



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

**December 29, 2024 –
January 4, 2025**

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International support

29.12

- Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has threatened to restrict aid to Ukrainians in Slovakia due to **Ukraine's suspension of Russian gas transit**. According to Fico, Slovakia will incur losses of €500 million annually because of the transit halt. In response, he has threatened to stop electricity supplies to Ukraine and limit support for Ukrainians in Slovakia.
- Meanwhile, Poland is **prepared to increase electricity exports to Ukraine** if Slovakia cuts off backup energy supplies. Bloomberg reports this, citing a high-ranking Polish official. According to the official, the Polish government is ready to ramp up domestic electricity production to offset any imbalances that may arise in Ukraine's energy system as a result of such a step by Slovakia.

30.12

- In Damascus, the first **meeting between Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha and the leader of Syria's new administration**, Ahmad al-Sharaa, took place. The Syrian Foreign Minister and the head of Syria's Intelligence Service were also present. Key points of the meeting included:
 - Ukraine aims **to restore diplomatic relations** with Syria.
 - 500 tons of Ukrainian flour will be delivered to Syria on December 31 as an **aid to the Syrian people**.
 - Ukraine is ready to share its experience in evidence collection, investigations, **and holding war criminals accountable**.
 - Kyiv may resume the education of Syrian students in Ukraine.
- Meanwhile, the United States will **provide Ukraine with \$15 billion** backed by future revenues from frozen Russian assets. Ukraine's Ministry of Finance and the World Bank signed a grant agreement. These funds are part of the U.S. contribution to the G7 initiative and will be allocated to salaries for medical workers, educators, rescuers, civil servants, and aid for vulnerable populations in Ukraine.
- Additionally, the U.S. allocated \$3.4 billion in **budget support** to Ukraine as the final payment under the bipartisan Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act for 2024.

31.12 – 01.01

- Italy has allocated €13 million to support **Ukraine's energy sector**. The funds have been directed to the Energy Support Fund of Ukraine. Italy's contribution, one of the largest from a single country, will help stabilize electricity supply in Ukraine.
- **Ukraine halted the transit of Russian gas** at 7:00 AM on January 1, citing national security interests. "This is a historic event. Russia is losing markets and will face financial losses," commented Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko. The ministry stated that Ukraine's gas transportation system has been prepared to operate in zero-transit mode while ensuring stable gas supplies to domestic consumers.
- In response to the halt, Austria's Minister for Climate and Energy, Leonore Gewessler, announced that **Austria no longer depends on Russian gas**, calling it "a good development." "Ukraine had made it clear in advance that it would not renew the transit contract with the aggressor Russia. We did our homework and were well-prepared for this scenario," the minister noted.
- Ukraine has become a **full participant in the Rome Statute** of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Full membership will simplify access for Ukrainians affected by Russian crimes to the ICC's dedicated Trust Fund for Victims.
- Additionally, Ukraine secured \$9.2 billion in **international financial assistance** in December 2024, marking a record high. Yaroslav Zhelezniak, First Deputy Head of the Verkhovna Rada Tax Committee, noted that the last time international support exceeded \$9 billion in a month was in April of the previous year.

02.01

- At the end of December, the UN criticized Ukraine for lacking "sufficient justification" for the dissolution of **religious organizations**, particularly the Moscow Patriarchate Church. In response, Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs dismissed the accusations, stating that the UN report "distorts reality." The ministry clarified that the **law** in question **does not ban any existing churches** in Ukraine but prohibits the activities of religious organizations with centers of influence in Russia. It also emphasized that Russia systematically weaponizes religion in its aggressive war against Ukraine.
- President Volodymyr Zelenskiy and First Lady Olena Zelenska gave a joint interview, highlighting the following key points:
 - Zelenskiy sees U.S. President-elect Donald Trump as "strong and unpredictable," believing he could play a **decisive role in stopping Putin and ending the war**. He plans to meet Trump shortly after his inauguration on January 20, marking one of Trump's first meetings as the new U.S. president.
 - **Security guarantees** for Ukraine will not be effective without U.S. involvement. While Zelenskiy welcomes a European peacekeeping mission, he stresses that it should not replace Ukraine's NATO membership aspirations.
 - Zelenskiy anticipates significant investments in Ukraine's **economy** after martial law ends, prioritizing the country's reconstruction.
 - **The Kursk operation** is a significant strategic asset for Ukraine, especially in engaging Global South nations, where the success of Ukraine's military has made a strong impression.
 - In 2024, Ukraine successfully **thwarted Russian plans** to occupy Kharkiv, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia, which Zelenskiy describes as remarkable achievements by the Ukrainian Armed Forces.

