



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

May 17 – 23

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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

- **Western energy policy regarding Russian resources has shifted.** In an effort to stabilize the global market, both the US and the UK have decided to **ease restrictions on Russian energy products**. Washington has extended its sanctions exemption for seaborne Russian oil by 30 days. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent explained that the move is designed to support energy-deficient nations while preventing China from snapping up resources at heavily discounted prices. Meanwhile, the UK has authorized imports of diesel and jet fuel derived from Russian crude, provided it was processed in third countries. London has also issued supply licenses for LNG from the Sakhalin-2 and Yamal projects. British officials note that these measures are intended to curb surging oil prices and avert supply shortages against the backdrop of escalating tensions in the Middle East.
- **War Rhetoric and Key Player Positions.** According to Bloomberg, the Russian leadership is looking to end the war by the end of this year, but exclusively on terms the Kremlin deems a victory. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov denied any specific timeline, though he did confirm Russia's interest in reviving US-mediated negotiations.
- **Russian Military Activity and Mobilization Prospects.** The Russian Defense Ministry has launched military drills to practice the deployment of non-strategic nuclear weapons, including the launch of ballistic and cruise missiles. The exercises, held from May 19 to 21, involved over 60,000 troops and simulated scenarios for using nuclear warheads stationed in Belarus. Meanwhile, experts from the International Institute for Strategic Studies forecast that, given the battlefield stalemate and the inability to secure swift gains, the Kremlin will likely be forced to announce a second wave of partial mobilization within the next 12 months to sustain its war effort.

International Support

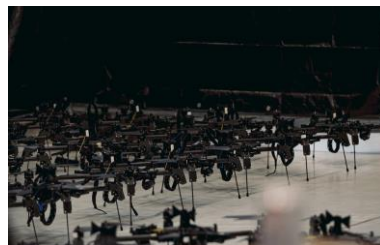
- **The change of government in Hungary is paving the way for greater consolidation of the EU's sanctions policy.** The new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Anita Orbán, publicly acknowledged that the previous administration had abused its veto power "for the sake of political theater" rather than national interest, and pledged to restore trust with EU and NATO partners. This shift is already yielding tangible results: **EU ambassadors** are preparing to adopt a **"mini-package" of sanctions** targeting about a dozen individuals previously shielded by Orbán. Notably, this could reinstate restrictions against Patriarch Kirill, the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, and return several other Russians to the blacklist after they were removed under pressure from Budapest. Ultimately, Budapest's new stance removes one of the primary institutional roadblocks within the European Union's sanctions mechanism.

- Concurrently, **the EU and several allies have rolled out coordinated sanctions in response to the deportation of Ukrainian children.** The Council of the EU imposed restrictions on 16 individuals and 7 entities. This includes the all-Russian children's centers Orlyonok, Scarlet Sails, and Smena, which are actively involved in **ideological indoctrination and militarization programs**.
- In tandem, **Canada sanctioned 23 individuals and 5 organizations**, including Russia's Commissioner for Children's Rights, Maria Lvova-Belova. The upcoming 21st EU sanctions package, slated for late June or early July, is expected to target Russia's shadow fleet, companies transporting stolen grain from occupied territories, as well as Russian banks and religious leadership.
- **The debate over Ukraine's EU membership has gained new momentum** following an initiative by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who proposed an **associate status as a transitional step before full accession**. Under this framework, Kyiv would participate in EU summits and ministerial meetings, but without voting rights. The European Commission acknowledged receiving Merz's letter and supported bringing the discussion to the European Council, framing enlargement as a geostrategic security interest for the bloc.
- However, President **Zelenskiy rejected the proposal as unfair**. He argued that a non-voting status effectively sidelines Ukraine from the decision-making process, pointing instead to Hungary's shifting stance as a fresh opportunity to make real headway in negotiations for full-fledged membership.
- Meanwhile, Ukraine and the EU have initialed a memorandum on **€8.35 billion in macro-financial assistance** as part of a €90 billion loan facility. European Commissioner Marta Kos stated that the first tranche could be disbursed as early as next week, pending ratification by the Verkhovna Rada.
- On the bilateral track, **Japan has allocated another \$40 million grant to Ukraine**. This marks the fifth phase of the emergency recovery program in cooperation with JICA, bringing the initiative's total funding to over \$700 million.
- On the security front, **data from a recent US Congressional report** is particularly telling. Following the blockage of Starlink access for Russian units, Ukraine has reclaimed nearly 400 square kilometers of territory – a clear testament to how technological countermeasures can directly impact the operational environment. Furthermore, **Ukraine is expanding its regional security footprint**. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha confirmed Kyiv's readiness to deploy air defense specialists to the Baltic states and Finland to help counter drone threats, while units of the Ukrainian Armed Forces recently participated in the NATO-led Aurora 26 military exercises on the island of Gotland.



