



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

October 13 – 19

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13.10

- The Norwegian Embassy in Ukraine will now have a **military attaché** responsible for defense cooperation between the two countries. The position was created by the Norwegian Ministry of Defense.
- Zelenskiy said that **Russia is recruiting DPRK military** personnel into its troops. 'We see an increasing alliance between Russia and regimes such as North Korea. It is no longer just about arms transfers. It is actually about the transfer of people from North Korea to the occupying military forces,' he stressed. The President added that in such circumstances, Ukraine's relations with its partners also need to be developed.

14.10

- The EU imposed **new sanctions on Iran** for supplying drones and missiles to Russia. Restrictions were imposed on seven people (including Iran's deputy defense minister) and the same number of organizations. Among them are Iranian airlines, procurement firms, and companies that produce fuel for launching missiles and shells.
- The European Parliament's Committee on Trade approved a **€35 billion financial loan** package to Ukraine. The funds are the EU's contribution to the G7 initiative to provide Ukraine with a \$50 billion (€45 billion) loan to be repaid from the proceeds of Russia's frozen assets. The decision will be further considered by the European Parliament at its session on 21-24 October.
- The leader of the opposition Christian Democratic Union party, Friedrich Merz, **called for the transfer of Taurus** cruise missiles to Ukraine. Russia should also be given an ultimatum: if the shelling of civilians continues, restrictions on the use of long-range weapons will be lifted.

15.10

- Liquefied **natural gas flows** have **increased** despite the EU's attempts to impose sanctions on Moscow and weaken its economy. This was reported by the Financial Times. France calls for stricter monitoring of Russian gas exports to the EU.

16.10

- Britain is working on 'its own proposals' to **implement a plan for Ukraine's victory**. This was discussed during a telephone conversation between Syrskiy and the UK Chief of Defense Staff, Admiral Sir Antony Radakin.
- President Volodymyr Zelenskiy presented the **Victory Plan** in the Verkhovna Rada for the first time. Here are its main points:
 - Inviting Ukraine to **join NATO** now. According to Zelenskiy, Ukraine's determination on the NATO issue means that European integration is inevitable.
 - Defense. The item includes **operations on Russian territory** to prevent buffer zones on Ukrainian territory; assistance from partners in manning reserve brigades for the Armed Forces; joint defense operations with European neighbors to **shoot down Russian missiles** and drones; and **lifting restrictions** on the use of long-range weapons.
 - Deterrence. Ukraine proposes to deploy a comprehensive non-nuclear **deterrence package** on its territory that will protect against Russian aggression and limit its capabilities.
 - Developing Ukraine's strategic and economic potential and **strengthening sanctions**.
 - After the war, the Ukrainian military can use its experience to strengthen NATO and European defenses. The US contingent could be replaced by the Ukrainian military.
- The second, third, and fourth points have secret annexes that were presented to the partners. Zelenskiy said that if everything goes according to plan, the war could be over by the end of next year.
- The Estonian parliament **recognized the deportation** of Crimean Tatars in 1944 **as genocide**.

17.10

- Ukraine and **Greece** have signed a **bilateral security agreement**. Here is what the agreement provides for:
 - Greece will provide additional resources to accelerate the **training of Ukrainian pilots** and engineers for the F-16.
 - Greece will support **sanctions against Russia** and its economic partnership with Ukraine.
 - Greece will participate in the restoration and **reconstruction of Ukraine**, supporting its future **membership in the EU and NATO** and the Peace Formula.
- Ukraine has already signed **27 bilateral agreements**, including with the US, EU, UK, Germany, France and other countries.
- NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte stressed that Ukraine's **path to the Alliance is irreversible** - NATO is now building a 'bridge' for the country's accession to the Alliance. However, he did not specify a clear timeline.
- Britain imposed its largest package of **sanctions against the Russian shadow fleet**. The restrictions include 18 Russian oil tankers and four liquefied natural gas tankers. In total, 43 Russian vessels are under British sanctions.
- For the first time, the US imposed **sanctions on Chinese companies** that manufacture drones for the Russian Federation. The sanctions targeted two Chinese companies - a manufacturer of engines for "Harpy" drones and an intermediary in their supply to Russia.

