



# Transatlantic Dialogue Center

## Weekly briefing

**October 12 – 18**

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International situation & Military Support	2
Situation at the Front	4
This week shelling and strikes	6
Humanitarian situation	9

## Negotiations between the United States, Ukraine, and the Russian Federation

- **A series of intensive high-level diplomatic contacts took place between the United States, Ukraine, and Russia.** On October 17, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Washington, where he met with US President Donald Trump. The visit was preceded by two phone calls between the leaders (on October 11 and 12), focused mainly on strengthening Ukraine's air defense to protect its energy infrastructure. The visit occurred amid preparations for direct US–Russia talks: on October 16, Donald Trump held a phone conversation with Vladimir Putin, after which he announced a planned in-person meeting in Budapest to discuss ways to end the war. The European Commission confirmed that the EU sanctions regime does not prohibit such a visit.
- **The key topic of the Washington talks was the potential provision of long-range Tomahawk missiles to Ukraine.** This issue was central in all contacts. President Trump publicly stated that he was ready to supply the missiles if the war was not settled but intended first to discuss it with Russia. During the October 16 conversation, according to Trump, Putin tried to dissuade him from taking this step. Following the October 17 meeting in Washington, no final decision was made. According to Axios sources, the US President “was tough” and rejected Kyiv’s request for missiles “for the sake of diplomacy.” President Zelensky, after the meeting, noted that both sides agreed not to comment publicly on this issue, but later expressed cautious optimism in an interview with NBC News, saying that Trump “did not say no, but he did not say yes today either.
- **“The US administration announced new tools of economic pressure on Russia and its partners.** According to The Telegraph, President Trump is working on creating a “Victory Fund” for Ukraine, to be financed by introducing a 500% tariff on Chinese imports. At the same time, the US is increasing pressure on India to halt purchases of Russian oil. Although Donald Trump stated that he had received assurances from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Reuters sources in India’s energy sector denied any immediate reduction in imports. They noted that any cuts would not appear in statistics before December or January.
- **As preparations for the Budapest summit continue, the US position on peace terms is taking shape.** After his meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky, Donald Trump on October 18 outlined his vision for ending the war, stating that he told both Ukrainian and Russian leaders that “it’s time to stop the killing and make a DEAL.” The US President proposed that both sides “stop where they are” and “claim victory.” Commenting on this statement, President Zelensky responded cautiously: “We must stay where we are now. Then we will talk.” Against this backdrop, the Financial Times published details of Trump and Putin’s previous summit in Alaska. According to the newspaper’s sources, Putin then rejected the US proposal for a ceasefire and instead launched into a long historical lecture about Rurik and Bohdan Khmelnytsky, justifying his thesis about the “unity” of Ukrainians and Russians. This reportedly irritated the US President, who raised his voice several times and ultimately ended the meeting early, canceling the planned lunch.



## International Support

- **Increased financial and humanitarian aid from the EU.** The European Union continues to provide substantial financial support to Ukraine. According to EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Kaja Kallas, the EU intends to allocate an additional €100 million for Ukraine’s needs. These funds will provide generators, shelters, and weather protection equipment. Additionally, €10 million has been allocated to create a special tribunal to investigate Russian crimes, and another €6 million to support Ukrainian children deported to Russia and victims of sexual violence. Slovakia will also provide an additional €500,000 for the protection of energy infrastructure and €300,000 for building school shelters in frontline regions. The Ukrainian and Slovak delegations also discussed security cooperation, including the SAFE arms loan program and the PURL mechanism.
- **Trade liberalization and use of frozen Russian assets.** The EU has eased customs rules for certain Ukrainian products, including dairy, fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, and meat products. This decision, adopted by the EU Council on October 13, is part of a review of the EU–Ukraine Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area. Meanwhile, the EU is actively discussing the use of frozen Russian assets to finance Ukraine. According to Bloomberg, the EU is increasingly inclined to use these funds as a “reparations loan” worth about \$300 billion. Political agreement on this issue is expected at next week’s EU leaders’ summit in Brussels, after which the European Commission will begin drafting a legal proposal. The United Kingdom and Canada have also expressed readiness to join the plan. Part of the funds could be used to purchase American weapons for Ukraine.
- **Results of the 31st Ramstein-format meeting.** On October 15, the 31st meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group in the Ramstein format took place, with air defense strengthening as the main priority. Following the meeting, Ukraine’s Defense Minister reported new contributions to the PURL initiative totaling at least \$422 million. Additional contributions for arms procurement from Ukraine’s defense industry were announced, totaling \$715 million, including: \$600 million from Norway for UAVs, EW systems, and explosives; \$106 million from the Netherlands for strike and reconnaissance drones; \$8 million from Canada for interceptor drones; \$4 million from Iceland under the “Danish model.” Military aid packages: Sweden — \$8 billion in security assistance for 2026–2027; Czech Republic — a new \$72 million package; Canada — \$20 million for winter gear and missile components; Portugal — \$12 million for the UK-led IFU arms procurement fund; Finland — preparing its 13th military aid package. NATO emphasized that increased military assistance would improve the situation on the front line. On the sidelines of Ramstein, a new Nordic-Baltic initiative was launched to jointly train and equip Ukrainian soldiers.

