12.2023 to 31.12.2023

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✓ During the past week, Russians launched 186 missile and 521 air strikes and fired over 575 MLRS attacks.

Massive attacks throughout the week:

Attack on the night of December 24: The Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 14 of 15 Shahed drones in the Mykolaiv, Kropyvnytskyi, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, and Khmelnytskyi oblasts.

Attack on the night of December 25: the Ukrainian forces intercepted two X-59 and X-31P missiles, along with 28 drones at night. Additionally, anti-aircraft gunners destroyed two Russian bombers, Su-34 and Su-30 SM.

Attack on the night of December 26: Russia launched 19 Shahed drones towards Ukraine. The Ukrainian Air Defense Forces shot down 13 drones in the Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, and Khmelnytskyi oblasts.

- The Russians targeted an industrial facility in Mykolaiv by a drone, damaging warehouse buildings. Also, they attacked the village of Solonchaky in the Kutsurub community.
- The Russian troops hit an open area of an infrastructure facility in the Odesa district using drones. A fire broke out, but no injuries were reported.

Attack on the night of December 27: Russia launched 46 drones towards Ukraine, with 32 of them being shot down. Despite this, most of the drones that were not destroyed attacked frontline areas, notably the Kherson oblast. The Ukrainian Air Defense Forces were also active in the Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhzhia, Khmelnytskyi, and Kropyvnytskyi oblasts.

- During an attack in the Odesa oblast, a drone that was shot down crashed into country houses in the suburbs, killing two people and injuring three others.

Attack on the night of December 29

On the night of December 29, the Russians launched 158 aerial targets toward Ukraine, which included: 36 Shaheeds, at least 90 X-101/X-555/X-55 air-launched cruise missiles, 8 X-22/X-32 cruise missiles, 14 S-300/S-400/Iskander-M missiles, 5 X-47M2 Kinzhal aero-ballistic missiles, 4 X-31P antiradar missiles, and one X-59.

This marked the most massive air attack to date. The Ukrainian Air Defense Forces destroyed 27 attack drones and 87 cruise missiles, resulting in 39 fatalities and over 160 injuries.

- In Kyiv, a residential building was damaged in the Shevchenkivskiy district. In the Sviatoshynskiy district, a residential apartment building and parked cars caught fire. In the Podilskiy district, there was a fire in a warehouse. A residential building was damaged in the Darnytskyi district.
- At one of the enterprises in Lviv, which was targeted by a drone, the administrative building and production workshops were partially destroyed. Additionally, there was partial damage reported in 13 high-rise buildings and educational institutions, and several cars were also damaged. Rocket strikes were recorded at an infrastructure facility in the Drohobych district. Rocket fragments fell in the fields within the Stryi and Lviv districts.
- In Dnipro, a rocket struck a shopping center, damaging residential buildings. The Russians destroyed one unit of the maternity hospital.
- Russia launched ten missile strikes toward Zaporizhzhia. As a result, two private houses were destroyed, and windows in 19 high-rise buildings, educational institutions, and a hospital were smashed. Also, garages, gas stations, and a hotel building were damaged.
- The Russian forces attacked Odesa by drones and rockets during the night and in the morning. Three missiles struck residential buildings. Several dozen buildings were damaged by the debris.
- In Kharkiv, due to the Russian rocket attacks, the regional oncology center was damaged, as well as warehouses, a transportation depot, and businesses.
- In Konotop in the Sumy oblast, as a result of five hits, ten houses, and a service station were damaged, and a car burned down. Also, several boiler rooms were damaged.

Chernihiv oblast

On December 24, the Russians attacked residents of a Chernihiv oblast border village by a drone while they were receiving bread. People were not injured, but a car carrying bread was damaged by the debris.

Kherson and oblast

Throughout the week, the Russians shelled Kherson and the oblast more than 500 times.

