



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

December 15 – 21

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International support

15.12

- The defeat of Ukraine would cost the United States 7 times more than supporting Ukraine, according to Elaine McCusker, a former senior official in the US Department of Defence. Ukraine's defeat **would require the US to spend \$808 billion on defense** over the next five years. Russia's seizure of Ukraine's resources would help Moscow threaten the rest of Eastern Europe. By 2030, it could be ready to attack a NATO state, McCusker said in the article. Meanwhile, the George W. Bush Presidential Centre has released recommendations for US policy towards Ukraine. The main advice is to 'double down on support so that Ukraine wins.'
- **Ukraine's defense industrial base** has grown more than tenfold since February 2022, driven by the country's current military needs. After the war is over, Ukraine will have a very competitive defense industrial base in Europe, said Richard Verma, acting US Special Representative for Ukraine's Economic Recovery. He noted that the US helped to stimulate this growth. According to him, Ukraine's tech sector has retained 95% of its capacity and continues to support more than 5,000 tech companies employing nearly 300,000 developers.

16.12

- **South Africa** will not invite Putin to the **G20 summit** because of the International Criminal Court's warrant. South African Presidential spokesperson Vincent Magwenya said in a commentary to Russian propagandists that his country 'cannot influence the ICC warrant against Putin in any way.' The G20 summit is scheduled for November 2025.
- The EU adopts the **15th package of sanctions against Russia**. It imposes restrictions on 84 people and companies in Russia, China, and the DPRK. The sanctions also apply to 52 vessels of the Russian shadow fleet. In particular, the sanctions target top managers of Russia's leading energy companies, people responsible for deporting children, propaganda, and two senior DPRK officials. For the first time, full-fledged **sanctions were imposed on Chinese entities** that supply parts for Russian drones.
- Ukraine will receive **€1.5 billion in financial assistance** from the EU every month. The tranches will be disbursed in January. The EU receives these funds from the use of frozen Russian assets.
- US President-elect Donald Trump gave his first press conference after winning the election. He said that his team is working to **end the war in Ukraine** and has allegedly already made 'a little progress'. The president-elect may **reconsider Joe Biden's decision** to allow Ukraine **to strike with US weapons on Russian territory**. He believes that this has led to an escalation of the conflict. He added that Volodymyr Zelenskyi should be ready to sign an agreement to end the war.

17.12

- South Korea imposes **sanctions on Russia** and the DPRK for military cooperation.
- The UN General Assembly adopted an updated **resolution** on human rights in the occupied territories of Ukraine (TOT), which **condemns the illegal detention of Ukrainian civilians**, the use of torture and ill-treatment, and discrimination against TOT residents. The resolution was voted in favor by 81 countries, with 80 abstentions. Fourteen countries voted against it. The document became the first UN resolution in which the General Assembly called Russia's aggression against Ukraine 'Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.'
- At the **Joint Expeditionary Force (JEF) summit** in Tallinn, the leaders of the participating countries agreed that their **assistance** to Ukraine in 2025 will exceed €12 billion. This is stated in their joint statement, Ukrinform reports. The JEF summit participants also called on the DPRK, Belarus, China, and **Iran to stop supporting Russian aggression**.

17.12

- Trump's special envoy for Ukraine will **visit Kyiv in January**, but does not plan to go to Moscow, Reuters reports. Reuters sources say that Keith Kellogg will meet with Ukraine's top leadership in Kyiv, and his team is working to organize meetings with leaders in other European capitals, such as Rome and Paris. The meetings are expected to **focus on 'fact-finding'** on behalf of the incoming Trump administration, rather than active negotiations.
- Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland, the Netherlands, five Nordic countries, and three Baltic states have agreed to work together to **counteract the shadow fleet**, which Russia uses to export oil, bypassing the established price ceiling.
- **NATO** has replaced the United States in **coordinating Western military assistance** to Ukraine. According to Reuters, the move, made after a delay of several months, gives NATO a more direct role in the war against Russia's invasion without having to commit its own forces.

18.12

- Ukraine received the second **tranche of the Ukraine Facility** program - €4.1 billion. The money will be used to support Ukraine's macro-financial stability and the functioning of the state. This year, €16.1 billion has already been allocated under this program.
- **Australia will donate €50 million** to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development of Ukraine, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said. This is the first bilateral visit to Ukraine by an Australian foreign minister in 10 years. The Australian Embassy in Ukraine will soon resume full operations in Kyiv.
- The Czech Republic recognizes the **deportation of Crimean Tatars** as genocide.