03.01

- The U.S. Air Force announced that Lloyd Austin will convene the **25th meeting** of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group **at the Ramstein Air Base** in Germany on January 9. This was reported by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty correspondent.
- Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced plans to adopt a "Danish model," where international partners purchase weapons from **Ukraine's defense industry** for use by the Ukrainian army. The program aims to attract over \$1 billion in funding for 2025.
- Approximately **4,000 people protested in the Slovak capital**, Bratislava, against the pro-Russian policies of Prime Minister Robert Fico. Protesters declared, **"We are not a Russian rag,"** emphasizing their rejection of policies they perceive as aligning Slovakia with Russia.
- White House National Security Spokesman John Kirby stated that the U.S. will make additional announcements regarding **security assistance for Ukraine** in the coming days.
- The Slovak state operator SEPS stated that it will **adhere to contracts signed** with Ukraine's Ukrenergo. The agreement allows SEPS to supply up to 150 megawatts of electricity to Ukraine's energy system as part of emergency assistance. This contract was extended for 12 months in the spring of last year.



- In the Kharkiv direction, Ukrainian forces repelled Russian attacks near Vovchansk.
- In the Kupiansk direction, the Defense Forces thwarted assault operations by the Russian army near Kucherivka, Synkivka, and Zahryzove.
- In the Lyman direction, Russian troops attempted to advance near Nadiia, Makiivka, Hryhorivka, Tverdokhibove, Yampolivka, and toward Cherneshchyna and Zelena Dolyna.
- In the Siversk direction, Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions near the settlement of Bilohorivka.
- In the Kramatorsk direction, several clashes occurred near Chasiv Yar, Bila Hora, and in the direction of Predtechyne and Stupochky.
- In the Toretsk direction: the enemy launched multiple attacks near Diliivka, Toretsk, and Shcherbynivka.

- In the Pokrovsk direction, Ukrainian forces stopped Russian aggression in the areas of Vodiane Druhe, Baranivka, Myroliubivka, Promin, Novoolenivka, Novovasylivka, Ukrainka, Lysivka, Zelene, Novyi Trud, Pishchane, Zvirove, Solone, Kotlyne, and Pokrovsk.
- In the Kurakhove direction, Defense Forces repelled attacks near Petropavlivka, Sribne, Kurakhove, and Shevchenko.
- In the Vremivka direction, the occupiers carried out a series of offensive actions near Yantarne and toward Kostiantynopil and Novosilka.
- In the Orikhiv direction, Defense Forces repelled an attack by Russian troops near Novoandriivka. Enemy aviation was actively operating in this sector.
- In the Prydniprovskiy direction, Russian invaders unsuccessfully stormed Ukrainian positions.
- In the Volyn and Polissia directions, there are no signs of enemy offensive group formation have been detected. In the Chernihiv and Sumy border areas, the enemy actively uses artillery and aviation from Russian territory to target Ukrainian settlements.