Other Developments

- **Russia continues to expand its sanctions evasion mechanisms in both the energy and military production sectors.** According to monitoring services, at least four tankers from Oman have joined the so-called "shadow fleet" to transport sanctioned LNG, with some already shifting jurisdictions to operate under the Russian flag. Furthermore, investigations point to an expanding network of front companies, such as Silver LLC, which Russia is utilizing to import foreign components for Shahed drone production. This highlights the systemic adaptation of the Russian economy to sanctions and the resilience of its military-industrial complex's manufacturing capacity.
- **There is a noticeable deepening of military and technical cooperation between Russia and China, which is directly impacting the battlefield in Ukraine.** According to European intelligence reports, China secretly trained approximately 200 Russian military personnel in late 2025. These troops were subsequently deployed to active combat zones, particularly on the Zaporizhzhia front. The training focused on drones, electronic warfare, and air defense, underscoring a transfer of critical military capabilities. Concurrently, both nations are expanding their economic integration, including the development of a new railway link and the extension of their visa-free regime. This builds a long-term infrastructural foundation designed to bypass sanctions and pivot Russian trade routes.
- Meanwhile, certain international decisions and initiatives are creating more favorable conditions for Russia and its allies. The Executive Committee of the International Gymnastics Federation has lifted restrictions on Russian and Belarusian athletes, permitting them to compete under their national symbols, a move that effectively dilutes isolation policies.
- Additionally, the US is spearheading discussions on a partial **rollback of sanctions on Belarusian potash fertilizers**, aiming to reduce Minsk's dependence on Moscow. Such moves could prove to be a double-edged sword, carrying the risk of weakening the overall sanctions regime.
- **Ukraine and its partners are keeping up the sanctions and security pressure on Russia in response to its ongoing military activities.** The Ukrainian President has signed new sanctions targeting 127 individuals linked to missile strikes, alongside 29 "shadow fleet" vessels used for transporting military cargo. This move aims to squeeze Russia's logistical and manufacturing capabilities. Furthermore, the NATO Secretary General warned of "catastrophic consequences" should Russia resort to nuclear weapons, reinforcing the alliance's deterrence posture.



Military Support

- **Defense support is focusing on technical upgrades and boosting air defense capabilities.** Ukraine continues to scale up its demining operations thanks to international aid. The State Special Transport Service has taken delivery of 20 Roshel Senator armored vehicles, which will be deployed to clear explosive hazards from liberated territories. This delivery is part of the broader "Demining Coalition" effort, significantly improving personnel safety during engineering operations.
- **Ukraine's air defense network is set for an additional boost through an equipment purchase from the United States.** The US State Department has approved a potential sale of components and parts for Hawk surface-to-air missile systems valued at over \$100 million. This decision is aimed at maintaining the operational readiness of systems currently fielded by the Ukrainian Armed Forces and strengthening defense capabilities against aerial threats.
- **Technological Cooperation and Domestic Production.** Joint Ukrainian-German defense initiatives are demonstrating a rapid scale-up in manufacturing capacity. Notably, the enterprise Quantum Frontline Industries has reached a production rate of 35 Linza 3.0 drones per day. This milestone was made possible after securing the necessary export licenses and expanding production facilities in Germany.
- At the same time, **the United States is showing a systemic interest in Ukrainian defense technology**, particularly in unmanned systems and electronic warfare capabilities. According to Bloomberg, the Pentagon is looking to gain access to battle-tested hardware for evaluation by US military experts. In early May, Washington sent Kyiv a draft Letter of Intent to conduct joint testing, the results of which could lay the groundwork for future procurement contracts.

Key Events of the Week:

- The intensity of hostilities remains extremely high—between 216 and 253 combat engagements were recorded per day over the course of the week, indicating that the large-scale Russian offensive is continuing. The Pokrovsk direction remains the main epicenter of the war: 32–52 assaults took place here daily, and Russian troops attempted to advance in the areas of Pokrovsk, Rodynske, Bilytske, Hryshyne, Novooleksandrivka, and Udachne.
- The Huliaipole direction became the second-most intense front—the Russian forces carried out 22–32 attacks per day, attempting to advance in the areas of Huliaipole, Zaliznychne, Dobropillia, Vozdvyzhivka, Staroukrainka, and Charivne.
- Russia has intensified pressure on the Kostiantynivka direction, where the number of attacks has risen to 27 assaults per day, with offensive operations underway on the approaches to Kostiantynivka, Illinivka, Pleshchiivka, and Ivanopillia.
- In the Oleksandrivka direction, Russians have intensified attempts to advance toward Dobropillia, Kalynivka, Verbove, and Oleksandrohrad, although the intensity of fighting here is significantly lower than in the Pokrovsk or Huliaipole directions.
- In the Kharkiv oblast, Russian forces continue to apply pressure in the Southern Slobozhanshchyna sector, attacking the areas of Vovchansk, Starytsia, Vilcha, Hranov, and Izbytske, but without any signs of an operational breakthrough.
- Ukraine is systematically destroying Russia’s logistical infrastructure by striking oil refineries, oil terminals, oil depots, and oil pumping stations that supply the Russian army with fuel.
- Command posts, communications hubs, ammunition depots, and UAV control centers are regularly targeted by the Ukrainian Defense Forces, complicating the command and control of Russian troops.
- Russia continues to escalate the scale of its air attacks: during the week, 116–287 strike UAVs were deployed per day, and on May 18, a combined strike involving 546 air targets was recorded.
- The overall situation indicates that the main axis of the Russian offensive currently runs along the Pokrovsk–Kostiantynivka–Huliaipole line, while Ukraine is focusing on wearing down the enemy through strikes on logistics, fuel infrastructure, and command-and-control systems.