19.12

- Some European leaders support the idea of sending an **EU peacekeeping mission to Ukraine**, Babel reports. During a meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron, Volodymyr Zelenskyi discussed the possible deployment of foreign peacekeepers in Ukraine. Some Western leaders supported this idea. Discussions are ongoing, including how to implement it.
- Ukraine will receive **€18.1 billion in macro-financial assistance** from the European Commission. The first tranche will come in January 2025.
- Ukraine and Poland are planning to create an **Eastern European gas hub** to supply fuel to Europe, bypassing Russia, said Deputy Energy Minister Mykola Kolisnyk. According to Kolisnyk, Ukrainian underground gas storage facilities and Polish liquefied natural gas terminals could create a new business model to replace Russian gas transit.
- Ukraine needs **19 more air defense systems** to protect its energy infrastructure, Zelenskyi said. Specifically for nuclear power plant distribution stations that are under attack by Russia. There are 22-23 of them in Ukraine. If they are destroyed, Ukraine will lose 4-5 gigawatts of generating capacity.
- The G7 countries are considering **options to reduce the price of Russian oil**, Bloomberg reports, citing sources. One option is to change the mechanism by completely banning the processing of Russian oil. They are also considering lowering the price threshold from the current \$60 to around \$40.

20.12

- The European Union will help Ukraine **close its budget gap** in 2025. According to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the bloc's assistance to Ukraine has already amounted to almost €130 billion. The head of the European Council, Antonio Costa, noted that the EU is ready to do 'whatever it takes' to ensure that Ukraine takes a strong position.



Military positions

- In the Kharkiv direction combat clashes occurred with Russian invaders near the area of Vovchansk.
- In the Kupiansk direction, defense Forces repelled attacks by the occupiers near the areas of Kucherivka, Synkivka, Petropavlivka, Zahryzove, and Lozova.
- In the Lyman direction, the invaders concentrated their main efforts in the areas of Yampolivka, Terny, Novoserhiivka, Zelenyi Hai, Ivanivka, Torske, Hryhorivka, and the Serebriansky Forest.
- In the Kramatorsk direction, defense Forces repelled six attempts by the enemy to advance near the settlement of Chasiv Yar.
- In the Toretsk direction, the occupiers attempted to wedge into Ukrainian positions near the settlements of Toretsk and Leonidivka.
- In the Kurakhove direction, defense Forces continue to hold back the Russian army. The occupiers attempted to breach Ukrainian defensive lines near Sontsivka, Stari Terny, Andriivka, Kurakhove, Dachne, Dalne, Konstantynopolske, and Konstantynopil.

- In the Pokrovsk direction, Russian forces attempted to advance near the settlements of Myroliubivka, Promin, Lysivka, Zelene, Novyi Trud, Dachenske, Vovkove, Pishchane, Novovasyivka, Novoyelyzavetivka, Novooleksiivka, and Ukrayinka. Additionally, the invaders actively employed assault and bomber aviation.
- In the Vremivka direction, the invaders attacked near Uspenivka, Dalne, Yantarne, Rozlyv, Bohatyr, Velyka Novosilka, Makarivka, Novosilka, Novopil, and Novodarivka.
- In the Orikhiv direction, Ukrainian defenders successfully repelled one attempt by the enemy to advance near Mala Tokmachka.
- In the Prydniprovskiy direction, the Ukrainian army repelled attacks by Russian invaders.
- In the Volyn and Polissia directions, the operational situation remains unchanged. There are no signs of Russian offensive group formations. Along the border with Chernihiv and Sumy regions, Russians maintain a military presence and conduct reconnaissance activities.