29.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Over the past 24 hours, there have been 158 combat clashes. ➤ In 2024, Russia occupied 2,800 sq. km of Ukrainian territory — three times more than the area of Kyiv. ➤ Russian forces currently do not have enough strength for a renewed invasion from Belarus, as stated by the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine. ➤ Due to significant exhaustion, Ukrainian Defense Forces may lose control over the occupied territories of Kursk, reports Associated Press. The publication writes that a significant portion of Ukrainian units is in a state of exhaustion. The battles are so intense that some Ukrainian commanders cannot evacuate the fallen. Delays in communication and poorly chosen tactics are costing lives, and the troops have almost no opportunity to counterattack. According to the publication, Russia has concentrated over 50,000 troops in the region, including military personnel from North Korea. ➤ Russian forces are making maximum efforts to reach the outskirts of Pokrovsk, reports the Strategic Communications of the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). "This is generally the hottest direction. Yesterday, there were 54 attacks, and the enemy is making every effort to break through to the outskirts of the city. But it is precisely there that the Ukrainian forces are inflicting the most damage, and the enemy is suffering the heaviest losses accordingly." ➤ The DeepState resource reported that Russians have made advances in the Donetsk region near Vozdvizhenka, Novoielyzavetivka, Novovasylivka, Dachenkske, Shevchenko, Hryhorivka, Toretsk, and Nelipivka. However, the Defense Forces managed to push the enemy back in Kruglenkoe, which is located in Kursk.
30.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 186 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ 189 Ukrainians were returned home from captivity. These are soldiers – defenders of Azovstal and Mariupol, Chornobyl NPP, Snake Island, and from various fronts. This is the 59th exchange since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion. In total, 3,956 people have been freed from Russian captivity during this time. ➤ The Ukrainian Navy stated that the Russian military logistics in Crimea has been virtually destroyed. The spokesperson for the Ukrainian Navy, Dmytro Pletenchuk, noted that the Russian Black Sea Fleet has essentially left Crimea and that the Sea of Azov is now free of Russian combat units. ➤ In the Pokrovsk direction, the enemy is once again using heavy equipment in their assaults. Nearly 500 occupiers were eliminated in a day, reports UAF officer Serhii Tsekhovskiy. "These are tanks and BMPs. They are assaulting with everything that can move," the military officer noted. He also stated that at least three Russian divisions are fighting against the Defense Forces of Ukraine in the Pokrovsk direction. "The enemy has enough manpower. They continuously replenish it and send in units from other directions," he added.
31.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In total, 168 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ Ukrainian drones attacked a fuel base in the Smolensk region of Russia in Yartsevo. According to available information, storage tanks with petroleum products caught fire. It is known that the base was used, among other things, to supply the Russian occupying army. ➤ The Main Intelligence Directorate (HUR) destroyed a Mi-8 helicopter for the first time in the world using the Magura V5 sea drone, equipped with missile weapons. Today, during a battle in the Black Sea near Cape Tarkhankut in temporarily occupied Crimea, two Russian Mi-8 helicopters were destroyed as a result of the use of R-73 "SeeDragon" missiles. Preliminary reports indicate that the crews of the targeted enemy aircraft were also eliminated. Another Russian helicopter was damaged by fire and managed to land despite being hit. The Russians reported that they had not suffered such painful losses since 2022. ➤ In Ukraine, the process for obtaining officer ranks has been simplified for soldiers and sergeants with combat experience, as announced by the President of Ukraine. ➤ Over the year, the Air Defense Forces shot down more than 1,300 missiles and 11,200 enemy strike drones, according to the Air Forces. Additionally, Ukraine's air defense shot down 40 planes and 6 helicopters of the Russian forces. Over the year, the Ukrainian Air Forces carried out more than 20,000 flight sorties, almost 9,000 of them for combat use of Western munitions.

Losses of the Russian army from 29.12.2024 to 04.01.2025	
Liquidated personnel	8 550
Tanks	23
IFVs	116
Artillery systems / MLRS	109/1
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	0
Aircraft / helicopters	0/2
UAVs	378
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	389
Special equipment	7

Military positions

01.01

- In total, 191 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours.
- In the Pokrovsk direction, the enemy carried out 35 assault and offensive operations throughout the day, with 13 assaults lasting until the end of the day. In the Kursk region, Ukrainian defenders repelled 32 enemy attacks during the day, and one battle is ongoing.
- The situation is dire in Novovasylivka, south of Pokrovsk, as reported by DeepState. On December 30, 31, and January 1, Russian forces have been carrying out active assaults on the village from the south and east. "The situation is such that the enemy is in every corner of the village, just as the defense forces are. Essentially, Ukrainians are in one house, and the occupiers could be in the next. The tactical situation is at the level of chaos, but the enemy's superiority in manpower could become the decisive factor, unfortunately," the analysts explain.
- In the area of Lyman: the Russian army has long focused on the area around the Zherebets River and is constantly looking for opportunities to push Ukrainian forces back along the Ivankivka-Terny-Yampolivka-Torske line. The greatest pressure is being applied to the first two villages. In Ivankivka, the Russians see an opportunity for advancement. The most concerning development would be the Russians gaining control of the heights just beyond the village, so Ukrainian forces are doing everything possible to prevent the enemy from establishing a foothold. The battle is ongoing.