- **Sanctions and defense initiatives.** The United Kingdom introduced its toughest sanctions yet against Russia, targeting oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil, as well as “shadow fleet” oil terminals and tankers. The restrictions also apply to the Indian company Nayara Energy Limited, which imported significant volumes of Russian oil. Meanwhile, Norway unveiled its 2026 defense budget, which includes continued extraordinary support for Ukraine under the Nansen program, totaling approximately \$8.4 billion, with about \$6.9 billion dedicated to military aid.
- **Assistance in returning deported children and EU integration prospects.** The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly appointed Swedish MP Carina Edebrink as Special Representative on the Abduction and Deportation of Ukrainian Children. She has been actively urging OSCE member states to join the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children. Regarding EU integration, European Parliament rapporteur Michael Gahler stated that the occupation of parts of Ukraine’s territory would not prevent EU accession, noting that the bloc could use transitional mechanisms to keep the process moving.

## Other

- **The Russian Federation is deepening military-technical cooperation with North Korea, providing technology for strategic weapons development and involving North Korean troops in operations against Ukraine.** According to South Korean intelligence, Russia likely assisted North Korea in developing submarines capable of launching ballistic missiles, as well as a new intercontinental missile, Hwasong-20, capable of striking US territory. At the same time, according to Ukraine’s General Staff, Russian instructors have trained North Korean UAV operators who now adjust strikes on Defense Forces’ positions in Sumy region from Russian territory in Kursk region.
- **Throughout the week, new evidence emerged of Russia receiving critical military components via sanctions evasion.** A NATO official estimated that about 80% of the key electronic components used in Russian drones and weapons are made in China. The Washington Post reported that in August, China sharply increased exports to Russia of fiber-optic cables and lithium-ion batteries — key for FPV drone production. Meanwhile, Corriere della Sera revealed that in 2024, an Italian company may have supplied at least 232 tons of epoxy resins to Russia — about 20% of all its imports — used, among other things, in Iskander missile production. According to Bloomberg, the sanctioned Russian Arctic LNG 2 plant continues exporting liquefied gas, having shipped its tenth cargo since late June.
- **Russia continues to receive diplomatic backing.** Syria’s new president, Ahmed al-Sharaa, confirmed to Vladimir Putin his commitment to previous agreements ensuring the continuation of Russian military bases in Syria.
- **Ukraine is increasing sanctions pressure on Russia, aligning restrictive measures with international partners.** President Volodymyr Zelensky signed a decree enacting the NSDC decision synchronizing Ukrainian sanctions with those previously imposed by Japan. The list includes eight individuals and fourteen companies involved in supporting Russia’s military-industrial complex — among them Alrosa CEO Pavel Marinichev, a representative of the North Korean company KOMID supplying arms to Russia, and the Wagner-affiliated “Convoy” private military company financed by oligarch Arkady Rotenberg. Since June 2025, Ukraine has adopted eight sanctions packages coordinated with partners.
- **Thanks to international efforts and prolonged negotiations, repair work began on the power lines supplying the temporarily occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.** On October 18, the IAEA reported that repairs had started under a local ceasefire. Until then, Russia had delayed the process, and since September 23 the plant had been operating on emergency diesel generators, posing significant nuclear risks. According to the Ministry of Energy, Ukrainian specialists are participating in the restoration, carried out for the 42nd time since the full-scale invasion began.

## Military Support

### Defense-industrial cooperation with key allies continues to deepen.

- Ukraine and Germany signed an agreement to expand defense industry cooperation, providing for joint production of Lynx infantry fighting vehicles and ammunition, as well as equipment repair. Earlier, Ukraine reached an agreement with the United Kingdom on joint artillery production. In addition, the Dutch Defence Cluster opened a defense technology hub in Kyiv, and US corporation Bell Textron confirmed readiness to establish a helicopter production base in Ukraine.
- At the pan-European level, the EU approved €300 million to deepen defense cooperation with Ukraine.

### Ukraine and its partners are also expanding drone production and supply capabilities.

- The international drone coalition, led by the UK and Latvia, plans to supply Ukraine with around 35,000 interceptor drones to counter Russian UAVs. The UK has already delivered over 85,000 drones in the past six months, investing around £600 million in drone production for Ukraine. Ukraine’s Ministry of Defense stated that with proper funding, the country could produce up to 10 million drones of various types in 2026.