15.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 205 combat clashes were recorded over the past day. ➤ On December 14, Ukrainian intelligence (HUR) carried out a successful strike on Russian logistics in Ulyanovsk. An explosion destroyed a railway line near the Sviaga River, a few kilometers from the local locomotive depot and the Ulyanovsk Motor Plant, complicating the Russian Armed Forces' military logistics, according to Ukrainian intelligence. ➤ The Ukrainian Armed Forces pushed back Russian forces near Kolisnykivka in the Kharkiv region. However, in the Donetsk region, the enemy advanced near Zelenevka, Storozheve, Dachenka, Chasiv Yar, and Novyi Komar, reports DeepState. ➤ The Russian army has doubled its use of drones in southern Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian Defense Forces. Additionally, there has been an increase in the volume of ammunition used during Russian artillery strikes. Defense Forces spokesman Vladyslav Voloshyn attributed this escalation to Russia's likely intentions to capture the southern part of the Donetsk region and reach the administrative border with the Dnipropetrovsk region. Over 450 drone strikes were reported in a single day. ➤ Over the past week, Russia used approximately 630 guided aerial bombs, 550 attack drones, and over 100 missiles of various types against Ukraine, as reported by the President of Ukraine. ➤ On December 10, an enemy sabotage and reconnaissance group (SRG) attempted to cross the Ukrainian border. Propagandist media spread false claims that Russian troops had massively entered the Sumy region. However, these reports were proven false. The saboteurs were swiftly detected, with some neutralized through ambushes and precise drone strikes.
16.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 228 combat clashes were recorded over the past day. ➤ According to DeepState, the Ukrainian Armed Forces face a threat of encirclement in the Vremivka direction. "The most challenging situation in the area of Velyka Novosilka is currently along the Makarivka - Blahodatne - Storozheve line. After capturing Blahodatne, the enemy has been consistently moving infantry into the village in small groups and continues assault actions between Storozheve and Makarivka to cut off the latter, as it remains out of their grasp. Separate attempts to enter Storozheve itself have also been observed, aiming to occupy and fortify positions there," the resource reports. ➤ Ukraine's new cruise missile, named "Peklo," has entered serial production. Contracts are being signed with the same units that operate long-range drones. Over the past three months, the developer company has manufactured around 100 missiles and is currently expanding production capabilities. While the exact price of a serial missile remains undisclosed, it is reported to cost less than Ukraine's kamikaze drone, "Liutyi."
17.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A total of 245 combat clashes were recorded over the past day. ➤ The Defense Forces are engaged in combat along a 1,170-kilometer stretch of the front. The most challenging situations are reported in the Pokrovsk and Kurakhove directions, according to Commander Syrskiy. "For the third consecutive day, the enemy is conducting offensive operations in the Kursk region, aiming to push our units out of Russian territory. They are actively deploying North Korean units. North Korean mercenaries have already suffered significant losses," Syrskiy stated. ➤ Ukraine requires an additional 12–15 air defense systems to fully protect against Russian attacks, President Volodymyr Zelenskyi stated. "We need the full implementation of agreements regarding the supply of air defense systems, particularly those reached at the NATO summit in Washington. We recall that as compensation for the inability to invite Ukraine to the Alliance at that stage, we were promised a significant number of air defense systems... I specifically appeal now to the United States and Europe," Zelenskyi said during his address to the Joint Expeditionary Force summit. ➤ Russian media reports the death of General Igor Kirillov, the head of the Russian Armed Forces' Radiological, Chemical, and Biological Protection Troops, along with his aide. Since the start of the full-scale war, Kirillov was responsible for 4,800 documented cases of chemical weapon use by Russian forces.

Losses of the Russian army from 15.12.2024 to 21.12.2024

Liquidated personnel	10 590
Tanks	46
IFVs	134
Artillery systems / MLRS	133/0
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	5
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	363
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	492
Special equipment	12



Military positions

18.12

- The situation on the front remains tense. The Russian army continues to leverage its advantage in manpower and equipment to attack Ukrainian positions. Ukrainian defenders are steadfastly holding back the pressure, inflicting significant losses on the enemy. A total of 199 combat clashes were recorded over the past day.
- Russian authorities reported a missile attack in the Kamensk area. "Three out of four missiles were shot down, while one struck a utility building. Preliminary reports from emergency services indicate no casualties," stated Yuri Sliusar, the acting governor of the Rostov region. The head of Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation under the National Security and Defense Council (NSDC) claimed that the Kamensky Combine, one of Russia's largest chemical plants involved in producing rocket fuel, explosives, and ammunition components, was the actual target.
- According to Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Oleksandr Syrskiy, an additional 100,000 Russian soldiers are currently deployed on Ukrainian soil. Speaking in an interview with Le Monde, Syrskiy noted that the intensity and scale of the war continue to grow, alongside advancements in technology, particularly the use of drones, which have significantly impacted battlefield tactics.
- The Ukrainian Ministry of Defense has introduced a new silent transporter named CRAB-LS, which has already saved dozens of soldiers' lives on the front lines. The transporter is designed for logistics and evacuation, capable of delivering ammunition and equipment or extracting the wounded. It can also be equipped with combat modules or function as a kamikaze drone. This robotic system features a silent, high-torque electric engine, exceptional endurance, and the ability to operate in challenging conditions.