18.10

- South Korea's president has called an emergency meeting over **the movement of DPRK troops** to Russia, Bloomberg reports. This is considered a '**serious security threat**' to South Korea and the international community. Against this backdrop, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha calls on the Euro-Atlantic community to act immediately and decisively, as 'the DPRK, together with Russia, are invading Europe.'
- President Zelenskiy gave an interview about the peace plan and the results of his trips to the US and Europe. Here are the main points.
 - Ukraine will receive **military aid packages** from the US worth \$500-750,000 every 2-3 weeks.
 - By the end of November, the Ukrainian brigade training in France will return to Ukraine. **France** is ahead of other countries in **manning Ukrainian brigades**.
 - Ukraine will not develop **nuclear weapons**. Currently, NATO membership is better than any weapon, including nuclear weapons. Moreover, Ukraine is closer to NATO membership than it has ever been.
 - Ukraine is not against **the peace plans of other countries** if they can unite the whole world. However, if our partners want Ukraine to sit down at the negotiating table with Russia, they must provide us with weapons.
- The IMF has agreed on a **\$1.1 billion tranche** for Ukraine. This is the fifth review of the Extended Fund Facility. The money will go to the state budget and help Ukraine finance critical expenditures, social assistance, salaries for doctors, teachers, etc.
- Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal met with **Prime Minister of Finland** Petteri Orpo. They discussed the civil protection project in Ukraine, signed an agreement in the healthcare sector, and Finland announced a **new energy assistance package**. This was reported on Shmyhal's Telegram channel and on the Finnish government's website.
- Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has again blocked EU attempts to amend the sanctions regime against Russia, a necessary step to attract significant US financial assistance in the form of a \$50 billion loan to Ukraine.



Military positions

- In the Kharkiv direction, the enemy carried out offensive actions in the Vovchansk area.
- In the Kupiansk direction, the Defense Forces repelled the attacks of the occupiers in the districts of Holubivka, Synkivka, Novoosynove, Stepova Novoselivka, Pischane, Kolisnykivka, Vyshneve, and Lozova.
- In the Lyman direction, Ukrainian troops stopped enemy attacks in the areas of Hrekivka, Druzhelyubivka, Terniv, Makiivka, and Torske.
- In the Kramatorsk direction, there were attempts by the invaders to advance near Chasiv Yar, Predtechyne and Stupochky. The situation is under control. The enemy acted with the support of the aviation - struck with guided bombs in the area of Nykyforivka.
- With the support of bomber aircraft, the enemy attacked the Toretsk and Delivka areas in the Toretsk direction.
- In the Pokrovsk direction, the enemy tried to advance near Romanivka, Selydove, Promin, and Mykhailivka.

- The defense forces continue to restrain the occupiers in the Kurakhove direction in the areas of Zhelanne Druhe, Novodmytrivka, Hirnyk, Novoselydivka, Kurakhivka, Heorhiivka, Antonivka, Dalnye, Katerynivka, and Kostyantynivka settlements.
- Enemy attacks in the area of Novoukrainka and Bohoiavlenska were stopped in the Vremivka direction.
- In the Orihiv direction, occupation troops stormed the positions of the Defense Forces in the Novodanylivka area.
- The operational situation in the Volyn and Polissia directions has not changed significantly. No signs of the formation of enemy offensive groups were detected.
- On the border with the Chernihiv region, the enemy maintains a military presence and conducts reconnaissance and artillery fire.
- The Defense Forces of Ukraine continue to conduct operations in the Kursk direction.