17.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 17, Russians launched 287 strike UAVs at Ukraine ➤ On May 17 and during the night of May 18, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck a number of key targets belonging to the Russian occupiers. In particular, a “Grachonok”-class anti-sabotage boat was hit in the Kaspiysk area (Republic of Dagestan, Russian Federation). Boats of this type are used to guard naval bases and combat sabotage forces. Enemy UAV command posts were also struck in the areas of Rozdolne and Shevchenko in Donetsk oblast, Dvorichne in Kharkiv oblast, Kamianske in Zaporizhzhia oblast, and Karnatne in Bryansk oblast, Russian Federation. In addition, Ukrainian troops struck enemy troop concentrations in Piddubne, Donetsk oblast, and in Olhyno, Kherson oblast. Following a review of the results of previous operations, it has been confirmed that on May 17, 2026, a communications node in Myrne in the temporarily occupied territory (TOT) of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, a “Tor-M2” anti-aircraft missile system in Zakhidne in the TOT of Luhansk oblast, and a convoy carrying fuel and lubricants in Fedorivka in the TOT of Donetsk oblast were struck. It has also been confirmed that on May 16, 2026, as a result of the strike on the “Yeisk” airfield in the Krasnodar Territory of the Russian Federation, a Ka-27 helicopter and a Be-200 naval patrol aircraft were destroyed. In addition, it has been confirmed that on May 16, 2026, an air traffic control station in Lesnoy (Bryansk Oblast, Russian Federation) was struck ➤ On May 16 and during the night of May 17, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck a number of key targets belonging to the Russian aggressor. Ukrainian-developed weapons—including the RS-1 “Bars,” FP-1 “Firepoint,” and BARS-SM “GLADIATOR”—were used to strike targets in the Moscow oblast. In particular, the “Angstrom” enterprise, which specializes in the production of high-tech products and microchips for high-precision weapons, was struck enterprise in Zelenograd, Moscow oblast, Russia. A fire was recorded on the facility’s premises. The enterprise is a key component of the Russian military-industrial complex and produces microelectronics, radio electronics, optical systems, and robotics to meet the enemy’s military needs. Also in the Moscow oblast, the Solnechnogorskaya pumping station was struck; it is a critical part of the ring oil pipeline around Moscow and is used for pumping, storing, and shipping large volumes of gasoline and diesel fuel, including for the Russian army.
18.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 18, Russians launched a combined strike against Ukrainian territory using attack UAVs and ground-launched missiles. In total, the Air Force’s electronic warfare units detected 546 aerial attack vehicles (22 missiles and 524 UAVs). A total of 236 combat engagements were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ On May 18, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck an enemy command and observation post in the Tyotkino area (Kursk oblast, Russian Federation), as well as its UAV control centers in the Oleksandrivka area of Kherson oblast and the Bilovody area of Sumy oblast. In addition, two enemy pontoon bridges in the temporarily occupied territories of the Donetsk oblast were destroyed. Ukrainian troops also struck enemy troop concentrations in the areas of Sichneve in Dnipropetrovsk oblast and Rodynske in Donetsk oblast. ➤ On May 18, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck the Lukoil-Nizhegorodnefteorgsintez oil refinery in Kstovo (Nizhny Novgorod oblast, Russian Federation). A fire was recorded on the refinery’s premises. The extent of the damage is being assessed. The Lukoil-Nizhegorodnefteorgsintez refinery is one of the largest oil refineries in the Russian Federation. Its refining capacity is approximately 17 million tons of crude oil per year. The plant produces gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel used to meet the needs of Russian occupation forces. Also, on May 19, the “Yaroslavl-3” oil pumping station near the village of Semibratovo in the Yaroslavl oblast of the Russian Federation was struck.
19.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 19 (starting at 6:00 p.m. on May 18), Russia launched 209 Shahed-type strike UAVs at Ukraine. ➤ Ukrainian specialists have developed the first domestically produced guided aerial bomb. It was designed to meet the demands of modern warfare and is already ready for combat use. The implementation of these technologies transforms conventional aerial bombs into high-precision weapons, allowing Ukrainian pilots to strike targets while remaining outside the range of enemy air defense systems.

Losses of the Russian army from 17.05.2026 to 23.05.2026	
Liquidated personnel	5 910
Tanks	11
IFVs	20
Artillery systems / MLRS	378/8
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	10
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	11 264
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	1 360
Special equipment	16