02.01

- In total, 140 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours.
- Russian forces advanced in Kurakhove and its southern outskirts, as well as in five settlements in Donetsk Oblast (Vovkove, Neskuchne, Novoielyzavetivka, Solone, Vozdvyzhenka), reports DeepState.
- On January 2, the Ukrainian Armed Forces carried out a precision strike on the command post of the Russian occupation army in the settlement of Maryne, Kursk Oblast.
- A sabotage operation took place on the railway in Tver Oblast, according to the ATESH resistance movement. The occupiers were using this route to receive artillery shells from two arsenals: the 23rd and 107th. The 107th stores "Iskander" and "Tochka-U" missiles, as well as rockets for MLRS systems like "Smerch" and "Uragan." The 23rd arsenal holds tank and artillery shells, as well as explosive mines and more.

03.01

- In total, 138 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours.
- In the first three days of the new year, the Russian army used more than 300 strike drones and about 20 missiles, including ballistic ones, against Ukrainian cities and villages. Additionally, there have been daily strikes with Russian-guided air bombs, as reported by President Zelenskyi.
- Ukraine plans to produce 3,000 missiles/rocket-drones and 30,000 long-range drones this year, stated Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal.
- The disruption of three Russian operations aimed at occupying Kharkiv, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhia is one of Ukraine's most significant achievements in 2024, according to Zelenskyi.

04.01

- In total, 148 combat clashes were recorded over the past 24 hours.
- Russian forces are advancing towards the central part of Kupiansk, with only a 7 km distance from the front line to the city. This benefits the occupiers, as it allows them to shell the area using mortars and FPV drones.
- Ukraine is losing about 20 km² of territory daily; over the past year, Russia has captured 3,600 km², with the largest losses in Donetsk and Kharkiv regions, according to the "Militarniy" portal based on data from DeepState. "The enemy lacks the potential to fully capture Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipro, or Kharkiv, but they could take advantage of chaos in the management of Ukrainian forces to achieve certain local victories," said the head of the "Come Back Alive" foundation, Taras Chmut, in an interview with the Ukrainska Pravda publication.
- Russians are sending small assault groups to their deaths to detect Ukrainian positions, according to a spokesperson for the "Rubizh" brigade. "For example, a group of 5-8 enemy infantry goes forward, we see them and start eliminating them. This shows our positions, and the enemy then begins to target us," said the press officer of the "Rubizh" brigade, Maksym Taran.
- Russian forces in the settlements south of Pokrovsk are trying to advance and secure positions with small groups, using a "penetration" tactic, reported the Khortytsia operational-strategic group.
- Russian invaders attempt daily to cross the canal in Chasiv Yar to advance in the city, according to the commander of the 24th Separate Mechanized Brigade, Bohdan. The invaders are relentless in their attempts to capture the city, as it is a strategic height for further advancement. They storm the area around the Siverskyi Donets-Donbas canal, which runs through the city. The Russians are looking for a "weak spot" to cross the artificial waterway blocking their path. According to the military officer, almost all evacuation routes for the wounded and ammunition delivery are under fire control of the Russians.

Military Support

- Greece has agreed to provide Ukraine with 24 Sea Sparrow missiles to support the Armed Forces of Ukraine in countering existing threats, as reported by Ekathimerini. This transfer is part of Greece's broader military assistance to Ukraine, which includes artillery shells, howitzers, and other aviation munitions.
- Ukraine has received over €150 million to finance its defense-industrial complex, with contributions of €111 million from Denmark, €29 million from France, and €10 million from Lithuania. These funds will be used for the production of missiles, deep-strike drones, and artillery systems.
- The technological cluster Brave1 has tested a German interceptor drone capable of neutralizing not only reconnaissance UAVs but also Shahed-type drones. According to Brave1, the tests were conducted by Ukrainian operators who evaluated the drone's technological relevance and its ability to address the modern challenges of war.
- Ukraine will receive more than 1,000 drones from Latvia. Latvia, along with the United Kingdom, leads the drone coalition. Next year, Riga will allocate €20 million within the coalition framework for the procurement of UAVs for the Ukrainian military.
- The United States will provide Ukraine with nearly \$2.5 billion in security assistance. Of this, \$1.22 billion is part of the USAI program, meaning the weapons and equipment will need to be manufactured. Assistance worth \$1.24 billion will come from Pentagon stockpiles.
- Instructors from the United Kingdom have trained 200 Ukrainian aviators to operate multirole F-16 aircraft. The British Embassy in Ukraine reported that this includes future fighter pilots as well as ground personnel, such as aviation technicians.
- The Ministry of Defense has received a significant delivery of equipment worth over €3.3 million from partners within the IT coalition. The defense ministry disclosed that Estonia, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg provided the equipment. This includes data center hardware for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, 1,000 laptops for various information and communication systems, and 3,520 tablets for tactical-level operations.
- Sweden has allocated 300 million krona (\$27.1 million) for indirect support of Ukraine's air defense. The Swedish Ministry of Defense announced that the funds will be directed to Romania to replace the Patriot air defense system transferred to Ukraine in 2024.