19.12

- Over the past day, 250 combat engagements were recorded along the front lines.
- The Ukrainian General Staff reported an attack on the Novoshakhtinsk Petroleum Products Plant in the Rostov region of Russia. This refinery is critical for supplying fuel to the Russian Armed Forces, specializing in producing fuel oil, furnace oil, marine and diesel fuel, and straight-run gasoline, with a design capacity of processing 7.5 million tons of oil annually. A fire at the site has been confirmed.
- South Korea reported that North Korea has lost 100 soldiers in the Kursk region, with up to 1,000 wounded. According to South Korean lawmaker Lee Sung Kwon, the heavy losses are attributed to North Korean troops' lack of experience in drone warfare and their unfamiliarity with the open terrain where they are engaged. He added that there are indications North Korea is preparing to deploy additional forces.
- Ukraine's Commissioner for Human Rights, Dmytro Lubinets, confirmed 177 cases of executions of Ukrainian POWs by Russian forces. Speaking to Ukrainska Pravda, he stated that the number of executions in 2024 is nearly double the total from the previous two years of the full-scale war combined. Of these, 109 executions were documented in 2024 alone.

20.12

- A total of 191 clashes were recorded along the front line over the past day.
- Explosion of Russian Military Aircraft: Ukraine's Defense Intelligence (HUR) reported the explosion of a Russian An-72 military transport aircraft at the "Ostafyevo" airfield near Moscow. The explosion, which occurred on December 12, was caused by the detonation of the aircraft's main power unit. The aircraft, valued at approximately \$4.5 million, belonged to the Russian Navy.
- Repatriation of Fallen Defenders: The remains of 503 fallen Ukrainian defenders were returned to Ukraine.

21.12

- Over the past day, 211 combat clashes occurred.
- The Ukrainian Armed Forces have approved the use of the domestically developed remotely controlled combat module Wolly. It is equipped with a machine gun of 7.62 mm or 12.7 mm caliber, an ammunition supply system, a thermal imaging device, and an automated target detection, recognition, and tracking system. The Deputy Minister of Defense stated, "Domestic weapons manufacturers have implemented technological solutions in the combat module based on requests from the troops and the real combat experience of Ukrainian defenders."
- For the first time, the Ukrainian Armed Forces conducted a fully robotic ground operation on the front lines. A report from the Institute for the Study of War indicates that Ukrainian forces successfully attacked Russian positions near Lyptsi in the Kharkiv region, using dozens of unmanned ground vehicles (UGVs) and FPV drones. As a result, Russian military positions were successfully destroyed. The date of the attack has not been disclosed.

Military Support

- Ukraine will receive more than \$240 million from **Norway** to strengthen its **navy**. 'It is important to protect the Ukrainian population and Ukrainian infrastructure from attacks by the Russian Black Sea Fleet,' Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said.
- **Italy** approves a **new military aid package** for Ukraine. Its contents are not disclosed.
- Rheinmetall will supply **20 more Marder infantry fighting vehicles** to Ukraine, to be paid for by Germany. Ukraine will receive the 1A3 version of the Marder, which is equipped with an additional laser rangefinder for efficient and accurate targeting.
- The European Union will **train 12,000 Ukrainian servicemen** as part of the EUMAM training mission by the end of February 2025.
- **Poland** is preparing the **46th tranche of aid** to Ukraine, which will be disbursed in January and may include equipment. This was announced by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. The amount of this tranche is 100 million euros.
- **France** has trained **one brigade** of the Ukrainian Defense Forces and plans to train another.
- **Britain** is preparing a new **\$286 million aid package** for Ukraine, Reuters reported. The package will include reconnaissance drones, ammunition, small boats, air defense and electronic warfare equipment, and spare parts.
- Ukraine will receive more than €281 million from Denmark. This is the **23rd package of Danish military assistance**. It is aimed at strengthening Ukraine's air defense. In particular, the package includes a financial contribution to the operation of F-16 fighter jets in Ukraine.
- **Deliveries** of unmanned aerial vehicles **from the Drone Coalition** to Ukraine will begin in January 2025. It is about the supply of 'tens of thousands' of drones.
- The Biden administration is preparing the **final \$1.2 billion aid package**. It will be announced in the coming days. The package will include missiles for air defense systems and artillery ammunition. The exact content is still unknown.
- **Germany** has sent the sixth **IRIS-T air defense system** to Ukraine as part of military assistance. This was announced by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at a briefing after a European Council meeting in Brussels.
- **Norway** has allocated an **aid package** for Ukraine worth about \$232 million. The package includes about \$115 million for equipment to strengthen the Ukrainian Navy, including small boats, reconnaissance drones, unmanned surface vessels, and mine countermeasures drones; about \$85 million for air defense equipment, including radars, ground camouflage equipment, and electronic warfare systems; about \$32.5 million to provide support and spare parts for critical systems previously supplied to Ukraine