Situation at the Front

20.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 19–20, the enemy launched an Iskander-M ballistic missile from the Rostov Oblast of the Russian Federation, with 154 Shahed-type attack UAVs at Ukraine. A total of 250 combat engagements were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ On May 19 and during the night of May 20, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck a number of key targets belonging to the Russian occupiers. In particular, the AVT-6 primary oil refining unit was struck, causing a subsequent fire at the Lukoil-Nizhegorodorgsintez refinery near the village of Kstovo in the Nizhny Novgorod oblast of the Russian Federation. Following the strike on the “Yaroslavl-3” oil pumping station in Semibratovo (Yaroslavl oblast, Russian Federation), damage to four storage tanks with a total capacity of 140,000 m³ has been preliminarily confirmed. The station is a key component of the Russian Federation’s oil transportation system and is used to support the aggressor state’s military-industrial infrastructure. Enemy command posts in Soledar, Donetsk oblast, as well as the occupiers’ command and observation posts in the areas of Liubymivka, Kherson oblast, and Ivanivske, Donetsk oblast, were also struck. In addition, enemy UAV command posts were struck in the areas of Piddubne and Peremoha in Donetsk oblast, Huliaipole in Zaporizhzhia Oblast, as well as Elizavetovka in Kursk oblast, Russian Federation. Among other things, Ukrainian troops struck enemy troop concentrations in the Novoukrainka area of Zaporizhzhia oblast and in Myrne, Snizhne, and the city of Donetsk in Donetsk oblast. In addition, an aggressor ammunition depot in the Marynivka area of Zaporizhzhia oblast and an enemy repair unit in Siverskodonetsk, Luhansk oblast, were struck.
21.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 21, the Russian forces launched an Iskander-M ballistic missile from the Rostov oblast of the Russian Federation, with 116 Shahed-type attack UAVs at Ukraine. ➤ A total of 233 combat engagements were recorded over the past 24 hours.
22.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 22, the enemy launched 124 strike UAVs. A total of 253 combat engagements were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ According to the General Staff of Ukraine, on the night of May 22, 2026, the Ukrainian forces struck a number of Russian aggressor targets, including an oil refinery, ammunition depots, air defense systems, command posts, and enemy personnel, specifically one of the headquarters of the “Rubicon” unit near the city of Starobilsk (Luhansk oblast). ➤ On May 21 and during the night of May 22, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck a number of key targets belonging to the Russian occupiers. In particular, an “Osa” anti-aircraft missile system was destroyed in the city of Donetsk, Donetsk oblast. In addition, enemy command and observation posts were struck in Novopetrykivka, Donetsk oblast, and Tyotkino, Kursk oblast, Russian Federation; a unit command post in the Voskresenka area of Dnipropetrovsk oblast; and an enemy communications hub in Verkhni Tokmak-2, Zaporizhzhia oblast. Among other things, Ukrainian soldiers struck enemy UAV command posts in Selydove, Malynivka, and Vesele in Donetsk oblast. Additionally, an invader’s ammunition depot in Velyka Novosilka, a logistics depot in Donetsk, Donetsk oblast, and a logistics depot in Rovenky, Luhansk oblast, were struck. Ukrainian troops also struck enemy troop concentrations in the areas of Selidovo, Ukrainka, and Pokrovsk in Donetsk oblast, Malynivka in Zaporizhzhia oblast, as well as in Troebortne (Bryansk oblast, Russian Federation). Enemy crossings over the Oskil and Bakhmutivka rivers in the areas of Holubivka, Kharkiv oblast, and Siversk, Donetsk oblast, respectively, were also struck.
23.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of May 23, the enemy carried out an attack using 124 Shahed-type strike UAVs. A total of 216 combat engagements were recorded over the past 24 hours. ➤ On the night of May 23, 2026, units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces struck a number of key Russian occupation targets. In particular, the “Sheshkharis” oil terminal (Novorossiysk, Krasnodar Territory, Russian Federation) was hit—a direct hit and fire at the terminal site has been confirmed. “Sheshkharis” is one of the Russian Federation’s largest oil terminals on the Black Sea and is part of the Transneft system. Its throughput capacity is up to 75 million tons of oil per year, and the volume of its tank farm is approximately 1.28 million m³. The facility handles the transshipment of oil and petroleum products for export and is involved in meeting the needs of the Russian military. Also in the Novorossiysk area, the “Grushova” oil depot has been hit—a fire has been recorded on the facility’s grounds. The “Grushova” oil depot is a key component of the “Sheshkharis” complex and one of the largest tank farm complexes in southern Russia. The total capacity of the tanks is approximately 1.2–1.4 million m³. The facility is used for the storage, transshipment, and transportation of oil and petroleum products, including to support the military logistics of the aggressor state. ➤ In addition, in the Black Sea, the area where ships of the so-called “shadow fleet” of the Russian Federation are based has been struck. The sinking of the tanker CHRYSALIS has been confirmed. The Ukrainian forces also struck Russian military communication hubs in Krasnorichenske, Luhansk oblast, and in Smile, Zaporizhzhia oblast, as well as a logistics depot in Frolivske, Zaporizhzhia oblast. In the Donetsk oblast, an enemy ammunition depot in Prechystivka was struck.

Losses of the Russian army from 17.05.2026 to 23.05.2026	
Liquidated personnel	5 910
Tanks	11
IFVs	20
Artillery systems / MLRS	378/8
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	10
Aircraft / helicopters	0/0
UAVs	11 264
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	1 360
Special equipment	16

This week shelling and strikes

Massive shelling

- **Overnight attack on 17 May:** Air defense neutralized 279 UAVs out of 287. Impacts by 8 strike UAVs were recorded at 7 locations, and falling debris at 7 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 18 May:** Air defense neutralized 4 missiles and 503 UAVs. The main direction of the strike was Dnipro and Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Odesa Oblast, Chernihiv Oblast, and Zaporizhzhia were also attacked. Impacts by 18 missiles and 16 strike UAVs were recorded at 34 locations, and falling debris from downed UAVs at 11 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 19 May:** Air defense neutralized 180 UAVs out of 209. Impacts by 27 strike UAVs were recorded at 15 locations, and falling debris at 5 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 20 May:** Air defense neutralized 131 UAVs out of 154. Impacts by a ballistic missile and 23 strike UAVs were recorded at 20 locations, and falling debris from downed targets at 6 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 21 May:** Air defense neutralized 109 UAVs out of 116. Impacts by a ballistic missile and 5 strike UAVs were recorded at 5 locations, and falling debris from downed targets at 4 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 22 May:** Air defense neutralized 115 UAVs out of 124. Impacts by 7 strike UAVs were recorded at 5 locations, and falling debris from downed targets at 5 locations.
- **Overnight attack on 23 May:** Air defense neutralized 102 UAVs out of 124. Impacts by 12 strike UAVs were recorded at 9 locations, and falling debris from downed targets at 5 locations.

Donetsk oblast

- Throughout the week, Donetsk Oblast suffered from attacks using UAVs, KAB-250 guided aerial bombs, and FAB-250 bombs.
- On 18 May, Russians struck the city of Kramatorsk with Smerch MLRS. One person was killed and two others were wounded as a result of the attack. Private homes and three cars were also damaged. On 19 May, the attack on Kramatorsk was repeated; the Russian army used a FAB-250 with a guidance/correction kit. As a result, six people were wounded; apartment buildings, seven private houses, educational institutions, an infrastructure facility, and cars were damaged.
- On 21 May, Russians attacked the city of Druzhkivka using an FPV drone and a FAB-250 with a unified planning and correction module. Four people were killed and five others were wounded as a result of the attack.
- In addition, the following settlements suffered from attacks:
 - Pokrovsk district: Dobropillia.
 - Kramatorsk district: Mykolaivka, Sloviansk, Malotaranivka, Nykonorivka, Yasnohirka, Pryvillia, Serhiivka, Orikhuvatka, Sviatohirsk, Kurytsyne, Novodonetske, Oleksiievo-Druzhkivka, Dmytrivka, Cherkaske, Marivka, Spasko-Mykhailivka, Raihorodok, Oleksandrivka.
 - Bakhmut district: Riznykivka, Sviato-Pokrovske.