13.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of October 12-13, 2024, a Tu-134 aircraft belonging to the 117th military transport aviation regiment of the armed forces of the aggressor state burned down in Russia. This was reported by the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. As noted, the devastating fire broke out at the Russian military airfield "Orenburg-2", where the Tu-134 was based.
14.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the past day, 161 combat clashes were recorded. The enemy advanced most actively in the Kurakhove direction. ➤ The Russians have been trying to break through the defenses in the Kursk region for the fifth day. The Ukrainian military is holding on and counterattacking. At the general headquarters, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi listened to the report of the head of the commissar, Oleksandr Syrskyi, on the operational situation. Active operations continue along the entire front line, but particularly fierce battles — in the Pokrovsk and Kurakhove directions. ➤ President Zelenskyi announced the "actual inclusion" of North Korea in the war against Ukraine. "Among the main ones was the intelligence report on the intentions of the Russians for autumn and winter. Everything is quite detailed. In fact, the inclusion of North Korea in the war. Also — Russia's relations with some other countries, which, unfortunately, are investing in prolonging the war," Zelenskyi said after the Commander-in-Chief's Headquarters. According to Zelenskyi, Russia is already recruiting North Korean troops into its forces. ➤ The US-based Institute for the Study of War (ISW) says it has observed an increase in the number of executions by the Russian military of Ukrainian prisoners of war and points out that Russian commanders are likely to "tolerate, encourage or directly order" the executions. The largest one-time shooting of Ukrainian prisoners of war occurred on October 1, when Russian troops shot 16 Ukrainian prisoners of war in the Pokrovsk direction.
15.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Artan, Kraken, and International Legion units of the Main Directorate of Intelligence cleared 400 hectares of forest from Russian troops and destroyed almost a regiment of invaders near Lyptsi, in the north of Kharkiv Oblast. The position of the Russians on this part of the front is "close to hopeless," according to the Main Directorate of Intelligence. ➤ Already 18 military personnel from North Korea have escaped from Russian positions in the Bryansk and Kursk regions, according to the source of "Babel" in Ukrainian intelligence. It happened 7 km from the border with Ukraine. The soldiers from the DPRK are currently being sought, their motives for the escape have not yet been established. At the same time, a "special battalion" staffed by citizens of the DPRK is being formed on the basis of the 11th separate airborne assault brigade of the Russian Federation. The approximate number of personnel is up to 3,000. It is assumed that they can be involved in combat missions near the cities of Sudzha and Kursk. ➤ Since the beginning of the year, the Armed Forces of Ukraine have destroyed more than 10,000 artillery systems of the Russian Federation. Their value is \$8 billion. The Russian army lost the most artillery on September 22, when Ukrainian defenders destroyed 81 enemy artillery systems in one day.
16.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 171 combat clashes were recorded during the past 24 hours. ➤ The Russians are approaching a coking coal mine near Pokrovsk. Its loss will reduce steel production by half. By the end of the year, Ukraine can produce up to 7.5 million tons of steel (for this, it needs coke), but if the Russian Federation occupies Pokrovsk and the mine, production will drop to 2-3 million tons. Steel export is one of Ukraine's main sources of income.

Losses of the Russian army from 13.10.2024 to 19.10.2024

Liquidated personnel	8 330
Tanks	72
IFVs	216
Artillery systems / MLRS	144/1
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	0
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	278
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	365
Special equipment	39



Military positions

17.10

- During the past day, 163 combat clashes were recorded.

18.10

- In total, 210 combat clashes were recorded during the past day. It is the highest intensity now in the Kurakhove direction.
- About 11,000 North Korean soldiers are being trained in the Russian Federation for the war against Ukraine, said the head of the Main Directorate of Intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov. According to him, they will be ready to fight in Ukraine on November 1. The first division of 2,600 North Korean soldiers will go to the Kursk region. It is still unclear where the rest of the troops will be sent.
- Russia is preparing the North Korean military for war in Ukraine at four of its training grounds, Ukrainian intelligence sources told "Babel." We are talking about landfills in such cities as Khabarovsk, Usuriysk, Blagoveshchensk, and Vladivostok.
- The DPRK has already sent 1,500 special forces to Russia for the war against Ukraine. South Korean intelligence recorded the transportation of North Korean soldiers on October 8-13.
- Ukraine liberated and cleared the village of Kruhliakivka in the Kharkiv region. The operation to regain control over the settlement, which is important for the defense of Kupiansk, lasted from October 7 to 14. During the assault, the Russians lost more than a platoon of infantry, and some of the occupiers were taken prisoner, having received important intelligence data.