This week shelling and strikes

Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of December 29:** Ukrainian air defense forces shot down 72 Russian drones and 3 missiles. More than 50 drones were destroyed on approach to Kyiv oblast, but some of them landed in residential areas.
 - In the capital, several buildings were damaged, including residential complexes and offices. Vehicles on the streets were also damaged.
- **Attack on the night of December 30:** Russia attacked Ukraine with 43 drones. During the night, Ukrainian air defense forces shot down 21 Russian drones, and another 22 UAVs failed to reach their targets. The air defense system was operating in Kharkiv, Poltava, Chernihiv, Odesa, Donetsk, and Dnipro oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of December 31:** Air defense forces shot down 16 out of 40 enemy drones. Another 24 UAVs were locally lost due to electronic warfare. The Russians also launched 21 missiles, including Iskander-M/KN-23, Kinzhal, and X-22 ballistic missiles. Air defense managed to shoot down 6 of them.
 - Ballistic missiles hit Sumy and Kyiv oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of January 1:** Russian forces conducted a massive attack, firing 111 drones, 63 of which were shot down by air defense forces.
 - Debris damaged several buildings in Kyiv oblast and in the Darnytskyi district in Kyiv.
- **Attack on the night of January 2:** Air defense forces shot down 47 attack drones, while another 24 did not reach their targets. They were destroyed in 11 oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of January 3:** The Russians attacked with 93 Shahed drones and various types of imitation drones, launching a massive attack on Kyiv, particularly on Holiivskyi and Darnytskyi districts.
 - In Darnytskyi district, drone debris caused a fire in a private house, injuring a woman.
- **Attack on the night of January 4:** Air defense forces shot down 34 of the 81 drones used by Russians to attack Ukraine overnight. Another 47 imitator drones were locally lost.
 - Private buildings in Chernihiv and Sumy oblasts were damaged by falling debris from downed UAVs.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Over the past week, Russia repeatedly fired artillery at populated areas in Zaporizhzhia oblast. UAVs, MLRS, and air strikes were also used in the attacks.

On December 31, air strikes were carried out on Huliaipole, causing fires in private buildings. On January 2, one civilian was killed when the occupiers' UAVs hit a house in Stepanivka.

Hliaipole, Lobkove, Pyatykhatky, Mali Shcherbaky, Novooandriivka, Novodanylivka, Bilenke, Kamianske, Shcherbaky, Mala Tokmachka, Charivne, Novodarivka, Malokaterynivka, Prymorske, Bilohiria, Olhivske, Malynivka were shelled.

Odesa oblast

- Explosions were also heard in Odesa oblast this week. In particular, on December 29, Russians attacked the oblast with attack drones. The falling debris damaged buildings in the Rozdilna region. No one was killed or injured. On December 31, the Russian army attacked Odesa oblast with two X-31P missiles. There were no casualties.

Kharkiv and the oblast

- Over the past week, Russia repeatedly shelled Kharkiv and the surrounding areas with artillery.

On December 29, a 63-year-old man and a 65-year-old woman were injured in Zahryzove as a result of shelling. On the same day, a man in his 40s was injured in Petropavlivka as a result of a drone strike.

Artillery shelling hit Vovchansk and Kivsharivka, where a 51-year-old woman died. In the Bohodukhiv region, a fire broke out in a residential building as a result of a drone attack. During this time, significant infrastructure damage was recorded in the Zolochiv community and other border areas.

The following settlements were also damaged: Kozacha Lopan, Zakhidne, Berezivka, Borova, Borshchova, Okip, Bohodukhiv, Kupiansk, Stohnii, Turov, Vidrodzhenivske, Kishvarivka, Zagryzove, Petropavlivka, Taranivka, and Liubotyn.

Sumy oblast

- During the past week, the Russian army carried out airstrikes using GABs, drones, mortars, and artillery. The Russian occupiers regularly shell the border communities of Sumy oblast, damaging civilian buildings and infrastructure, including energy.

On January 3, shelling of the Shostka community damaged 12 multi-storey buildings. On the same day, Sumy was hit by an air strike, with no casualties. On January 4, Russia struck Svesa, hitting a residential multi-story building. Ten people were injured, including two children.