Sumy oblast

- Throughout the week, Sumy Oblast suffered from attacks using UAVs and guided aerial bombs (KABs). There was also artillery shelling.
- On 19 May, Russians attacked the Hlukhiv community using UAVs; two people were killed and four others were injured. In addition, as a result of Russian UAV attacks in the Buryń and Konotop communities, two civilians were killed and one was wounded.
- On 20 May, Russians attacked a civilian truck in the Buryń community using a UAV; one person was injured. On 21 May, Russians attacked a funeral procession on the outskirts of the city of Sumy using a drone. One person was killed and eight others were injured as a result of the attack.
- Throughout the week, the following also came under attack: the Sumy, Khotin, Mykolaivka rural, Yunakivka, Krasnopillia, Bilopillia, Myropillia, Esman, Seredyna-Buda, Khutir-Mykhailivskyi, Svesa, Yampil, Novoslobidske, Kyrykivka, Okhtyrka, Velyka Pysarivka, Shalyhyne, Znob-Novhorodske, Shostka, Putyvl, Krolevets, Komys hany, Chernochnyna, Stepanivka, Vorozhba, Verkhnia Syrovatka, Trostianets, Lypova Dolyna, and Berezivka communities.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

- Throughout the week, Zaporizhzhia Oblast suffered from attacks using UAVs and shelling with MLRS.
- On 20 May, Russians attacked the city of Vilniansk. Four people were wounded as a result of the attack, including two children. A car and houses were also damaged. In addition, one person was wounded as a result of a Russian strike with a guided aerial bomb on the village of Tavriiske.
- On 22 May, Russians attacked the city of Orikhiv with a guided aerial bomb. One person was wounded as a result of the attack. Houses were also damaged.
- Throughout the week, the following settlements were also attacked: Malokaterynivka, Komys huvakha, Kushuhum, Zarichne, Zhovta Krucha, Trudove, Zalivne, Liubyske, Novohupalivka, Preobrazhenka, Vilnianska, Hirke, Omelnyk, Dolynka, Shevchenkivske, Vozdvizhivka, Chervonodniprovka, Novoiakovlivka, Novooleksandrivka, Lezhynne, Trudoolenivka, Mykhailo-Lukasheve, Stepanohirsk, Stepove, Lukianivske, Pavlivka, Hulaiipole, Zaliznychne, Shcherbaky, Novodanylivka, Novoandriivka, Mala Tokmachka, Charivne, Hulaiipilske, Verkhnia Tera, Staroukraina, Sviatopetriivka, Olenokostiantynivka, Varvarivka, Dobropillia, Nove Zaporizhzhia, Prymorske, Novokasianivka, Zirnitsia, Lisne, Rivne, Pryluky, Hryhorivka, Yurkivka, Olenivka, Bilenke, Lysohirka, Marivka, Mykhailivka, Rybne, Chervona Krynytsia, Blahodatne, Tsvitkove, Lystivka, Novoukraina, Vasylyvske, Сонячне, Chervonyi Yar, Kopani, Novoselivka, Novomykolaivka, Novostepnianske, Veselianska, Ternuvate, Barvynivka, Voskresenka, Shyroke, Nove Pole, Balabyne, Novotroitske, Rozumivka, Novotavrycheske, Bilohiria, Zelene, Samiilivka, Richne, Vilne, Danylivka, Zaporizhzhia, Novorozivka, Slavne, Novoivanivka, Zapasne, Yasna Poliana.

Kharkiv oblast

- Throughout the week, Kharkiv Oblast suffered from attacks using UAVs and guided aerial bombs (KABs).
- On 18 May, Russians attacked the city of Bohodukhiv using UAVs; three people were injured. On 19 May, the city of Kharkiv came under UAV attack; three people were injured in the city. Also, as a result of a Russian UAV attack on the urban-type settlement of Shevchenkove, one person was killed and three others were injured.
- On 22 May, Russians attacked a civilian car in the settlement of Zolochiv; one person was injured.
- In addition, the following settlements suffered from attacks during the week: Kolisnykivka, Malyzhynne, Ivashky, Pysarivka, Klynova-Novoselivka, Ridne, Berezivske, Staryi Saltiv, Shypuvate, Osnove, Kamianska, Yaremivka, Nova Kozacha, Kozacha Lopan, Vodiane, Pokotyivka, Bilyi Kolodiaz, Dehtiari, Sinne, Lytvynivka, Makarove, Balakliia, Studenok, Berezivka, Spodobivka, Svitlychne, Petrivka, Klenove, Borivske, Velykyi Burluk, Borova, Babai, Cherkaski Tyshky, Pischyn, Hontarivka, Husynka, Chuhuiv, Izium, Merlo, Liutivka, Odnorobivka, Voloska Balakliia, Verkhnozorianke, Novoselivka, Oskil, Blyzniuky, Velyka Babka, Kamiana Yaruga, Lisne, Ivano-Shyichyne, Bratenytsia, Semenivka, Pisky-Radkivski, Kivsharivka, Horokhovatka, Zrubanka, Voskresenivka, Myrne, Barvinkove.