### Ukraine’s military capabilities continue to grow in the air, at sea, and on land.

- The Ukrainian Navy received the Alkmaar-class minesweeper from the Netherlands, with another expected by the end of the year. Denmark also provided over \$170 million in long-term naval support.
- In the air domain, the arrival of the first F-35s in Belgium opens the way for F-16 transfers to Ukraine, though the delivery of Swedish Gripen jets has been postponed due to technical challenges. Swedish Defense Minister Pål Jonson said that the international aviation coalition recommended delaying the transfer because of technical and infrastructure issues related to introducing three fighter jet types — F-16, Mirage, and Gripen — simultaneously. However, future Gripen transfers are not ruled out.
- Meanwhile, Ukraine’s ground capabilities are also being strengthened: Japan has delivered an additional 30 military vehicles, bringing the total number of vehicles provided to over 130.



## Key Events of the Week:

- The most intense fighting continues in the Pokrovsk direction, where up to 50–60 assaults are recorded daily, but Ukrainian troops are steadily holding their defenses and conducting counter-sabotage measures.
- Ukraine has liberated more than 180 km<sup>2</sup> of territory in the Pokrovsk region in Donetsk oblast since August 21, and more than 230 km<sup>2</sup> has been cleared of sabotage and reconnaissance groups.
- The Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to actively strike military and energy facilities in Russia and Crimea — oil depots in Feodosiia and Hvardiiske, a warehouse in Dzhankoi, radar stations in Yevpatoriia and Krasna Poliana, and a UAV control point in Oleshky have been hit.
- Ukrainian drones are attacking critical Russian energy infrastructure, including the 500 kV Veshkayma substation in the Volga region and the Saratov oil refinery, which supplies fuel to the Russian army.
- Russia is ramping up production and preparing new strikes by expanding the Engels-2 base, where new parking spaces are being built for Tu-95MS and Tu-160 strategic bombers.
- The Armed Forces of Ukraine have recorded the participation of North Korean UAV operators who are coordinating Russian shelling in Sumy oblast from Kursk oblast — this is a new level of foreign involvement in the war.
- Russia continues its massive attacks with drones and missiles, with over 6,000 strike UAVs, up to 100 airstrikes, and hundreds of guided aerial bombs every day; Sumy, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts are particularly affected.
- Ukraine is increasing its air defense capabilities, in particular by creating new helicopter groups to combat drones and cooperating with international companies that manufacture drone interceptors.
- Explosions at defense enterprises in Russia itself (in particular, at the “Avangard” plant in Bashkortostan) are exacerbating the problems of the Russian military-industrial complex.

12.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Armed Forces of Ukraine repelled Russian forces near Nove Shakhove, Zoloty Kolodiaz, Kucheriv Yar, and Novopavlivka in Donetsk oblast – DeepState. At the same time, the Russian army advanced in Kucheriv Yar and near Shakhove in Donetsk oblast.</li> <li>➤ In occupied Crimea, there were reports of an attack on the Simferopol Thermal Power Plant. A fire broke out at the facility. There was also a fire in the area of the 220 kV Kafa substation, which is a key hub for the peninsula's power supply. Mobile internet was cut off across much of Crimea, and the north of the peninsula was without power for most of the night.</li> <li>➤ UAVs attacked an oil depot in occupied Feodosiia, causing a large-scale fire. Crimean Gauleiter Serhii Aksionov confirmed the attack, stating that local air defense forces had allegedly shot down 20 drones.</li> </ul>
13.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional helicopter groups will be formed to shoot down Russian UAVs, Zelenskyi stated. “We are working with partners to provide Ukraine with more of the necessary types of aircraft. There have been reports of cooperation with companies that manufacture interceptor drones—maximum production volumes are needed,” the Ukrainian president added.</li> </ul>
14.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Ukrainian Defense Forces continue to strike Russian military targets. On the night of October 14, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck the P-18 radar station in Krasna Poliana (TOT Crimea), the UAV control point in Oleshky (TOT in Kherson oblast), and an ammunition depot in the Makiivka area (TOT in Donetsk oblast).</li> </ul>
15.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Putin has a plan for further military exploitation of Belarusian territory. At this stage, the information will not be made public, but partners who are at risk will be warned. This was stated by Zelenskyi after a meeting with the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine.</li> </ul>
16.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Last night, Russians attacked Ukrainian energy facilities and civilian infrastructure with more than 300 drones and 37 missiles.</li> <li>➤ Defense forces struck the Saratov oil refinery in Russia. This is one of the oldest oil refineries in Russia. As of 2023, the volume of oil processing was 4.8 million tons. The enterprise is involved in meeting the needs of the Russian armed forces.</li> <li>➤ North Korean UAV operators are coordinating Russian strikes on Ukrainian positions. The defense forces recorded negotiations between North Korean UAV operators and Russian army personnel. North Korean UAV operators from Kursk oblast corrected MLRS fire on Ukrainian troops' positions in Sumy oblast.</li> <li>➤ The Russian army struck one of the training units of the Ukrainian Ground Forces located in the rear. On the morning of October 16, Russia launched a massive combined strike on Ukraine, including two ballistic missiles. Due to enemy strikes, it was not possible to completely avoid casualties. According to the Operational Command “South”, the wounded were promptly provided with all necessary assistance.</li> </ul>