19.10

- During the past 24 hours, 202 military clashes took place.
- The Russian Bryansk was attacked by drones. Local media reports that the Kremniy EI plant, one of the largest producers of microelectronics in the Russian Federation, was under attack. Components for air defense systems and Iskander missile systems are manufactured there. The Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation reports that 13 drones were allegedly shot down over the region.
- Yesterday, the occupiers destroyed a bridge in Oleshky in the Kherson region, expecting the offensive of the Defense Forces, the ATESH movement reports. This bridge crosses the Konka River in the Kherson region. It is also reported that all Russian units at a depth of up to 15 km have been put on full combat readiness. ATESH also notes the movement of about 1,000 Russian servicemen towards the Dnipro River.

Military Support

- The Estonian government wants to buy **weapons from the Ukrainian defense industry**. The Estonian defense minister believes that such cooperation could help the Ukrainian defense industry increase production.
- The EU mission to train the Ukrainian military (**EUMAM**) **is to be extended** for another two years, the bloc's chief diplomat Josep Borrell said.
- France will supply Ukraine with domestically produced **kamikaze drones** in the coming weeks. In March, France ordered 2,000 of these drones, and promised to give 100 of them to Ukraine.
- Ukraine will receive 'dozens' of **Abrams M1A1 tanks** from Australia. They will be delivered as part of a \$245 million military support package.
- The United States will provide Ukraine with a **\$425 million military support package**. The package includes new air defense systems, air-to-ground missiles, armored vehicles, and artillery shells. President Volodymyr Zelenskyi thanked for the assistance and added that the package also includes long-range weapons.
- Norway will provide Ukraine with 6 **F-16 fighter jets** 'in the near future,' Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umierov said.
- The Netherlands will allocate **€271 million for artillery shells** for Ukraine, Prime Minister Dick Schoof said.
- The Netherlands has ordered 6 new 155 mm DITA **self-propelled howitzers** from the Czech Republic for Ukraine. This is reported on the website of the Dutch Ministry of Defense.
- The German government has announced a **new military aid package** for Ukraine that includes anti-aircraft missiles for the Ukrainian FrankenSAM air defense systems. In particular, it includes armored vehicles, self-propelled artillery systems, engineering equipment, ammunition, anti-aircraft missiles, and the previously promised IRIS-T air defense systems.
- Canada will provide Ukraine with a **\$47 million aid package**. It will include small arms, ammunition and protective equipment.
- **Denmark** has announced a new **aid package** for Ukraine worth more than €321 million. It is known that it will include weapons from Danish warehouses and joint funding for air defense systems with Germany, as well as expanded training programs for the Ukrainian military.
- The Netherlands will buy **reconnaissance drones** for Ukraine for more than €42 million. The drones will be supplied by a Dutch company.
- The Swiss government and the Senate of the German city of Hamburg have supplied Ukraine with GCS-200 **demining systems**. Hamburg allocated about 10 million euros for this equipment.

Massive attacks per week

- Attack on the night of October 13: Air defense forces shot down 31 Shahed drones. Russians attacked Poltava and Odesa oblasts with two Iskander-M ballistic missiles and Chernihiv and Sumy oblasts with two X-59 guided missiles.
- Attack on the night of October 15: Air defense forces shot down 12 enemy drones. Russia attacked Ukraine with 7 S-300/S-400 missiles, 2 X-59 missiles, and 17 Shahed drones.
- Attack on the night of October 16: Air defense forces shot down 68 of 136 drones. The Russians also fired an S-300/400 anti-aircraft guided missile at Donetsk oblast and an X-59 guided missile at Chernihiv oblast.
 - An industrial facility in Ternopil oblast was damaged, and a large-scale fire broke out.
- Attack on the night of October 17: Air defense forces destroyed 22 Russian drones. There were 5 hits on infrastructure in the frontline areas. The Russians also launched an X-59 guided missile.
- Attack on the night of October 18: Air defense forces shot down 80 of 135 drones. 44 Russian drones were lost due to the electronic warfare; two flew in the direction of Belarus.
- Attack on the night of October 19: Air defense forces shot down 42 drones and 4 missiles. In total, the Russians launched 98 drones and 6 X-59/69 missiles at Ukraine. 46 Russian drones were lost due to electronic warfare.
 - In Sumy oblast, seven people were injured, and energy and infrastructure facilities were damaged.
 - A critical infrastructure facility was hit in Chernihiv oblast.
 - A woman was injured by a drone fragment in Kyiv.