On December 23, the Russians targeted Stanislav by a drone, killing a 69-year-old man. The critical infrastructure of Kherson was struck. As a result, there was a rupture in the gas networks and a fire broke out. Additionally, a medical facility in the city was hit, leading to injuries for seven people, including a 15-year-old child. In the Korabelnyi district of Kherson, the Russians fired artillery at a police unit responding to a call. Although the car was damaged, the police officers remained uninjured. On December 24, Russia shelled one of the starosta districts (an administrative unit; an optional subdivision of the communities) in the Kherson region: they hit an infrastructure facility and private houses. Also, Russia attacked Chornobaivka, Komyshany, and Bilozerka, killing one woman and wounding another. On the night of December 25, the Russians launched an attack on Kherson once again. As a result, a car in one of the neighborhoods and a garage in the suburbs were burned. On December 26, the Russians targeted Mykilske and Tiahynka, killing two people and wounding two others. As a result of the shelling of Shyroka Balka, doctors hospitalized a 50-year-old man. Additionally, casualties were reported in Stepanivka and Chornobaivka, with four people wounded: three men and one woman. On the same day, the Russians launched an attack on the Kherson railway station and an evacuation train. As a result, the station building and rolling stock were damaged. Several employees were injured, and one person was killed. On December 27, the Russians targeted Novoberyslav, killing a 59-year-old man. On the same day, a medical facility in Beryslav was attacked by drones, injuring a technician. On December 28, Russia shelled Zolofa Balka more than 10 times. The post office was damaged, and a 60-year-old man was wounded. In addition, the Russians launched an attack on Novotiahynka, where a 38-year-old man was wounded. On the same day, Kherson was shelled, leading to a fire breaking out at the impact sites. Two people were reported injured. On the night of December 30, the Russians targeted an administrative building in Kherson, destroying it almost completely. The blast wave damaged two multi-story buildings and seven cars. There were no casualties.

Kharkiv and oblast

Throughout the week under fire were Veterynarne, Kozacha Lopan in the Kharkiv district; Vovchansk, Mala Vovcha, Budarky, Zemlianky, Izbytske, Hatyshche in the Chuhuiv district; Udy, Huriv Kozachok in the Bohodukhiv district; Dvorichna, Synkivka, Petropavlivka, Ivanivka, Berestove, Topoli, Velykyi Burluk, Stroivka, Bolohivka, Ambarne, Krasne Pershe in the Kupiansk district.

On December 24, as a result of shelling in the village of Pidserednie, two people were wounded, and at least six private houses were damaged. Additionally, the Russian shelling of Kozacha Lopan in the Kharkiv district caused damage to four private households and a gas pipeline. There were no casualties. Russia also attacked Kupiansk, leading to a fire in a private house. There were no injuries reported. On December 25, the Russian forces targeted the town of Vovchansk, damaging a private house and outbuildings. Also, as a result of the shelling of Pishchane (Kupiansk district), a 63-year-old resident was injured. Additionally, a private house was damaged due to the Russian shelling of Kozacha Lopan. On December 26, due to the Russian shelling of Podoly in the Kupiansk district, a man died. During the firefighting, his body was found. Additionally, a man was wounded in an attack on Kozacha Lopan. On December 27, Russia struck Kupiansk, damaging two private houses and outbuildings. On December 28, as a result of an MLRS strike on Vovchansk, a 66-year-old woman died, and a 63-year-old woman was injured. On the same day, four women were injured due to the Russian shelling of Hlushkivka. One house in the village was destroyed, and three others were damaged. Also, the Russians shelled Kyrivka in the Kupiansk district, damaging a private house and a power line. There were no casualties reported.

Zaporizhzhia and oblast

Throughout the week, the Russians launched more than 850 attacks towards the Zaporizhzhia oblast. They targeted Huliaipole, Novoandriivka, Novodarivka, Charivne, Mala Tokmachka, Poltavka, Zaliznychne, Novodanylivka, Chervone, Levadne, Mali Shcherbaky, Plavni, Shyroke, Orikhiv, Bilohiria, Malynivka, Preobrazhenka, Piatykatky, Kamianske, Stepove, Temyrivka, Luhivske, Stepanohirsk, and Kamianske.