Losses of the Russian army from 12.10.2025 to 18.10.2025	
Liquidated personnel	6 230
Tanks	17
IFVs	54
Artillery systems / MLRS	235/4
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	1/0
UAVs	2 752
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	755
Special equipment	3



16.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the Pokrovsk region of Donetsk oblast, the Ukrainian Defense Forces are conducting stabilization and counter-sabotage measures, in particular in the town of Pokrovsk and its surroundings, as well as active defense measures.</li> <li>➤ In total, during the operation, which has been ongoing since August 21, 2025, the Defense Forces have liberated 182.8 square kilometers of the Pokrovsk region in Donetsk oblast. Another 230.1 square kilometers have been cleared of enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups.</li> </ul>
17.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The General Staff confirmed a successful attack on an oil refinery in Crimea and the self-destruction of a Russian Su-30. Defense Force units attacked an oil depot in the village of Hvardiiske. A fire broke out at the facility. A hit on the RVS-2000 tank was recorded. Among other things, a Russian military fuel and lubricant depot in Dzhankoi and the Nebo-U radar station in Yevpatoriia were hit. Ukrainian Navy intelligence also confirmed the destruction of a Russian Su-30SM aircraft. "It is likely that the enemy shot down its own multi-purpose fighter while repelling the UAV attack using air defense systems," the statement said.</li> <li>➤ In Bashkortostan, Russia, an explosion occurred in one of the workshops of the "Avangard" plant. The enterprise fulfills defense orders and, in particular, produces ammunition and parts for multiple launch rocket systems. The explosion resulted in casualties and injuries. Locals suggest that the cause may have been a safety violation during the opening of the new workshop.</li> <li>➤ Drones attacked the Russian city of Sochi. This was reported by Mayor Andrii Proshunin. According to him, the attack was repelled by UAVs. According to Russian media, temporary restrictions on takeoffs and landings were imposed at airports in Krasnodar, Ulyanovsk, Nizhnekamsk, Kaluga, Samara, Sochi, Nizhny Novgorod, Yaroslavl, Kazan, Izhevsk, and Ufa during the night.</li> <li>➤ Occupied Crimea was attacked by drones. According to Krymskyi Viter (Crimean Wind), an oil depot in the village of Hvardiiske and an ammunition depot were hit.</li> <li>➤ In the occupied part of the Zaporizhzhia oblast, Russian military correspondent Ivan Zuiev was killed by a drone strike. His colleague, Yuriy Voitkevich, was seriously injured. Zuiev was an active participant in the information war against Ukraine. For his dedicated service to the Kremlin regime, Zuiev was repeatedly awarded state honors, and in March 2025, he received an appreciation letter from Putin. He worked for the propaganda news agency "RIA Novosti"</li> </ul>
18.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ During the night, Russia launched 164 drones and three missiles at Ukraine. So far, air defenses have shot down and suppressed 136 drones. Twenty-seven drones have been recorded hitting 12 locations, and debris has fallen on four locations.</li> <li>➤ In Russia, drones attacked the 500 kV Veshkima substation at night. This is one of the key nodes of the Middle Volga energy system, which is part of the Volga MES (a branch of PJSC Rosseti FSK UES). This substation connects the Ulyanovsk, Mordovia, Chuvashia, and Samara power grids. It carries large transit flows of electricity from the northeast (including from the Syzran and Zhiguli hydroelectric power plants) to the central regions of Russia.</li> <li>➤ According to the "Arrata" special unit of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine, the Russian Federation is expanding Engels-2, a key airbase for missile strikes on Ukraine. In the northern part of the base, concrete is being poured and 12 new parking spaces are being prepared for Tu-95MS, Tu-160, Su-34, and Su-35 aircraft. The active construction indicates that Russia is preparing for new waves of strikes.</li> </ul>

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Vehicles & fuel tanks	755
Special equipment	3



# This week shelling and strikes

## Massive attacks per week

- **Attack on the night of October 12:** Air defense neutralized 103 out of 118 drones. One missile and another 15 UAVs hit 10 locations.
- **Attack on the night of October 13:** Air defense neutralized 69 out of 82 drones. 13 strike UAV impacts were recorded across 7 locations, as well as debris falling in two others.
- **Attack on the night of October 14:** Air defense neutralized 69 out of 96 drones. 27 strike UAV impacts were recorded across seven locations, with debris falling in one location.
- **Attack on the night of October 15:** Air defense neutralized 86 out of 113 drones. 26 strike UAV impacts were recorded across 11 locations, with debris falling in one location.
- **Attack on the night of October 16:** Air defense neutralized 5 missiles and 283 out of 320 drones. In total, Russia launched 2 “Kinzhal” missiles, 26 “Iskander-M”/KN-23 ballistic missiles, 2 “Iskander-K” cruise missiles, and 7 Kh-59 missiles. 14 missiles and another 37 strike UAVs hit 14 locations. The main directions of attack were the Poltava and Kharkiv oblasts.
- **Attack on the night of October 17:** Air defense neutralized 35 out of 70 drones. 31 strike UAV impacts were recorded across 10 locations, with debris falling in two others
- **Attack on the night of October 18:** Air defense neutralized 136 drones. In total, Russia launched three S-300 surface-to-air guided missiles and 164 UAVs of various types against Ukraine. 27 strike UAVs hit 12 locations, with debris falling in four.

## Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, the Donetsk oblast suffered from attacks involving KAB-250 (glide bombs), FAB-250 bombs, and UAVs.
- On October 14, Russian forces shelled the city of Kostiantynivka with tube artillery. Two people were injured as a result. On October 16, Russia dropped an aerial bomb on the settlement of Raihorodok, injuring four people.
- Other settlements affected by attacks during the week included:
  - Pokrovsk district: Yurivka, Dobropillia.
  - Kramatorsk district: Lyman, Rai-Oleksandrivka, Kramatorsk, Novoiverske, Oleksandrivka, Staroraiske, Shchurove, Sviatohirsk, Andriivka, Sloviansk, Novyi Kavkaz, Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka, Molocharka, Mykolaivka, Yasnohirka, Ocheretyne, Stepanivka, Druzhkivka, Raiske, Krynytsi, Nadiia.
  - Bakhmut district: Siversk, Dronivka, Riznykivka.

## Kyiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army shelled the Kyiv oblast using drones and cruise missiles. The main targets were critical infrastructure facilities, particularly energy sites. As a result of a drone attack on October 12, two DTEK company employees were injured while working at a substation. Additionally, over 9,000 consumers in three settlements of the Boryspil district were left without electricity. No fatalities were reported.

## Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Throughout the week, the Zaporizhzhia oblast suffered from MLRS shelling and UAV attacks.
- On October 13, Russian forces attacked a civilian car in the village of Preobrazhenka, killing two people. On October 14, Russians struck the settlement of Ternuvate with Shahed drones, injuring one person and damaging houses and farm buildings.
- Other affected settlements included: Mahdalynivka, Bilohiria, Uspenivka, Novouspenivske, Malynivka, Stepnohirsk, Plavni, Stepove, Prymorske, Huliaipole, Shcherbak, Novodanylivka, Mala Tokmachka, Novoandriivka, Charivne, Novopavlivka, Poltavka, Shyroke, Barvynivka, Bilenke, Orikhiv, Ternivka, Tavriiske, Natalivka, Lukianivske, Yehorivka, Solodke, Nove, Chervonodniprovka, Zaliznychne, Malokaterynivka, Komyshevakh, Novoukrainka, Novoyakovlivka, Zaporizhzhia.

## Kharkiv oblast

- Throughout the week, Kharkiv region suffered from UAV and KAB (glide bombs) attacks.
- On October 13, Russians attacked the city of Kharkiv with a KAB bomb, injuring seven people and damaging 17 cars.
- Other affected settlements included: Chuhuv, Shevchenkove, Pisky-Radkivski, Buhaivka, Kupiansk, Izium, Svitank, Osynove, Klynove-Novoselivka, Blahodativka, Velykyi Burluk, Kozacha Lopan, Nechvolodivka, Tamarganivka, Chervone, Andriivka, Staryi Merchyk, Bilyi Kolodiaz, Martove, Skovorodynivka, Zelenyi Hai, Oskil, Petropavlivka, Derhachi.

## Odesa oblast

- Throughout the week, the Odesa oblast came under Russian attack using strike drones. On October 13, enemy drones hit civilian infrastructure in the settlement of Avanhard, Odesa district. The strike caused a large-scale fire over an area of more than 5,000 square meters: warehouses caught fire, and one person was injured. No fatalities were reported.

## Mykolaiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Mykolaiv oblast came under attack from FPV drones, artillery, and multiple launch rocket systems. The shelling caused destruction of civilian infrastructure, private houses, and agricultural enterprise facilities. No casualties were reported.
- Under fire were: Ochakiv, Kutsurub, Voskresenske, and Halytsynove communities, as well as the city of Mykolaiv.

# This week shelling and strikes

## Dnipropetrovsk oblast

- Throughout the week, Russians shelled the Dnipropetrovsk oblast using heavy artillery, Grad MLRS, FPV drones, guided aerial bombs (KABs), and Shahed-type strike drones. Energy, transport, and industrial infrastructure, as well as educational, cultural, and medical institutions, apartment buildings, and private houses were damaged. Four people were killed, six wounded.
- On October 12, Russian forces shelled the Vasylykivka and Mezhova communities, as well as the Nikopol area. As a result of FPV drone and artillery strikes, a 66-year-old man and a 76-year-old woman were killed, several others injured. Over a dozen private homes were destroyed and a gas station damaged. On October 15, the enemy launched a massive drone strike on the region, particularly on Pavlohrad, Kamianske, and the Slavgorod community, causing large fires. In Pavlohrad, energy facilities, a transport company, and industrial sites were damaged, and a 19-year-old man was injured.
- Throughout the week, shelling also affected: Nikopol, Pavlohrad, Kamianske, Marhanets, Mezhova, as well as Pokrovska, Myrivska, Vasylykivka, Slavgorodska, and Petropavlivska communities of the Synelnykove district.