Sumy oblast

- During the week, the oblast was daily being hit by mortars, kamikaze drones, and guided aerial bombs. Private and apartment buildings, industrial enterprises, administrative buildings, medical and educational institutions, and civilian vehicles were hit.

Four residents of Sumy, Bilopillia, and Khotyn communities were injured as a result of Russian shelling. On October 19, Russians attacked a unit of the State Emergency Service in Shostka, Sumy oblast, injuring eight rescuers.

The communities, regularly subjected to destruction: Sumy, Khotyn, Myropillia, Richkiv, Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Velyka Pysarivka, Nova Sloboda, Shalyhyne, Hlukhiv, Trostianets, Esman, Yunakivka, Znob-Novhorod, Mykolaivka, Stepanivka, Svesa, Druzhbivka, Seredyna-Buda, and Putyvl communities.

Kharkiv and the oblast

- During the week, the Russian forces increased MLRS attacks on the territory of Kharkiv oblast. Russia continues to attack Kupiansk with FPV drones with unchanged regularity. Iziurm region also suffered from enemy attacks.

The killed and wounded civilians were recorded in Kupiansk, Hlushkivka, Merefa, Kruhliakivka, and Podoly.

Borova, Shyivkivka, Senkove, Kivsharivka, Horokhovatka, Kitsivka, Shevchenkove, Buhavka, Staryi Saltiv, Kurylivka, Shcherbak, and Zolochiv suffered destruction.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- During the week, a number of settlements in Zaporizhzhia oblast were subjected to daily shelling with artillery. Civilian infrastructure was heavily damaged. Despite the constant attacks, no deaths or injuries were reported in the oblast.

Russians carried out air and artillery strikes on Bilenke, Prymorske, Lobkove, Huliaipole, Novoandriivka, Novodanylivka, Robotyne, Mala Tokmachka, Levadne, Malynivka, Shcherbak, and Stepanivka.

Dnipro and the oblast

- During the week, the Russians shelled the Nikopol region every day. In addition to artillery and FPV drones, Russian forces periodically used Grad multiple rocket launchers, primarily at night.

On October 14, a sanatorium, a five-story building, and private houses were damaged in Nikopol as a result of drone attacks. On October 15, a pregnant woman and a 4-year-old boy were injured in one of the communities due to shelling. On the night of October 17, Russians fired about 10 Grad multiple rocket launchers at the Marhanets community. On October 17, Russians shelled the Nikopol region more than 30 times, injuring 3 people and damaging multi-story buildings and private houses.

Odesa and the oblast

- Russians continue to attack port infrastructure and civilian vessels with missiles to disrupt the Ukrainian grain corridor.

On October 14, Russians attacked the port of Odesa with a ballistic missile, killing 1 person and injuring 8. Two vessels were damaged – OPTIMA flying the flag of Palau and NS Moon flying the flag of Belize. A grain warehouse, cargo cranes, warehouses, machinery, and buildings of the Sea Ports Authority branch were damaged. On October 18, a three-story building and private houses were damaged in a missile attack on Odesa.

Donetsk oblast

- During the week, numerous settlements of the Pokrovsk region came under constant shelling from various types of weapons. Private and apartment buildings sustained the most damage.

On October 12, five residents of Donetsk oblast were killed, including a 19-year-old boy as a result of an FPV drone strike on Ulakly, an 84-year-old woman in Kurakhivka, a man in Ostrovske, and a resident of Horishne. Another 11 people were injured.

On October 13, Russia shelled Vyshneve, Pokrovsk, Chasiv Yar, and Lyman, killing three people and wounding three others.