The Yunakivka, Sumy, Khotyn, Miropillia, Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Velyka Pusarivka, Seredyna-Buda, Esman, Putyvl, Nova Sloboda, Svesa, Shalyhin, Znob-Novhorodske, and Trostianets communities came under fire.

Dnipro and the oblast

- Between December 29 and January 4, the Russian army conducted intensive shelling of Dnipropetrovsk oblast, with the Nikopol district suffering the most. Nikopol, the Marhanets, Chervonohryhorivka, Myrove, and Pokrovsk communities, as well as Synelnykove, were under attack. Russian troops used heavy artillery, kamikaze drones, Grad multiple rocket launchers, and aerial munitions.

During this time, more than 80 private houses, multi-story buildings, commercial buildings, industrial and utility companies, infrastructure, and transportation were damaged. Dozens of gas pipelines and power lines were damaged. There were civilian casualties: 5 people were killed, and more than 20 were injured, including children and the elderly.

In particular, on December 29, Russia shelled the Nikopol district almost 30 times, using heavy artillery and kamikaze drones. Three people were injured, and an industrial enterprise, houses, outbuildings, gas pipelines, and cars were damaged.

Donetsk oblast

- During the week, Donetsk Oblast was subjected to numerous attacks by the Russian Federation. Russians use artillery, FAB bombs, drones, and other types of weapons.

On December 29, one civilian was killed, and two others were wounded as a result of shelling of Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka. On January 2, Russian forces use aerial bombs and artillery to cause massive destruction in Chasiv Yar, Mykolaivka, Lyman, Kramatorsk, and Kostiantynivka. This caused damage to 37 civilian objects and one person's death.

On January 3, Sloviansk was shelled, resulting in 4 people being injured, including a 2-year-old child. More than 14 buildings were damaged. Drone attacks on Kramatorsk resulted in damage to apartment buildings and fires. In the Pokrovsk community, shelling damaged two educational institutions.

The following settlements in the oblast also suffered damage: Andriivka, Bahatyr, Pokrovsk, Zvirove, Lyman, Sloviansk, Oleksiyev-Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka, Mykolaivka, Ivanopillia, Siversk, Kryvorizhzhia, Sribne, Leontovych, Stinky, Myrnograd, Bilokuzmynivka, Uspenivka, Shandryholove, Novodmytrivka, Drobysheve, Pershe Travnia; the Chasiv Yar, Kurakhivka, and Hrodivka communities.

Other oblasts

- Russians attacked **Kyiv oblast and the capital** itself this week. The attacks took place on December 31, as well as on January 1 and 3. In particular, on December 1, another Russian attack in Kyiv killed 2 people and injured 6. More than 20 buildings were damaged. Among them are office buildings, the National Bank of Ukraine building, an educational institution, and residential buildings. On January 3, 2 people were killed and 4 wounded in the shelling of Kyiv oblast.
- Russia also shelled the **Mykolaiv oblast** during the week. The Ochakiv and Kutsurub communities were attacked almost every day. On January 2, the enemy also attacked the Pervomaisk region. An aerial target lost its combat capability and crashed in an open area, and the blast wave damaged three private houses. There were no casualties.

Kherson and the oblast

- Over the past week, Kherson oblast has been subjected to merciless shelling by the Russian military, which has targeted dozens of settlements in the oblast. The Russians used a variety of weapons, including cannon artillery, mortars, air strikes, and kamikaze drones.

These attacks have killed at least three people in recent days and injured more than 30 civilians, including children. Private houses, multi-story buildings, outbuildings, gas pipelines, public transport, and critical infrastructure facilities have been heavily damaged.

In particular, on December 30, Russian troops attacked a bus in Kherson. As a result of the explosives dropped from a UAV, the 39-year-old driver sustained blast trauma and concussion. In total, seven people were injured that day.

Antonivka, Dariivka, Bilozerk, Stanislav, Kizomys, Shyroka Balka, Vesele, Beryslav, Zmiivka, Chervonyi Mayak, Novokairy, Tiahynka, Olhivka, Molodizhne, Komyshany, Naddniprianske, Mykhailivka, Monastyrsk, Novoraisk, Osokorivka, Novotianhynka, Lvove, Zelenivka and the city of Kherson, as well as other localities, also came under hostile fire.