Massive attacks per week

- **Night of December 15:** Air defense forces shot down 56 out of 108 enemy drones. Another 49 drones were lost from radar, and three returned to Russia. Additionally, Russia attacked Ukraine with an S-300 guided missile.
- **Night of December 16:** Air defense intercepted 27 out of 49 drones, with the rest losing radar contact. Drones were targeted across six oblasts. No hits or damage were reported.
- **Night of December 17:** Air defense destroyed 20 out of 31 Russian drones, with 10 losing radar contact.
- **Night of December 18:** Air defense eliminated 51 out of 81 drones, with the remaining 30 drones lost from radar. Strikes were detected over Poltava, Sumy, Kyiv, Zhytomyr, and Cherkasy oblasts, but no hits or casualties were reported.
- **Night of December 19:** Air defense downed 45 out of 85 Russian drones. An additional 40 were lost from the radar. Russia also launched two Iskander-M ballistic missiles and one guided Kh-59/69 missile.
 - Missile strikes in Sumy and Dnipropetrovsk oblast damaged residential buildings.
- **Night of December 20:** Air defense intercepted five Iskander-M/KN-23 ballistic missiles and 40 out of 65 Russian drones. Drones were intercepted across six regions and even over Russia's Kursk region. Another 20 drones lost radar contact.
 - Falling debris caused damage to homes, offices, hospitals, warehouses, and farms in Dnipropetrovsk, Sumy, Kyiv, and Kharkiv oblasts. One fatality and nine injuries were reported in Kyiv.
- **Night of December 21:** Air defense shot down a guided missile and 57 drones, while 56 UAVs were lost from radar. No casualties or destruction were reported.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Artillery and airstrikes continue to target the areas of Lobkove, Huliaipole, Shcherbaky, Novoandriivka, Novodanylivka, Novodarivka, Mala Tokmachka, Bilohirya, Malynivka, Olhivske, Kamianske, Bilenke, Stepanohirsk, Pidhirne, and Prymorske. Additionally, Russian forces have increasingly employed FPV drones in Zaporizhzhia Oblast.

On December 20, Russia struck a nine-story residential building in Zaporizhzhia. Four people were injured, including a 12-year-old boy.

Kharkiv and the oblast

- Throughout the week, Russia heavily shelled the Zolochiv community, primarily using strike UAVs and artillery to attack the Kharkiv region.

On December 19, Russia launched an Iskander-M missile at the village of Shevchenkove in the Kupiansk district. Three people were killed, and three others were injured. More than ten private houses, fences, and garages were damaged.

The shelling also affected Kharkiv, Kupiansk, Kupiansk-Vuzlovyi, Solonytsivka, Dvorichna, Cheremushna, Orishanka, Tsyrkuny, Zahryzove, Bidylo, Petropavlivka, Vasyliiv Khutir, Berezivka, Chornohlazyivka, Snihy, Udy, Nechvolodivka, Kutkivka, Derhachi, Osynove, Moskovka, Borova, and Bilashi.

Sumy oblast

- In the Sumy region, enemy attacks predominantly involved strike UAVs, FPV drones, and artillery.

Various types of Russian weaponry targeted the Sumy, Krasnopillia, Esman, Yunakivka, Myropillia, Bilopillia, Khotin, Romny, Velyka Pysarivka, Khutir-Mykhailivka, Chupakhivka, Buryń, Seredyna-Buda, Novoslobidka, Shalyhyne, Shostka, Druzhba, Konotop, Hlukhiv, Svesa, Znob-Novhorodske, Putyvl, and Chernechchyna communities.

Dnipro and the oblast

- Between December 15 and 21, the Dnipropetrovsk region endured intense shelling by Russian forces. The Nikopol district and Kryvyi Rih were the hardest hit. Over the week, Nikopol alone was attacked more than 100 times. The aggressor employed heavy artillery, kamikaze drones, Grad multiple rocket launchers, and missiles.

Significant damage was reported in Nikopol, Myrove, Marhanets, Pokrovska, Chervonohryhorivka, and Zelenodolsk communities, as well as in the Synelnykove area. Dozens of residential buildings, farm structures, infrastructure, enterprises, schools, kindergartens, gas pipelines, and power lines were damaged.

In total, at least ten people were injured during the week, two of whom remain in critical condition. On December 18 and 19, missile attacks targeted Kryvyi Rih, causing damage to infrastructure, apartment buildings, hospitals, a school, and a store, leaving several residents injured.

Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, Russia conducted artillery shelling and airstrikes using FAB-250 bombs.

On December 19, Russian forces killed 4 residents of Donetsk Oblast: 2 in Shevchenko, 1 in Katerynivka, and 1 in Siversk. Additionally, 3 people were injured in the region that day.

Casualties, injuries, and infrastructure damage were recorded in the following areas:

- **In the Volnovakha district:** Ulakly, Odradne.
- **In the Pokrovsk district:** Pokrovsk, Shevchenko, Katerynivka, Udachne, Myrnohrad, Bilytske.
- **In the Kramatorsk district:** Kostiantynivka, Lyman, Sloviansk, Mykolaivka, Zorya, Druzhkivka, Nova Poltavka.
- **In the Bakhmut district:** Siversk.

Other oblasts

Other regions of Ukraine have also experienced unrest this week.

- On December 16th, explosions were heard in Cherkasy and Khmelnytskyi regions due to drone attacks.
- In addition, the Mykolaiv region has been subjected to numerous attacks by Russian forces throughout the week. The enemy used FPV and "Shahed 131/136" drones, as well as artillery, to shell settlements and water areas of the Ochakiv and Kutsurub communities and carried out shelling of the regional center. In particular, on December 15th, a drone attack in Mykolaiv caused damage to infrastructure and injured two workers.
- Finally, the enemy has been attacking Kyiv with drones almost daily. On December 17th, as a result of an attack by Russian UAVs, fragments fell in three districts of the capital. A passenger car and residential buildings were damaged.
- On December 20th, a massive attack on the capital took place. As a result of the shelling, 12 people were injured, and 1 person was killed. Buildings were damaged, and a building was housed in several embassies. In addition, due to damage to the heat main in the Holosiivskyi district, hundreds of residential buildings, hospitals, schools, and kindergartens were left without heating in the capital.

Kherson and the oblast

Between December 15 and 21, the Kherson region endured numerous shellings by Russian forces. Dozens of settlements were targeted, including Antonivka, Sadove, Bilozerka, Stanislav, Shyroka Balka, Tomyna Balka, Novooleksandrivka, Beryslav, Vesele, Kozatske, Odradokamianka, Monastyrsk, Komyschany, Prydniprovsk, Zmiivka, Osokorivka, Llove, Kizomys, Chornobaivka, Zelenivka, Dariivka, Tiahynka, and others. Daily attacks were also conducted on the city of Kherson itself. Russian forces used mortars, artillery, guided bombs, and drones in these assaults.

- Russian troops deliberately targeted residential neighborhoods social, and critical infrastructure. At least 80 apartment buildings and 150 private homes were damaged or destroyed. Infrastructure such as gas pipelines, power grids, and agricultural facilities also sustained damage. Over the week, 6 people were killed, and 53 were injured.

The most severe attack occurred on December 20, with explosions heard throughout all districts of the regional center. The strikes targeted residential areas, social facilities, and critical infrastructure. Massive shelling left up to 60,000 subscribers in the region without electricity. Additionally, a university and an oncology center were damaged after being hit by two guided aerial bombs (KABs). The attack resulted in one death and more than 10 injuries.

Chernihiv oblast

- Over the week, the Chernihiv region experienced numerous attacks from Russian forces. Border communities, including Novhorod-Siverskyi, Semenivka, Snovsk, and Horodnia, were systematically shelled. In total, border guards recorded more than 230 explosions.

The most significant losses occurred in the Novhorod-Siverskyi district and Semenivka community. On December 17, a 74-year-old local resident was killed in the shelling, and on December 18, a police officer lost his life. Additionally, a minor boy was injured. The attacks primarily involved artillery, often targeting residential areas.