- Injuries and damage to infrastructure were also recorded:
 - **In the Volnovakha district:** Shakhtarske.
 - **In the Pokrovsk district:** the Pokrovsk community, Selydove, Shevchenko, Myrnohrad, Hirnyk, Ostrovske, Novoselydivka, Izmailivka, Vovchenka, Kurakhove, Svitloye, Romanivka, Hryshyne.
 - **In the Kramatorsk district:** Kramatorsk, Ivanopillia, Zakitne, Kostiantynivka, Mykolaivka.
 - **In the Bakhmut district:** Siversk, Riznykivka.

Chernihiv oblast

- During the week, the Russians fired mortars and grenade launchers, cannon and rocket artillery, drones, and FPV drones at four border communities: Novhorod-Siverskyi, Semenivka, Snovsk, and Horodnia. In total, at least 204 explosions were recorded over the week.

On the night of October 19, Russians attacked a critical infrastructure facility in the village of Khmilnytsia in the Novyi Bilous community.

Cherkasy oblast

On October 19, a woman died as a result of a massive missile and drone attack in the Uman region. A critical infrastructure facility was attacked in the Cherkasy region.

Kherson and the oblast

- During the week, Russian shelling killed at least 5 people and wounded at least 39. About 13 multi-story buildings and 62 private houses were damaged. Compared to the previous week, the number of wounded and damaged buildings is lower.
- Russians continue to intensify their attacks on civilians, dropping explosives from drones. The Russian military has also intensified attacks on utility workers in Kherson.

On the night of October 14, Russians launched a massive attack on Kherson, damaging the post office and the office of the regional organization of the Red Cross of Ukraine. In the afternoon, a civilian car was attacked by an FPV drone near Havrylivka: 2 killed, 2 wounded. On October 18 and 19, Russians twice attacked the municipal emergency service workers in Kherson with drones. 10 employees were injured.

During the week, Russians shelled the following settlements in the oblast: Antonivka, Komyschany, Sadove, Bilozerka, Romashkove, Kizomys, Stanislav, Beryslav, Burhunka, Oleksandrivka, Novooleksandrivka, Novovorontsovska, Shlyakhove, Mylove, Havrylivka, Inhulets, Sofiivka, Shyroka Balka, Zolota Balka, Chervonyi Maiak, Kachkarivka, Odradokamianka, Zelenivka, Khreshchenivka, Mykhailivka, Kozatske, Veletenske, Inzhenerne, Dniprovske, Prydniprovske, Sablukivka, Tiahynka, Novokairy, Osokorivka, Zmiivka, Novoraisk, Mykilske, Mala Seidemynukha, Olhivka, Kherson.

Mykolaiv oblast

- Russians continue shelling coastal communities in the oblast with artillery and FPV drones. Russians also resumed attacks with S-300 missiles.

At night on October 14, Russians attacked Mykolaiv with seven S-300 missiles. As a result of shelling, 1 person was killed and 23 injured. The shelling damaged an infrastructure facility, a restaurant complex, shopping pavilions, and 56 residential buildings. On October 15, the Russians attacked the town of Ochakiv with an S-300 missile. Nine private houses were damaged.