Chernihiv oblast

- Chernihiv oblast has also been subjected to intense shelling by the Russian army over the past week. Border communities – the Novhorod-Siverskyi, Semenivka, Snovsk, and Horodnia ones – came under fire. The Russian occupiers used cannon artillery, mortars, armored personnel carriers, attack drones, guided aerial bombs, and missiles.

On January 3, the Russians attacked Chernihiv. A triple missile strike on its outskirts killed one person and injured seven. Two residential buildings were partially destroyed, and seven more were damaged.



The week of shelling

Kharkiv oblast



Donetsk oblast



Kyiv oblast



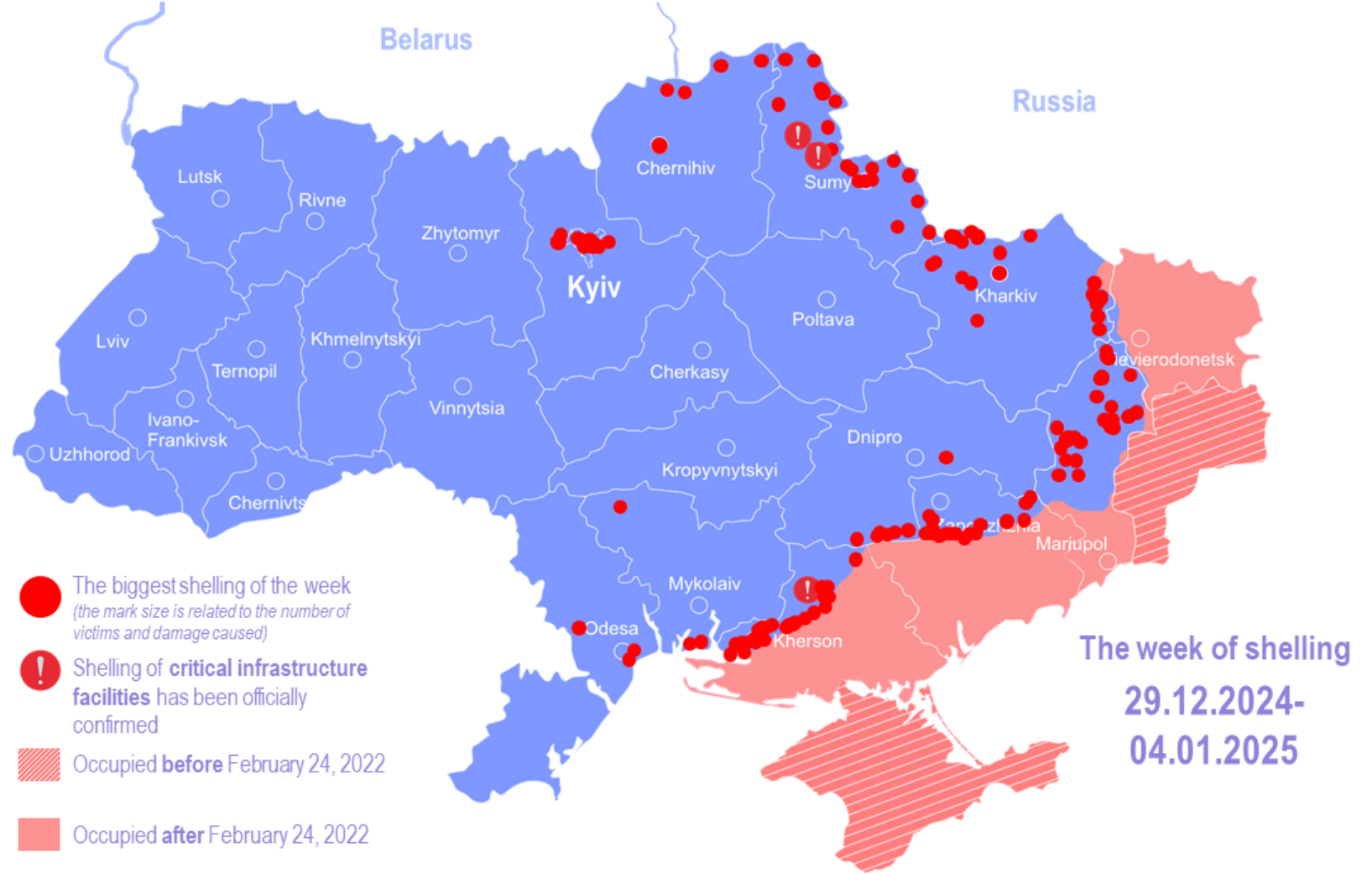
Kyiv



Kherson oblast



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Economy

- In 2024, Ukraine reached the pre-war level of agricultural exports – \$24.5 billion, which accounted for 59% of total exports, reported Vitalii Koval, Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine. Last year, Ukraine exported 78.3 million tons of agricultural products, with sunflower oil being in the first place.
- In 2024, Ukrainian exports increased by 15%. Overall, the country exported goods worth \$41 billion last year, reported President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi. This marks an increase of over \$5 billion compared to 2023.