On December 28, due to the Russian artillery shelling of the Dnipro River coastline in the village of Bilenke in the Zaporizhzhia district, two fishermen were killed and five (employees of the emergency gas service) were injured. In addition, the blast wave damaged a car. Six airstrikes were also carried out on Orikhiv and Mala Tokmachka, leading to the destruction of multi-story buildings. One woman was killed, and four people were injured.

This week shelling and strikes

Kropyvnytskyi oblast

On December 23, the Ukrainian forces shot down rockets over the Kropyvnytskyi and Oleksandriia districts. Shrapnel damaged roofs, fences, and cars. There were no casualties reported.

Cherkasy oblast

On December 29, the Russians shelled the residential area in Smila, injuring nine people and damaging 51 houses.

Sumy oblast

On December 29, the Russians targeted the residential area in Smila, injuring nine people and damaging 51 houses. Throughout the week, Russia shelled the oblast more than 100 times. They attacked Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Khotyn, Yunakivka, Velyka Pysarivka, Myropillia, Putyvl, Seredyna-Buda, Esman, Nova Sloboda, Znob-Novhorods and Shalyhyne communities.

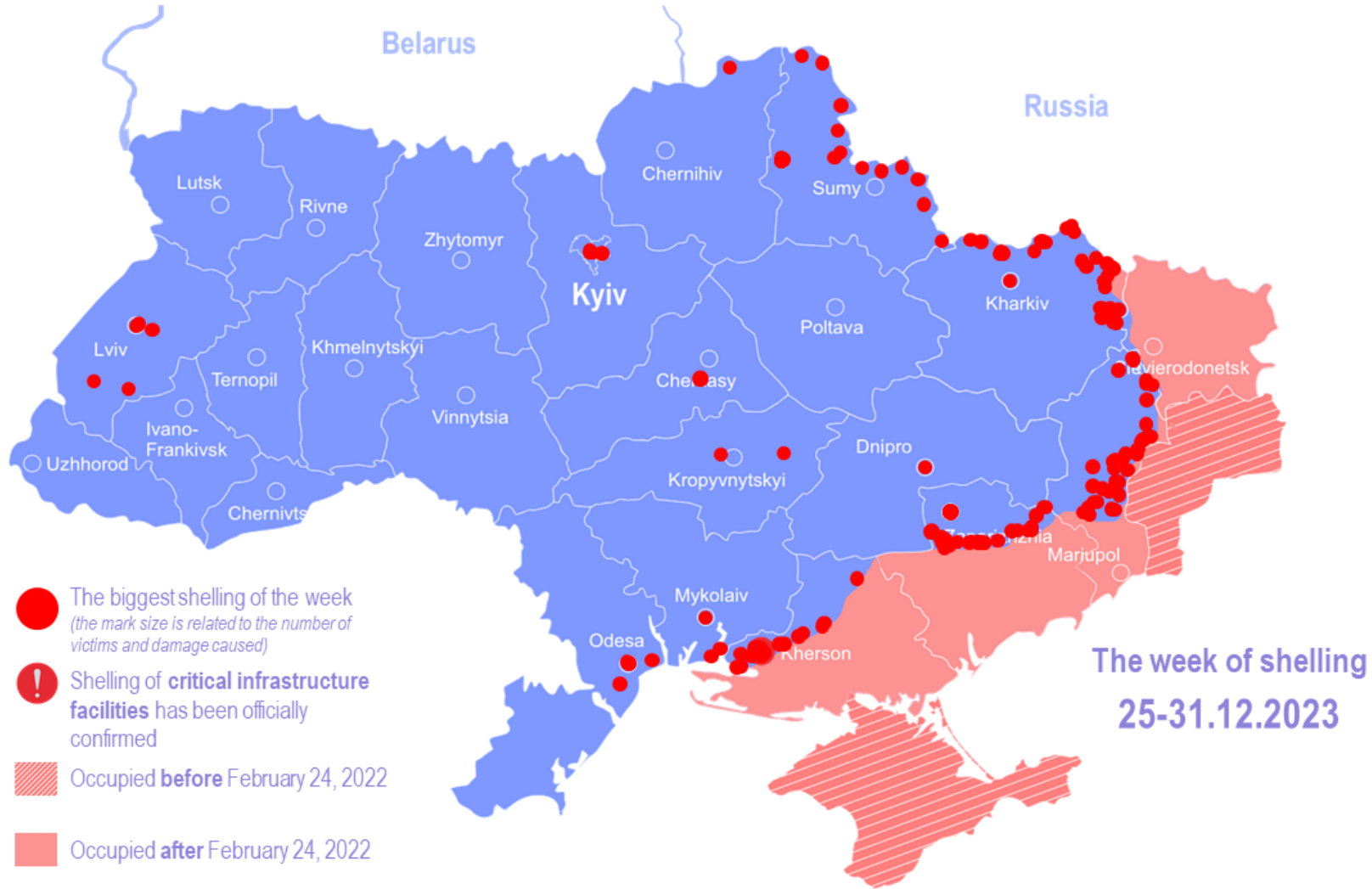
Donetsk oblast

On the Volnovakha direction, Bohoiavlenska, Prechystivka, Novoukrainka, and the Vuhledar community are affected. Residential buildings were damaged.

On the Donetsk direction, Kurakhove, Selydove, and the Marinka, Ocheretyne communities, Krasnohorivka, Zoriane, Yelyzavetivka, Novoselivka Persha, Novopokrovske, Soloviove, Avdiivka, Kostiantynivka, Orlivka, Novobakhmutivka, Katerynivka, Ocheretyne, Novomykhailivka, Maksymilianivka, Heorhiivka came under fire. High-rise buildings, private houses, an infrastructure facility, and an industrial area were damaged.

On the Horlivka direction, Niu-York, and the Chasiv-Yar, Toretsk communities, Zalizne, Toretsk, and Pivnichne are affected. Private houses, infrastructure facilities, high-rise buildings, and industrial buildings were damaged.