## Poltava oblast

- Throughout the week, the Poltava oblast came under attack from drones and missiles. As a result of the strikes, facilities belonging to DTEK Naftogaz were damaged, infrastructure was hit, gas production operations were suspended, and a fire broke out in the Opishnia community. More than 2,500 residents were left without gas supply, and emergency power outage schedules were introduced. No casualties or injuries were reported during the period.

## Sumy oblast

- Throughout the week, the Sumy oblast suffered from UAV and KAB attacks, as well as MLRS shelling and VOG grenade drops from drones.
- On October 15, Russians attacked a civilian car with a drone in the Putyvl community, injuring three people. On October 17, Russians used a drone to strike a truck near the Trostianets community, injuring one person.
- Other affected communities included: Sumy, Yunakivka, Khotin, Bilopillia, Krasnopillia, Esman, Shalyhyne, Khutir-Mykhailivka, Seredyna-Buda, Znob-Novhorodske, Velyka Pysarivka, Mykolaivka, Myropillia, Hlukhiv, Svesa, Novoslobidske, Shostka, Richky, Buryh, Krolevets, and Vorozhba.

## Kherson oblast

- Throughout the week, Russian forces carried out daily intensive attacks on the Kherson oblast using artillery, aviation, mortars, and Shahed-131/136 kamikaze drones. As a result of the shelling, critical and social infrastructure, energy facilities, a gas pipeline, administrative buildings, a school, a hospital, a church, a bank office, the Kherson Regional History Museum, enterprises, and transport were damaged. In total, 41 apartment buildings and 98 private houses were hit. Over the week, 5 people were killed and 54 wounded, including children.
- In particular, on October 14, Russians launched massive artillery and air strikes on Kherson, Beryslav, Kachkarivka, Novokairy, and surrounding villages. Three people were killed, 14 injured, including a 1.5-month-old baby. Residential buildings, a medical facility, and several administrative structures were destroyed. On October 17, Russians shelled Kherson and surrounding areas again, killing one person and injuring 11. Russian drones also attacked rescuers extinguishing a fire in a high-rise building, no casualties were reported.
- Under shelling were: Kherson, Antonivka, Komyshany, Prydniprovsk, Sadove, Zelenivka, Inzheneme, Bilozerka, Stanislav, Sofiivka, Shyroka Balka, Tomyna Balka, Dniprovsk, Rozlyv, Oleksandrivka, Kizomys, Romashkove, Chaikyne, Dariivka, Poniativka, Mykilske, Novotiagynka, Tokarivka, Beryslav, Vysoke, Novooleksandrivka, Kostyrka, Dudchany, Mala Oleksandrivka, Burhunka, Kachkarivka, Llove, Mylove, Mykhailivka, Odradokamianka, Chervonyi Maiak, Vesele, Kozatske, Osokorivka, Novokairy, Zolota Balka, Tomaryne, Novodmyrivka, Ivanivka, Novovorontsovka, Novoberyslav, Olhivka, Blahovishchenske, Sadove, Veletenske, Berehove, Zymivnyk, Yantarne, Zorivka, Mykolaivka, Nova Zoria, Tiahynka, Sukhanove, Mylove, and Monastyrsk.

## Chernihiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Chernihiv oblast suffered attacks from Russian forces using FPV drones, Lancelot and Molniya strike UAVs, 82mm and 120mm mortars, tube artillery, grenade launchers, MLRS, and explosive drops from drones. This resulted in the destruction of residential buildings and damage to transport, energy, and civilian infrastructure, including bridges, railway facilities, a Nova Poshta terminal, and a logging enterprise. Two people were killed and five injured.
- On October 13, Russians launched a massive strike on the Semenivka community using FPV drones and artillery. One person was killed and another injured; a store and several private homes were damaged. On October 15, kamikaze drones struck Nizhyn, destroying a Nova Poshta terminal, damaging two residential buildings and civilian infrastructure, injuring two people. Fires broke out in the city, burning three cars.
- Under shelling were: Novhorod-Siverskyi, Buchky, Krasnyi Khutir, Yasna Polyana, Pushkari, Krolevets-Slobidka, Arkhipivka, Zoria, Zarichchia, Karpovychi, Liskivshchyna, Serhiivske, Semenivka, Kostobobriv, Tymonovychi, Leonivka, Mykolaivka, Prohres, Bleshnia, Lubiane, Baranivka, Lohy, Huta-Studenetska, Yeline, Horodnia, Senkivka, Snovsk, and Nizhyn.