Consequences of shellings

- In December, Russia damaged 33 cultural heritage sites in the Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Sumy, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv Oblasts and the city of Kyiv. As of the end of December 2024, the total number of damaged cultural heritage sites in Ukraine is 1255. Of these, 125 are of national significance, 1055 are of local significance, and 75 are newly discovered.
- Throughout 2024, Russian forces attacked the Kherson community about 6.5 thousand times, resulting in the deaths of 116 civilians. Last year, Russians attacked about 500 vehicles in the Kherson community, including civilian and public transport, as well as ambulances and utility service vehicles. This was reported by Denys Putintsev, Director of the Department of External Communication and Media Relations of the City Council.

International support

- On Monday, December 30, Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal announced that the United States would allocate \$15 billion to Ukraine, backed by future revenues from frozen Russian assets. He stated that these funds would be directed toward Ukraine's social and humanitarian needs.
- The UK government has announced the allocation of 4.5 million pounds (about \$5.6 million) to bring to justice Russian military personnel who committed war crimes during the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. This was reported by the British government. As of the end of November, about 143 thousand war crimes have been documented since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Refugees

- Almost half (47%) of Ukrainian refugees surveyed in Norway admitted that they do not want to return to Ukraine even after the war ends. This is according to a survey conducted by the Directorate of Integration and Diversity (IMDi). It found that only 10% of refugees expressed a desire to return to Ukraine. In a similar survey published in January 2023, one in three Ukrainian refugees stated they wish to stay in Norway, while more than half were undecided.

Temporarily occupied territories (TOT) and evacuation

- As part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative, a 15-year-old girl, Daryna, was returned from the occupation to the territory controlled by Ukraine, reported the Office of the President of Ukraine. Later on Tuesday, December 31, 4 more children were brought back from temporarily occupied Kherson.
- In total, 449 children have been returned to Ukraine-controlled territory from Russian occupation since the beginning of 2024. This was announced by the head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andrii Yermak.
- In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, from January 1, 2025, the occupiers deprive local residents of the right to receive medicines without a Russian passport, according to the National Resistance Center of Ukraine.
- Due to the lack of qualified personnel, Russian occupiers continue to destroy the equipment of the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, reported the Energoatom press office. According to it, Russians tried to repair the damaged shunt reactor of OHL-750kV Dniprovsk. They have been unsuccessfully repairing it since November 23. Energoatom emphasizes that all these actions were carried out by the occupiers without any approval or permission from Ukraine's energy grid Regional Dispatch Centers, which is a gross violation of regulatory documents.
- In 2025, Russia plans to double the number of "Yunarmiya" centers in the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories, according to the National Resistance Center of Ukraine. It emphasizes that such actions are intended to help the occupiers take control of the activities of children and adolescents and integrate them into the Russian information space. In the meantime, Russians continue to agitate teenagers involved in militant movements to join military schools to prepare them for war.

Demining

- Throughout 2024, demining units of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine cleared over 252 thousand hectares of land from explosive ordnance, with the majority being agricultural land. Thus, military sappers cleared more than 232 thousand hectares of farmland, 538.64 km of roads, and 163.26 km of power lines. In 2024, 48 new operators were granted demining licenses, bringing the total number in Ukraine to 72. These operators are authorized to conduct humanitarian demining in areas where no combat operations are taking place.
- According to the Kherson Regional Military State Administration, on January 4, a 42-year-old man exploded on a mine in the Kherson region. He is currently under medical supervision. Earlier, at the end of December, in the temporarily occupied Lysychansk, Luhansk Oblast, seven minors exploded on a mine planted by Russian invaders, as reported by the head of the Luhansk Regional Military Administration Artem Lysohor.

Prisoners of war

- On Monday, December 30, Ukraine secured the return of 189 servicemen from Russian captivity. Among them are soldiers, sergeants, and officers from various fronts who defended Azovstal, Mariupol, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and Zmiinyi Island.