On the Lysychansk direction, Serebrianka, and the Siversk, Lyman communities, Torske, Zarichne, Pereizne, and Verkhokamianske came under fire. Residential buildings were damaged. There are injuries or casualties in all directions.



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Lviv



Odesa oblast



Humanitarian crisis



25.12

- Russian invaders are attempting to bribe residents of temporarily occupied territories to provide testimony against Ukraine. On the temporarily occupied territory of the Zaporizhzhia oblast, the occupation administration promises financial assistance to "victims of Ukrainian aggression." The sole condition is a statement to receive it, effectively serving as testimony that Ukraine allegedly attacked the region and is shelling the civilian population. This information is reported by the National Resistance Center.
- Ukraine has received \$1.34 billion in support of the social sector within the framework of the World Bank's PEACE in Ukraine project. This information was announced by the Ministry of Finance. These funds constitute the sixth additional financing installment under the project "Supporting State Expenditures for Sustainable Public Financial Management in Ukraine."
- In Kherson, Russian occupiers destroyed the third humanitarian aid facility within a few days, which contained food, diapers, stoves, mattresses, and blankets. This information was reported by the commander of the Kherson regional rapid response unit of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, Mykola Taranenko.

26.12

- According to the Lublin Tax Service, approximately 1,500 trucks are queued at the border crossing point in Dorohusk, waiting to exit Poland and enter Ukraine. The queue spans about 40 kilometers. The reduction in external trade volume due to the blockade of trucks at the western border of Ukraine could amount to \$1.5 billion. In November, the reduction was \$860 million, and in December, it reached \$620 million.