The week of shelling

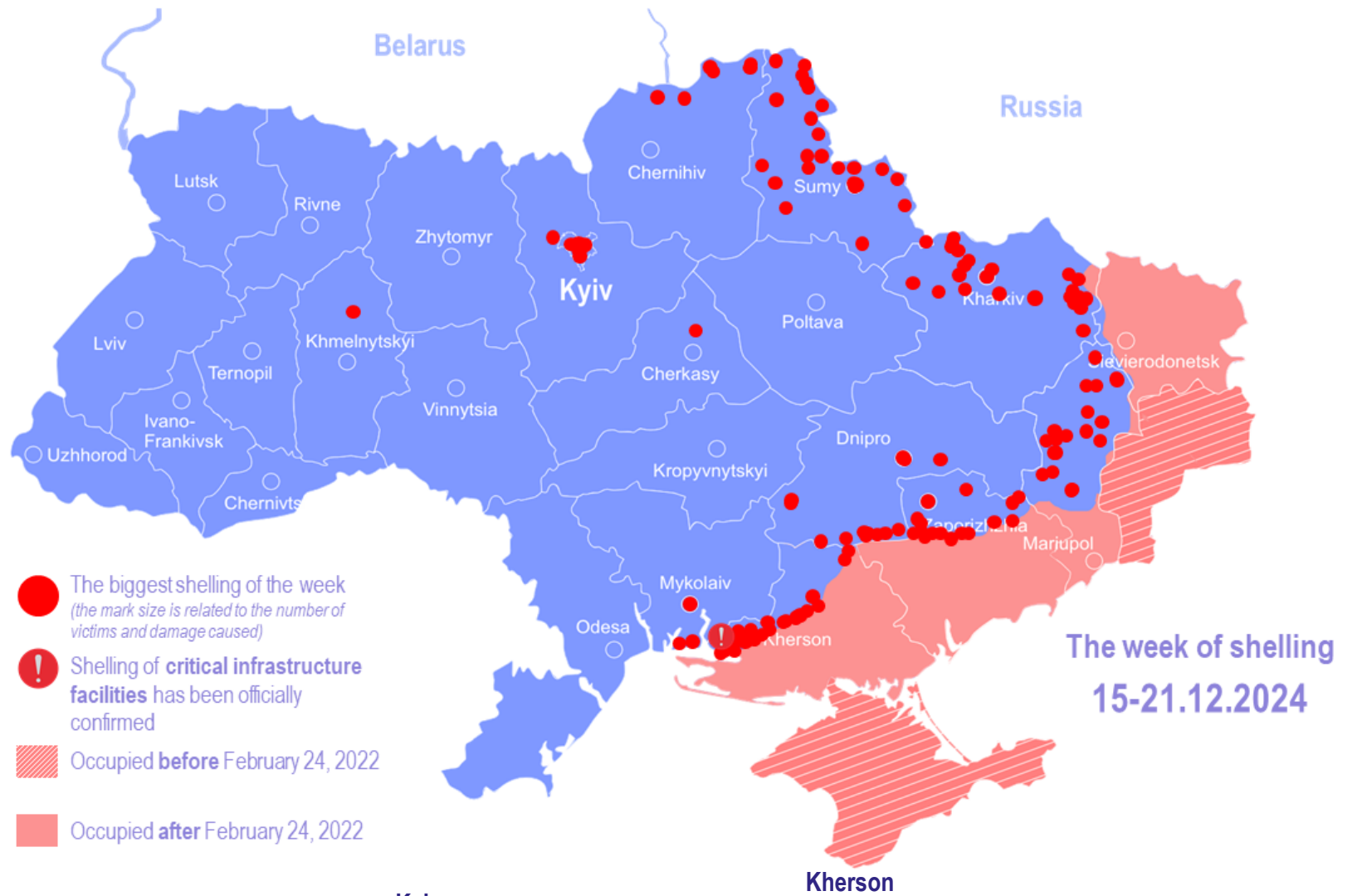
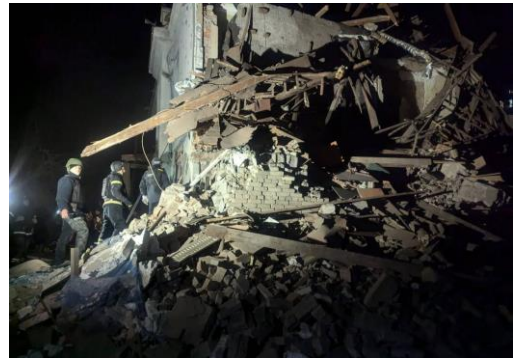
Kharkiv oblast



Donetsk oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Infrastructure and Energy

- On December 13, Russia launched a massive attack aimed at damaging interstate energy infrastructure, disrupting electricity exports and imports, or entirely disconnecting the energy systems of Ukraine and Europe, according to Yuri Boiko, adviser to the Prime Minister of Ukraine.
- Modular boiler houses are being installed in Burshtyn, where heating issues have arisen due to Russian attacks on thermal power plants, as reported by Svitlana Onyshchuk, head of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Military Administration. She noted that the installation of 2 gas-fired modular boiler houses, with capacities of 8 and 10 megawatts, respectively, is at the final stage.