Odesa oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army attacked Odesa Oblast, using strike UAVs. Residential neighborhoods, port, energy, and civilian infrastructure came under attack. As a result of an attack on energy infrastructure, tens of thousands of Odesa residents were left without power. Three people were injured (including one child).
- In particular, on 18 May, Russian drones carried out two massive attacks on Odesa: a private household, an educational institution building, and residential buildings were damaged; a fire broke out in a three-story building. An 11-year-old boy and a man were injured; both were hospitalized. Two civilian vessels in the Black Sea were attacked — flying the flags of Guinea-Bissau and the Marshall Islands — as well as a vessel flying the flag of Panama.
- On 20 May, as a result of a nighttime drone attack in Odesa, residential buildings, warehouse premises, and a city park were destroyed; several cars burned down. A DTEK energy facility was attacked. One man was injured. The following were under fire: Odesa, Odesa district, Izmail, Izmail district, and the waters of the Black Sea.



This week shelling and strikes

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army shelled Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, using missiles, aerial bombs, artillery, and strike UAVs. Residential neighborhoods, critical infrastructure facilities, and enterprises came under attack. At least 5 people were killed, and 121 people were injured (including 3 children).
- In particular, on 17 May, the enemy carried out large-scale strikes on Dnipro: 28 people were injured, including three children. Houses and warehouses were damaged. A mosque was hit in a separate strike. Overall, over the course of the day, 2 people were killed and 44 were injured due to attacks on the oblast.
- On 18 May, the Russian army launched a massive attack on the oblast with missiles, drones, artillery, and aerial bombs: 26 people were injured, including two Naftogaz employees during a strike on critical infrastructure facilities.
- On the evening of 21 May, UAVs attacked Dnipro: 20 people were injured, and two apartment buildings were damaged.
- The following areas were shelled: Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih; Nikopol district, Synelnykove district, Kryvyi Rih district, Kamianske district, Samar district, Pavlohrad district.

Mykolaiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army attacked Mykolaiv Oblast, using FPV drones, “Molniia” and “Shahed” UAVs, MLRS, and artillery. Residential neighborhoods and civilian infrastructure facilities came under attack. In particular, on 19 May, an MLRS strike on Ochakiv injured 2 women. An apartment building, 5 private houses, and 6 cars were damaged. The following areas were shelled: Mykolaiv; Mykolaiv district — Ochakiv community (Ochakiv, Solonchaky), Kutsurub community, Chornomorske community, Halysynove community (Lupareve); Bashtanka district — Horokhiv community.

Kyiv oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army attacked Kyiv Oblast and the city of Kyiv, using strike UAVs. Residential neighborhoods and commercial, social, and logistics infrastructure facilities across the region came under attack. Two people were killed and 62 others were injured (including 2 children).
- In particular, on 19 May in Brovary district, debris damaged a technical balcony of an apartment building and two cars in Brovary. No casualties were reported.
- On 24 May, Russian UAVs carried out massive strikes on Kyiv and Kyiv Oblast. As of 09:00, two schools, a shopping center, and an office center were reported hit. At one of the schools, the entrance to the shelter where people were located was blocked by debris. Across the oblast, residential buildings were damaged in Vyshhorod, Vyshneve, Bila Tserkva, as well as in the villages of Novosilky, Tarasivka, Vita-Poshtova, Nove, and Kriukivshchyna; a logistics center in Horenka, a warehouse facility in Bilohorodka, and a building in Boryspil were also damaged. Two men were killed in Bucha and Obukhiv districts; 62 people were injured, including an infant and a child.
- The following areas were shelled: Kyiv (Shevchenkivskiy, Obolonskiy, Desnianskiy, Dniprovskiy, Pecherskiy districts), Brovary, Vyshhorod, Vyshneve, Bila Tserkva, Boryspil; Brovary district (Pukhivka), Bucha district (Horenka), Fastiv district (Novosilky, Tarasivka, Vita-Poshtova, Nove), Obukhiv district, Bilohorodka, Kriukivshchyna.

Kherson oblast

- Throughout the week, the Russian army shelled Kherson Oblast, using drone attacks, air strikes, and artillery shelling. Residential neighborhoods and social and critical infrastructure facilities came under attack: 11 apartment buildings and 60 private houses were damaged, as well as shops, administrative buildings, etc. At least 4 people were killed and 77 people were injured.
- In particular, on 18 May, two people were killed (in Bilozirka and Zelenivka) and 14 were injured as a result of attacks across the oblast. An apartment building, 12 private houses, a banking institution, private garages, and cars were damaged.
- On 22 May, one person was killed and 20 were injured as a result of drone attacks. Eight private houses and a church were damaged.
- The following areas were shelled: Kherson, Antonivka, Beryslav, Bilozirka, Biliivka, Burhunka, Veletenske, Vesele, Vilne, Virivka, Vysoke, Havrylivka, Darivka, Dniprovske, Dudchany, Zelenivka, Zymivnyk, Zmiivka, Zolota Balka, Zorivka, Ivanivka, Inhulets, Inhulivka, Kachkarivka, Kizomys, Klapaia, Komyshany, Kostyrka, Krasnosilke, Kucherske, Lvove, Mylove, Mykilske, Mykolaivka, Myroliubivka, Mykhailivka, Molodetske, Monastyrsk, Nadezhdivka, Naddniprianske, Novovorontsovska, Novoberyslav, Novodmytrivka, Novokairy, Novooleksandrivka, Novoraisk, Novotiahynka, Odradokamianka, Oleksandrivka, Olhivka, Osokorivka, Parysheve, Poniativka, Posad-Pokrovske, Prydniprovsk, Pryozerne, Rakivka, Respublikanets, Rozlyv, Romashkove, Sadove, Sablukivka, Sofiivka, Stanislav, Stepne, Tokarivka, Tomaryne, Tomyna Balka, Tiahynka, Ukrainka, Ulianivka, Urozhayne, Fedorivka, Chervone, Charivne, Chornobaivka, Shyroka Balka, Yantarne.