# The week of shelling

Donetsk oblast



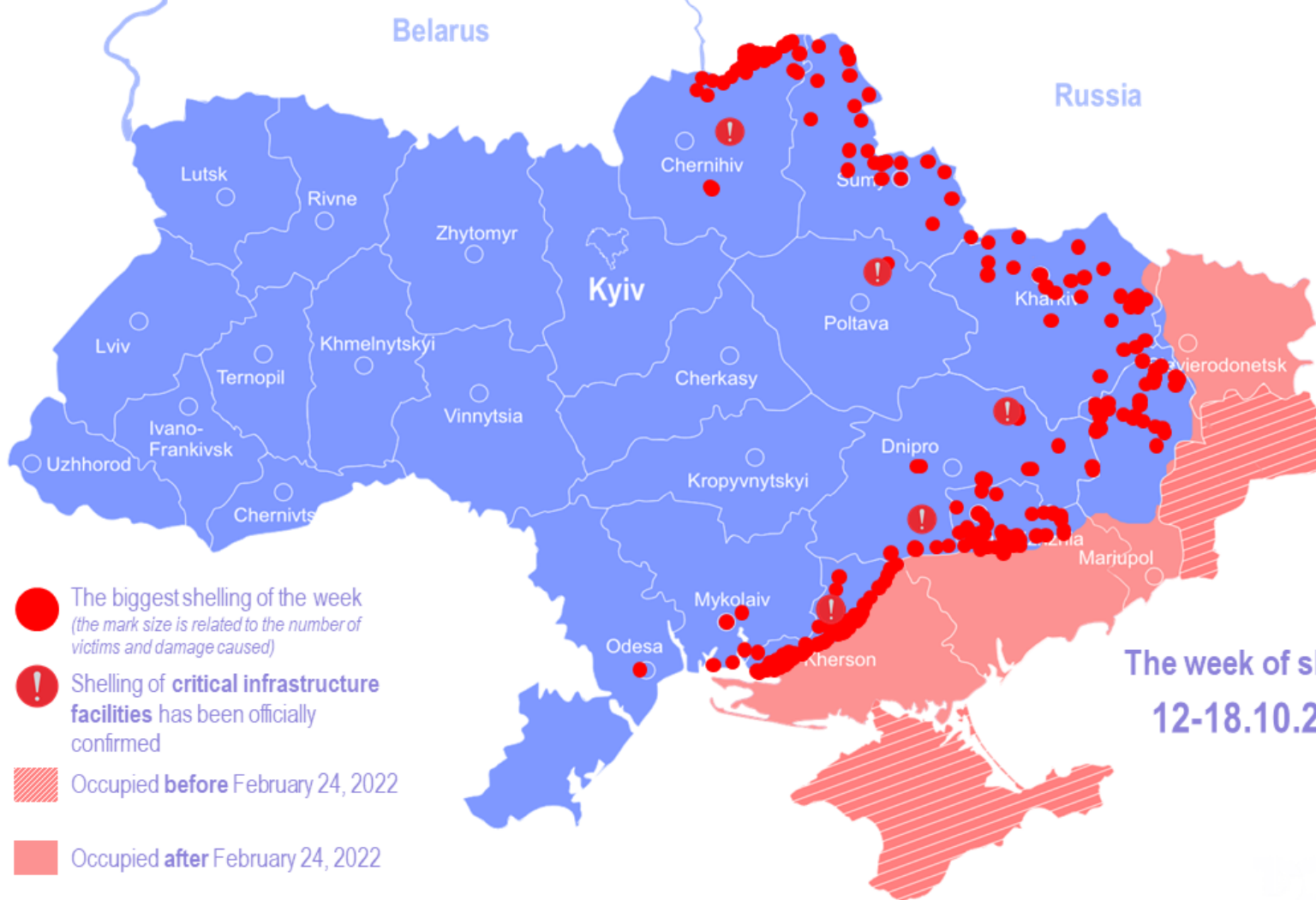
Zaporizhzhia oblast



Chernihiv oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



- The biggest shelling of the week  
*(the mark size is related to the number of victims and damage caused)*
- ! Shelling of **critical infrastructure facilities** has been officially confirmed
- Occupied **before** February 24, 2022
- Occupied **after** February 24, 2022