Environment

- Two Russian tankers carrying fuel for the Russian navy have been shipwrecked in the Kerch Strait, according to Greenpeace. Environmentalists warn of a potential environmental disaster: the leakage of heavy oil products, such as fuel oil, could lead to significant pollution of the coastline and damage to marine life. If ships sink, there is a risk of a prolonged oil spill, which Greenpeace states would be extremely challenging to clean up.

Temporarily occupied territories (TOT) and evacuation

- Approximately 314,000 civilians remain in Donetsk Oblast, including over 23,000 children. Meanwhile, around 1,183,000 people have evacuated from the region, among them, about 188,000 are children, and over 46,000 are individuals with disabilities.
- Ukraine has returned six children, aged 9 months to 17 years, from the territories temporarily occupied by Russia. This was reported on Telegram by Daria Zarivna, Communications Advisor to the Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine.
- Russian forces are trying to stimulate residents of the temporarily occupied territories (TOT) with promises of bank debt cancellation if they agree to sign contracts with the Russian army, according to the National Resistance Center. The Center reports that “recruiting residents of the occupied territories to fight against their own homeland constitutes a violation of international law, and all those involved in this process will face accountability.”

The Impact of the War on Civilians

- According to UN estimates, over 12,340 civilians have died in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression between February 24, 2022, and November 30, 2024, as reported by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu. She noted that from January 1 to November 30 this year, 341 civilians were killed by air strikes alone, and 1,803 were injured. These figures are three and six times higher, respectively than last year.
- Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 1,087 people have been injured in incidents involving mines and explosive remnants of war, according to Oleksandr Riabtsev, an officer with the Main Directorate of Mine Action, Civil Protection and Environmental Safety. Among the victims, most are men, with 275 killed and 622 injured. Among children, 16 have died, and 88 have been injured.

International support

- Ukrzaliznytsia will receive a €480 million loan from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to purchase locomotives and construct a distributed generation network, according to the press service of the Ministry of Infrastructure. Deputy Prime Minister for Recovery Oleksii Kuleba noted that these projects aim to modernize the railway infrastructure and increase the sustainability of Ukraine's transport system.
- An American company is investing €300 million to build a wind power plant on the border of three regions of western Ukraine. According to the press service of Elementum Energy, owned by the international fund VR Capital, the new wind power plant will generate about 700 gigawatt-hours annually, sufficient to supply electricity to around 600,000 people.
- The International Ark project was officially launched in Prague. Its mission, aimed at protecting and preserving Ukrainian heritage from systematic destruction by Russian troops, will begin in early January.
- The United Kingdom has provided Ukraine with £35 million in emergency support. Of this amount, £20 million will be used to meet emergency energy needs and support power grid repairs. The remaining £15 million will go toward humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable.
- France has allocated €5.7 million to Ukraine's Energy Support Fund for the development of projects in the Ukrainian nuclear industry. The Ministry of Energy of Ukraine reported that the agreement was signed during the international conference ReBuild Ukraine Construction and Energy 2024 in Warsaw.
- Poland has allocated 2.5 million PLN (approximately \$637,000) primarily to enhance security in areas contaminated by landmines, according to the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine.
- The UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on human rights in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, urging Russia to return the abducted children. The resolution aims to draw the attention of UN member states to the dire human rights situation and provide the necessary protection for victims, including thousands of Ukrainian children forcibly deported or displaced by Russia.
- The United States has provided Ukraine with equipment to repair its energy infrastructure. This includes 10 autonomous welding machines that will accelerate energy sector repairs amid ongoing damage caused by Russian shelling.

Prisoners of war

- Approximately 16,000 Ukrainian civilians remain in Russian captivity, according to Dmytro Lubinets. International humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions do not permit the exchange of captured civilians for prisoners of war. Nonetheless, the Ukrainian government has successfully secured the release of 168 civilians. Lubinets also noted that journalists are among those held captive, with reports of torture and killings aimed at silencing media representatives in the temporarily occupied territories (TOT).
- On Friday, December 20, Ukraine and Russia, with the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross, organized an exchange of parcels and letters for prisoners of war. The Ukrainian side delivered 1,500 packages containing warm clothes and other necessary items.
- According to the Coordination Center for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, on Friday, December 20, the bodies of 502 fallen Ukrainian defenders were returned to the territory controlled by Ukraine as a result of repatriation activities. Among the returned fallen defenders of Ukraine, 403 were from the Donetsk sector, 12 from the Luhansk sector, 57 from the Zaporizhzhia sector, and 31 from morgues in the Russian Federation.