Chernihiv oblast

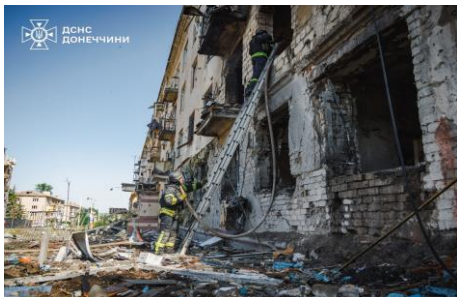
- Throughout the week, the Russian army systematically shelled Chernihiv Oblast, using FPV drones (including fiber-optic ones and those with incendiary mixtures), strike UAVs of the “Molniia,” “Herbera,” and “Lancet” types, ballistic missiles, tube artillery, and mortars. Residential buildings, infrastructure and communications facilities, agricultural enterprises, a forestry enterprise, a recreation complex, a shop, and transport came under attack. Two people were killed and 30 others were injured.
- In particular, on 19 May, a ballistic missile hit the central part of Pryluky: 2 people were killed and 21 were injured. The same day, a communications facility, a sawmill, and a checkpoint in Chernihiv district were attacked, and fires broke out in border villages. On 23 May, the enemy carried out several strikes on Novhorod-Siverskiy: a shop was hit, injuring 3 people; a drone hit a police car during patrol, injuring 3 police officers; private houses were damaged.
- The following areas were shelled: Novhorod-Siverskiy community (Buchky, Hremiach, Kamin, Krasnyi Khutir, Novhorod-Siverskiy); Semenivka community (Arkhyzivka, Halahanivka, Zarichchia, Karpovychi, Kostobobriv, Leonivka, Lohy, Prohres, Semenivka, Uhly, Yanzhulivka); Koriukivka community (Shyshkivka); Snovsk community (Hirsk, Huta-Studenetska, Kliusy, Khirinivka); Horodnia community (Berylivka, Senkivka); Ripky community (Ripky); Baturyn community; Chernihiv; Pryluky; Horodnia.

Poltava oblasts

- On 17 May, as a result of an attack by the Russian army, an enterprise in Myrhorod district was damaged. On 22 May, strike UAVs attacked Myrhorod district, damaging the enterprise’s equipment. No casualties were reported.