The week of shelling

Kharkiv oblast



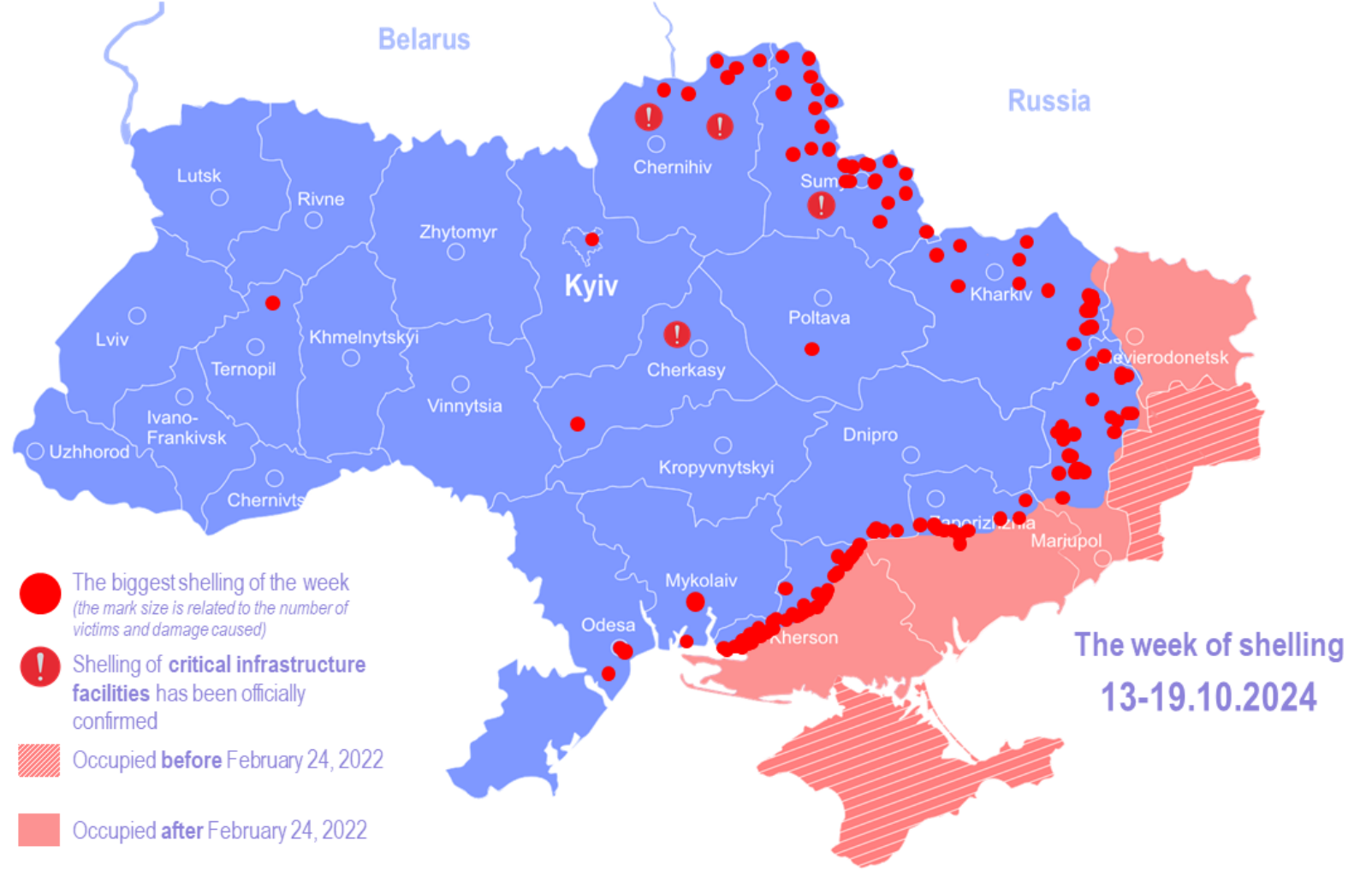
Sumy oblast



Donetsk oblast



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Report of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission, September 2024

- In September, at least 208 civilians, including nine children, were killed, and 1,220 people, including 76 children, were injured in Russian attacks in Ukraine. This is **the highest number of civilian casualties in 2024. 46% of those killed were over 60 years old.**
- The trend of increasing civilian casualties, which began in July, continues.
- The vast majority of civilian losses (92%) and damage to educational and healthcare facilities (96%) in September occurred in areas under Ukrainian control.
- At least 30 attacks damaged or destroyed **energy infrastructure** (25 in areas under Ukrainian control and 5 in areas temporarily occupied by Russia).