27.12

- In the temporarily occupied territories, Russians are establishing hospitals for treating occupiers in civilian facilities. Instances have been documented where hospitals are set up in cultural buildings and educational institutions that are non-operational due to the Kremlin's full-scale invasion. Additionally, Russians often store equipment in such facilities and disregard the proximity to residential areas. This information is reported by the National Resistance Center.
- Since the beginning of the full-scale war, Russia has conducted 465 chemical attacks in Ukraine. In December alone of the current year, there have been 81 cases. Moreover, the trend of chemical weapon usage is on the rise. This information is provided by the Public Relations Service of the Command of the Support Forces of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- In occupied Crimea, a large convoy of grain trucks was observed on the bypass road to Feodosia towards Kerch. Russians have begun exporting all the plundered grain from Ukraine through the Feodosia port following the attack on the ship "Novocherkassk" by the Ukrainian Armed Forces. It is through the maritime port of Feodosia that Russians were unloading plundered grain from Ukraine, often under foreign flags. This information is reported by the publication "Krym.Realii.,"
- The Ukrainian prosecutor's office has initiated an investigation into the shooting of Ukrainian prisoners of war by occupiers near Zaporizhzhia. According to the investigation, Russian military personnel took three Ukrainian defenders captive during a December 2023 skirmish with the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Zaporizhzhia oblast. An hour later, in violation of Article 3 of the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, the occupiers executed them. A video of this incident has emerged and circulated on the Internet. This information is provided by the press service of the Office of the Prosecutor General.

28.12

- The Russian occupation administration deliberately concealed the true number of flood victims in the Kherson region, which resulted from the explosion of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Station. In the city of Oleshky alone, at least a hundred people have died, according to the Associated Press.
- In 2023, Ukraine is projected to have the lowest birth rate in the EU, with an expected value of 0.7 children per woman. This is attributed to economic instability, low expectations, and the absence of social services, as reported by El Pais.

28.12

- The Russian police have conducted a series of raids in villages in the temporarily occupied southern regions for "preventive talks" with those who refuse to receive Russian passports. Forced passportization is ongoing in the region in order to change the composition of the population based on documents. Those who resist are being restricted in their rights and intimidated because, for the occupiers, they are considered "non-loyal residents." This information is reported by the National Resistance Center.
- The process of adopting Ukrainian children in Russia has been expanded on a large scale, with attempts to immediately place Ukrainian children in Russian families. After Russians observed Ukraine documenting war crimes committed by Russia, they ceased to legally recognize adoptions of deported children, according to the Ukrainian Ombudsman. According to the Ombudsman, at least 380 Ukrainian children have been placed under so-called "temporary custody," meaning they have been adopted by Russian families. Meanwhile, many Ukrainian children are trying to signal that they have been deported to Russia and want to return.
- Vitalii Matvienko, the speaker for the "I Want to Live" project, revealed that over 30,000 requests were received from Russians wishing to voluntarily surrender in captivity. More than 215 extraction operations have been conducted. It is noted that initially, more inquiries came from relatives of Russian military personnel, but currently, the majority of requests come from Russian military personnel.
- The medical guarantees program for 2024 covers a new package of services, specifically "Treatment of infertility using assisted reproductive technologies (in vitro fertilization)." According to statistical data, the number of infertile couples in Ukraine has been steadily increasing. For the first time, the Ministry of Health is introducing funding for assisted reproductive technologies under the state guarantees program for population medical services. This information is available on the Ministry of Health website.
- A new group of deported Ukrainian children has arrived in Belarus. The exact number of children in this new group, who were abducted from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine and brought to Belarus, is unknown. The self-proclaimed president of Belarus personally visited the government-organized meeting with the transported children from the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine. Addressing the children, he cynically promised to "embrace these children, warm them, and make their childhood happier." This information is reported by the Associated Press.

29.12

- Russia has officially deployed a battalion on the front line, formed from Ukrainian prisoners of war. This constitutes a serious violation of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war, as reported in a study by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW). Russian media have reported that fighters from the "Bohdan Khmelnytskyi" battalion, composed of Ukrainian prisoners of war, have participated in combat for the first time in the western Donetsk region. The battalion recruited around 70 Ukrainian prisoners of war.
- In 2023, Ukrzaliznytsia (Ukrainian Railways) conducted 1,100 evacuation trips from the Kherson, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Sumy regions. During this time, Ukrzaliznytsia evacuated over 61,000 passengers, including almost 15,000 children and people with disabilities.