The week of shelling

Donetsk oblast



Zaporizhzhia oblast



Sumy oblast



Kherson oblast



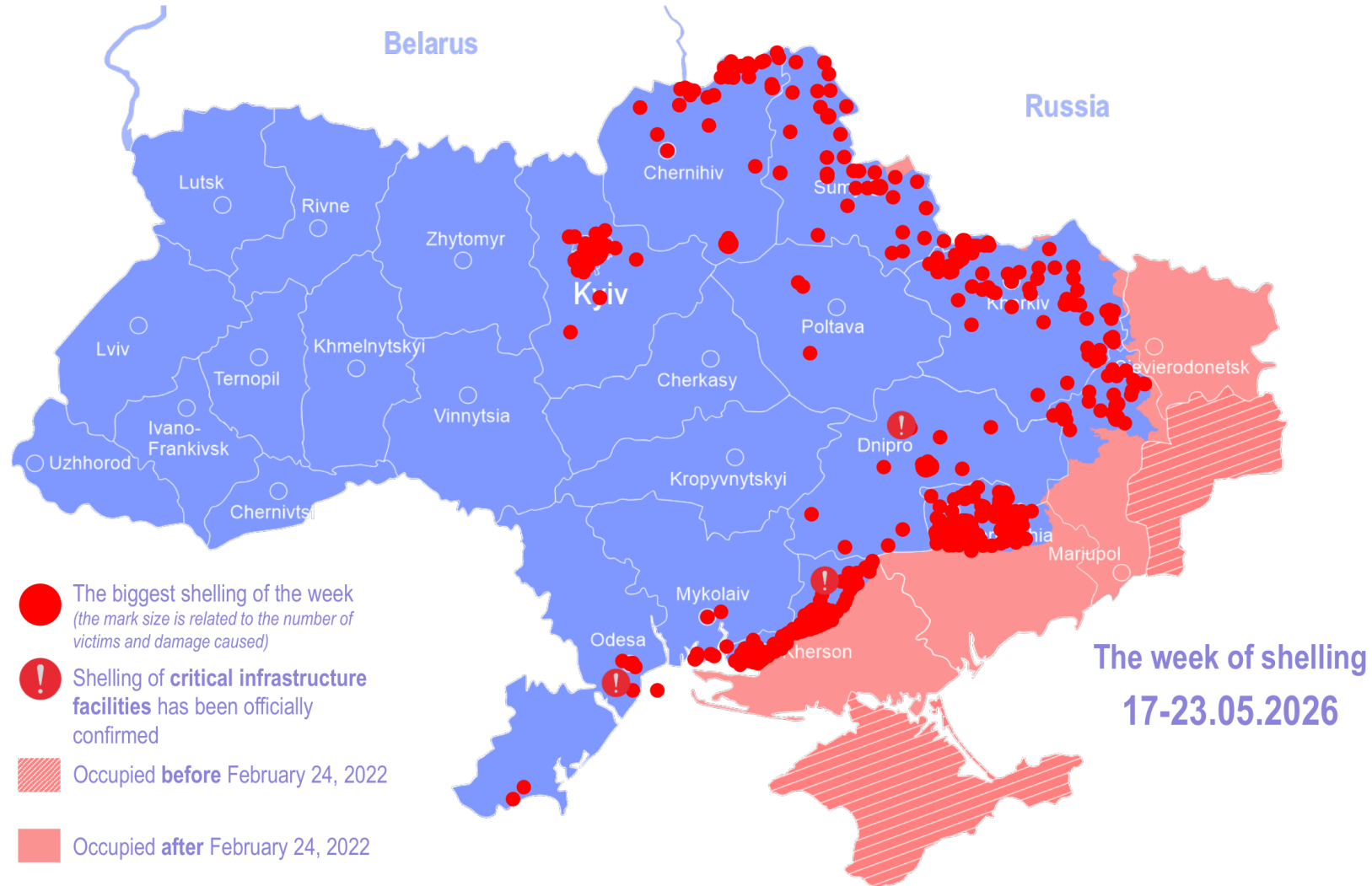
Odesa oblast



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Chernihiv oblast



Temporarily Occupied Territories (TOT) and Evacuation

- According to the National Resistance Center, the Russian occupation administration is mass transferring children to military-patriotic camps in Russia's Volgograd Oblast under the guise of free "health and recreation programs." At these facilities, teenagers are trained in weapons handling, tactical medicine, and military discipline. Particular attention is paid to orphans, who are often transferred to Russian boarding schools or militarized institutions after completing such programs. In addition, the propaganda-driven "Movement of the First" is expanding its activities in occupied Luhansk Oblast. According to available data, 95,000 boys and girls have already been recruited as part of efforts to prepare them for future service in the army of the aggressor state
- Despite total control by the occupation authorities, the efforts of the Save Ukraine team and the presidential initiative Bring Kids Back UA made it possible to rescue another 10 children and teenagers from occupied territory last week. Testimonies from those evacuated demonstrate the constant danger faced by young people under occupation. In particular, 19-year-old Dmytro was repeatedly subjected to searches by armed Russian servicemen and was detained over a screenshot of a map stored on his phone, while 20-year-old Maksym was threatened with a weapon directly on the street.
- In occupied Crimea, the invaders are intensifying pressure on Crimean Tatar activists and independent journalists in an effort to prevent any public events commemorating the anniversary of the 1944 deportation of the Crimean Tatars from the peninsula. On May 15, Russian security forces visited the homes of journalist Lutfiye Zudiyeva in Dzhankoi and human rights activist Mumine Saliyeva in Bakhchysarai, issuing official warnings of criminal liability for organizing or participating in "unauthorized events".
- In the near future, the occupation authorities plan to begin distributing approximately two thousand so-called "municipal apartments" among individuals registered on special waiting lists. However, the key and non-negotiable requirement for inclusion on these lists is possession of Russian citizenship and a Russian passport. In this way, the occupiers are deliberately depriving local residents who refuse Russian documents of their basic rights, while simultaneously creating conditions for the resettlement of people loyal to the Kremlin regime.

Infrastructure and Energy

- On the night of May 18, the armed forces of the Russian Federation carried out another strike on Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, targeting one of the industrial facilities of the joint-stock company Naftogaz of Ukraine.
- According to official data from Ukrzaliznytsia, 46 passenger railcars have been completely destroyed by Russian shelling and drone attacks since the start of the full-scale invasion. In addition, another 200 railcars, as well as an entire Intercity+ trainset, are currently awaiting major repairs due to damage sustained in attacks and related incidents. More than 1,000 additional railcars are awaiting technical inspection and subsequent decommissioning because they are no longer fit for operation.

Violations of International Humanitarian Law by Russia

- On the night of May 18, strike drones of the Russian Armed Forces attacked three civilian vessels awaiting entry to the ports of Odesa under the flags of Guinea-Bissau, Panama, and the Marshall Islands. In particular, the dry cargo vessel "KSL DEYANG," flying the flag of the Marshall Islands, owned by a Chinese company and crewed by Chinese nationals, came under attack. Fires broke out on the other two vessels as a result of the strikes, though no crew members were injured.
- The Security Service of Ukraine, together with military counterintelligence, detected elevated radiation levels on the wreckage of a Russian drone used by the occupiers to attack Chernihiv Oblast on the night of April 7, 2026. At the same time, systematic violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention continue to be recorded on the battlefield: since the start of the full-scale invasion, the occupiers have used chemical munitions against the Armed Forces of Ukraine more than 13,300 times. While such incidents were previously sporadic, since 2024 and throughout the first half of 2026, the intensive use of chemical agents has become a persistent pattern along the entire line of contact.
- On May 23, in Novhorod-Siverskyi, a Russian drone attacked a police vehicle during a city patrol, injuring three officers from the patrol police response unit. On the same day, an especially cynical attack involving a fiber-optic FPV drone targeted a funeral procession heading toward the city cemetery. The explosion occurred on the roadway near the funeral bus, injuring four people.
- It was reported that Oleksandr Krokhmaliuk, head of the Azov medical service, who left the Azovstal plant in May 2022, died as a result of torture while in Russian captivity. His body was returned during a repatriation process in the autumn of 2025, and a forensic medical examination confirmed that the cause of death was rib fractures and blunt chest trauma sustained at the Kamyshin pretrial detention center.
- Overall, according to official UN data released by Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets, at least 15,850 civilians, including 791 children, have been killed in Ukraine since the start of the full-scale war, while more than 44,800 people have been injured. However, the actual figures are believed to be significantly higher due to the occupation of many territories.

International support

- On May 21, the Italian government officially announced a new financial contribution of €10 million to support the restoration and stabilization of Ukraine's energy sector. These earmarked funds will help ensure the rapid procurement of the necessary high-tech equipment, facilitate repairs at damaged power generation facilities, and strengthen the resilience of distribution networks in the face of future challenges. This contribution represents an important element of broader European assistance aimed at rebuilding Ukraine's energy infrastructure.