Prisoners of War

- The bodies of **501 fallen Ukrainian soldiers** have been **returned** to Ukraine. The bodies of Ukrainian defenders killed in the Avdiivka, Bakhmut, Maryinka, Vuhledar, Zaporizhzhia, and Luhansk directions were repatriated. One body was also repatriated from a morgue in the Russian Federation.
- The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, appealed to international organizations regarding the possible **execution of 9 Ukrainian prisoners of war** in Russia's Kursk Oblast on 10 October. He emphasized that such actions must not go unpunished, and the enemy must bear full responsibility.
- On 18 October, the 58th exchange of prisoners of war took place between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, resulting in the **return of 95 Ukrainian soldiers**. These soldiers defended Mariupol and Azovstal, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Chernihiv, and Kherson Oblasts. Among the released prisoners were many soldiers 'convicted' by Russia on trumped-up cases. 28 Ukrainian soldiers were handed long prison sentences, and 20 were sentenced to life imprisonment for defending Ukraine.

Evacuation

- A mother and three children were evacuated from the village of Kopani, Polohy district. Police also evacuated people from Mala Tokmachka, according to the police of **Zaporizhzhia Oblast**. In total, 9 residents have been evacuated from the area due to the shelling this week.
- In **Sumy Oblast**, 36,000 residents, including more than 6,000 children, have been evacuated during the full-scale war, as reported by the Sumy Regional Military Administration. Evacuations are currently underway from 189 settlements.

International support

- The foreign ministers of the Nordic-Baltic Eight (NB8) countries have signed a **€44 million aid package** for Ukraine. The funds will be used **to purchase generators and solar panels**, according to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Maria Malmer Stenergaard.
- Norway will allocate **€250 million** for the Ukrainian **energy sector** in preparation for winter. These funds will not only be used to restore damaged energy infrastructure but also to build new facilities that will be more resilient to Russian attacks.

Temporarily occupied territories (TOT)

- In the temporarily occupied Crimea, **131 arrests** were recorded in the first nine months of 2024, 60 of which targeted members of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people, as reported by the Crimean Tatar Resource Center. According to the Center, during this period, **91 detentions were documented**, 26 of them against Crimean Tatars, and 59 searches, 35 targeting Crimean Tatars.
- In Berdiansk, Zaporizhzhia Oblast, the occupiers are threatening **to deprive local residents of their parental rights** if their children study in Ukrainian schools online. This was reported by Viktor Dudukalov, deputy chairman of the Berdiansk Regional Council.
- Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency working at the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant reported hearing explosions near the plant. They note **daily military activity in the neighborhood**.
- By the end of 2024, Russian occupiers plan to conduct an "inventory" of all real estate in the TOT of Luhansk Oblast. The main goal of this campaign is **to identify the property of Ukrainians** who have not changed their citizenship, have not received a Russian passport, and have not formalized it in accordance with Kremlin legislation. At least **100,000 properties** are subject to this inventory.

Environmental crisis

- Russia has caused **environmental damage** to Ukraine worth at least UAH 2.6 trillion, according to Hrynychuk, the head of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine. He stated that estimates range between UAH 2.6 and 2.7 trillion. *"The environmental damage is among the largest in monetary terms, as it includes a vast amount of damaged and destroyed agricultural land, protected forest areas, industrial zones, and polluted waterways. Large areas are mined and contaminated with explosives,"* Hrynychuk explained.
- **The Kalchyk River** in the temporarily occupied Mariupol **is drying up**, the Mariupol City Council reported on Telegram. The occupiers built a bridge over the river in December 2023, but the city council emphasized that the construction methods were "barbaric – most of the Kalchyk was simply covered with earth and slag." Additionally, they reported recent evidence of waste from a concrete plant being dumped into the river. *"Now, the river may completely dry up. The invaders are destroying not only homes but the entire ecosystem of the Azov Sea region,"* the statement stressed.

International support

- The High Representative of the European Union **condemned the executions** of Ukrainian prisoners of war by Russia and called it a disgusting example of cruelty. In addition, the EU Diplomatic Service confirmed that 177 Ukrainian prisoners of war had died in Russian captivity since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.
- The United Nations Refugee Agency (**UNHCR**) has allocated an additional \$7 million to fund a program that will provide cash assistance to certain categories of people in frontline communities during the winter. This was reported by the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories.