The week of shelling  
12-18.10.2025

## Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) and Evacuation

- In the Donetsk Oblast, 763 families with 965 children remain in the forced evacuation zone, according to Yuliia Ryzhakova, Head of the Children's Affairs Service of the Donetsk Regional Military Administration. Over the past week, 220 children from 157 families were forcibly evacuated from the region, most of them from the Druzhkivka community – 213 children from 153 families.
- Eight Ukrainian children and teenagers were rescued from occupation as part of the Bring Kids Back UA initiative. Since the beginning of the year, 227 children have been returned from the temporarily occupied communities of the Kherson Oblast.
- The Kremlin is launching a programme to colonise the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine. According to the new policy, Russians from remote regions of the Russian Federation are to be resettled in the occupied areas, reports the National Resistance Center. The new migration concept orders to "create conditions for the return of residents of Donbas, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson Oblasts," but the plan is not to return Ukrainians, but "loyal subjects" from remote areas of the Russian Federation, from Yakutia to Buryatia.
- Last week, from October 10 to 16, police in Kherson Oblast carried out 39 evacuation operations, according to Roman Koziaikov, Head of the Kherson Regional Police.
- In the Kharkiv Oblast, the mandatory evacuation zone for families with children has been expanded, according to Oleg Syniehubov, Head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration. The Regional Defence Council of Kharkiv Oblast has decided to forcibly evacuate families with children from 40 additional settlements in the Kupiansk region. In total, 409 families with 601 children are planned to be relocated.
- The occupiers in Crimea have restricted the movement of ambulances due to a lack of fuel. People are advised to get to hospitals on their own, according to the National Resistance Center.
- The 37th evacuation train from Donetsk Oblast has arrived in Rivne, according to the Main Directorate of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Rivne Oblast. This time, 16 displaced persons, including one person with a disability, have found shelter in Rivne Oblast.

## Infrastructure and Energy

- In Donetsk Oblast, specialists detected 58 damages to gas networks as a result of hostilities over the past week, according to Donetskooblgaz JSC. Sloviansk, Druzhkivka, Lyman, and Kramatorsk suffered from shelling by Russian occupation forces, leaving hundreds of customers without gas due to infrastructure damage.

## Prisoners of war

- Soldiers from the Navy's special reconnaissance unit "Angels" have brought home a 29-year-old veteran of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and a 34-year-old serviceman of the National Guard of Ukraine who were in the temporarily occupied territory, according to the Military Ombudsman of Ukraine. The mother of the 29-year-old veteran, who is an active servicemember of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, contacted the Military Ombudsman with information that her son was hiding in the temporarily occupied part of the Luhansk Oblast after being repeatedly tortured. It was later discovered that, not far from him, a 34-year-old active serviceman of the National Guard of Ukraine, who had been listed as missing for more than three years, was literally being kept in slavery by one of the collaborators.

## Russia's Violations of International Humanitarian Law

- In September, at least 214 civilians were killed and 916 wounded as a result of Russian aggression against Ukraine, according to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. It is noted that 69% of civilians were affected near the front line, especially in the Donetsk and Kherson Oblasts. Short-range drones, mainly FPV, killed 54 people and injured 272, accounting for 29% of all civilian casualties. Long-range missile strikes and loitering munitions used by the Russian army were responsible for 30% of all civilian casualties – 36 dead and 306 wounded.
- Russia attacked a humanitarian mission in the Kherson Oblast, the head of the regional military administration, Oleksandr Prokudin, reported on October 14. According to him, the Russian forces fired drones and artillery at trucks belonging to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Bilozerka community. He specified that one vehicle was burned and another was seriously damaged. Two trucks managed to escape the shelling. No people were injured.
- In the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, Russians are violating children's rights. In particular, they are deprived of access to the Ukrainian education system, beaten for disobedience, isolated, and forcibly administered psychotropic drugs, said Daria Herasymchuk, the President's Advisor – Commissioner for Children's Rights and Child Rehabilitation. She noted that children from the temporarily occupied territories cannot report violations of their rights, as Russian authorities deny them any possibility of protection.
- Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation, 232 artists and 114 Ukrainian and foreign media workers have been killed, according to the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine.
- On October 13, the Russian army attacked a dormitory in Kharkiv with a drone. According to preliminary data from law enforcement agencies, the Russians used an FPV drone to strike the city. This is the first time that a drone of this type has reached the city center. It could have been released by a "mother drone" at a distance of 10–20 kilometers from the target.

## International support

- With the support of UNDP, over 500 infrastructure facilities and heating systems in 150 communities will be restored in Ukraine. More than 500 schools, kindergartens, hospitals, utilities, and heating systems are expected to be restored. In Washington, on the sidelines of the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, European Investment Bank Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle and Acting Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme Haoliang Xu signed two agreements aimed at accelerating the recovery and modernisation of Ukraine's social and critical infrastructure, according to the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine.

## Other

- 150 million tons of cargo have passed through the Ukrainian maritime corridor, according to Deputy Prime Minister for Ukraine's Restoration and Minister for Community and Territorial Development Oleksii Kuleba. More than 6,000 vessels have transported 90 million tons of grain to 55 countries worldwide. Kuleba noted that Ukraine is expanding its network of shelters, which have proven effective during shelling. Currently, 30 stationary shelters operate in seaports, with an additional 21 mobile protective structures installed in the ports of Greater Odesa.

