

## War in Ukraine. Daily update. Day 99

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**Cities under attack.** Explosions were reported in **Mykolaiv** and **Odesa**. Russian missiles hit a railway in western Ukraine. The strikes occurred close to the Beskyd tunnel in the Carpathian mountains – not far from the border with Slovakia. Maksym Kozytskyi, the head of the **Lviv region** military administration, said five people had been injured. The Russian forces continue shelling the **Sumy region** from the territory of Russia. Head of Sumy Military Administration [reported](#) that Russians have been dropping improvised explosive devices from drones onto the territory of the Krasnopil community. During the night, another three missile attacks hit the same community. Occasional shelling of **Kharkiv city and region** continues, resulting in 6 people injured. Yesterday, Russian forces shelled **Donetsk region** 11 times from tanks, artillery, mortars, MLRS ‘Hurricane’, MLRS ‘Tornado’ targeting Slovyansk, Soledar, Bakhmut, Avdiyivka, Mykolaivka, Toretsk, Svyatogorsk, Tetyanivka, Sukha Balka, and New York community. 4 civilians were killed and 7 were injured. 20 infrastructure facilities were damaged and residential buildings damaged. In the morning, a cluster munition attack hit the outskirts of Slovyansk. There is no gas, and partly water and electricity supply in the region. In the **Luhansk region**, Russian forces control 80% of the Severodonetsk city, however Ukrainians still keep hold of an industrial zone there. In Lysychansk, a city hospital building and 52 houses were damaged. According to preliminary data, 20 settlements of **Kherson region** are reported to be liberated from Russian occupation.

**Foreign policy.** During a joint press-conference with the US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg [said](#) that Russia is unlikely to retaliate after US provision of advanced weapons to Ukraine as NATO and its allies are supporting Ukraine's right to self-defense, ‘a right which is enshrined in the UN treaty.’ Also, he re-assured that NATO enlargement has been a great success which needs to be moved forward.

Denmark has voted in a historic referendum to take part in EU security policy, scrapping its 30-year opt-out. The vote will allow Danish troops to take part in EU military missions. For 30 years, the defense reservation has meant that Denmark played no part in most European defense and security initiatives. The yes-vote also means joining the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy, and it opens the door to other security-related agencies. For example, Denmark is currently unable to work with its European allies on tackling cyber threats.

Poland reaffirmed its support for Ukraine's accession to the EU and NATO, and will work to ensure that Ukraine receives candidate status for EU membership in June this year. The governments also agreed to strengthen defense cooperation, develop the Polish-Ukrainian-British Union, to work on strengthening of the sanctions against Russia, and to reinforce cross-border cooperation. The governments signed the agreements on streamlining border traffic and customs control, cooperation between businesses, and reopening an idle power line to export electricity to Poland from Ukraine. Poland will help with export of the Ukrainian grain and become an [economic hub for Ukraine](#). Warsaw will receive funding from the EU to increase capacity and improve infrastructure. Ukraine and Poland adopted a joint statement as a result of intergovernmental consultations. The Polish partners also reaffirmed their readiness to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

The Norwegian Government has decided to bring wounded soldiers from Ukraine to Norway for medical evacuation and treatment at Norwegian hospitals. Norway is already one of the largest contributors to the medical evacuation scheme for civilians from the war in Ukraine. Now, it will also be possible to bring wounded soldiers to Norway as part of the country's efforts under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). This will be within the frame of 550 patients through the Medevac programme that had previously been agreed. ‘Norway has no experience with medical evacuation of wounded soldiers from ongoing conflicts. We have had to ensure that the rules allow the inclusion of wounded soldiers in the medical evacuation programme,’ [says](#) Minister of Justice and Public Security Emilie Enger Mehl.

**Sanctions.** Hungary is holding up the finalization of the European Union's sanctions package against Russia on Wednesday, insisting on the removal of the head of the Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill from the list of sanctioned individuals – [Reuters](#) reports. The Hungarian demand came as a surprise. EU diplomats had expected agreement to be reached on the package, which was presented by the European Commission on May 4. EU ambassadors will continue the discussions on the legal text of the sanctions this week.

**Food security.** Italy is ready to help with the demining of the Black Sea for grain exports from Ukraine. Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio said that the country hopes for the UN leadership in opening corridors for grain exports from Ukraine, and is ready to help with demining. The US is also showing some flexibility, as it has prepared to give “comfort letters” to shipping and insurance companies to help facilitate exports of Russian grain and fertiliser, [reports](#) the Guardian.

**Energy security.** Russia's war in Ukraine caused instability not only within Ukraine, but also beyond. The volatility in global electricity prices has underlined the need to phase out fossil fuels and accelerate decarbonization. EMBER think tank presented a [new report](#) on the energy transition towards renewables. However, 17 out of 27 EU countries plan to increase renewable energy production. If achieved, EU countries' plans will see 31% less fossil fuel electricity by 2030

compared to 2019 strategies. Now, EU country strategies plan for 63% of renewable electricity by 2030. Meanwhile, 19 European governments have increased ambition on decarbonisation in the last two years and 5 countries introduced additional carbon-lowering measures for heating and industry.

**Human rights.** 25 volunteer drivers delivering humanitarian aid from Zaporizhzhia to Mariupol were [abducted and detained](#) on the territory of a former penal colony in the occupied village of Olenivka, Donetsk region. The relatives of the captives are refraining from going public on the case, because the men have been detained for two months already and according to their latest information, they are about to be tried under the "terrorist law of the DPR."

**Recent polls.** [Attitude towards LGBTQ+](#) is changing in Ukraine. Since 2016, the number of those who have a positive attitude towards the LGBT community in Ukraine has quadrupled. 64% of the respondents agree that LGBT persons should have the same rights as other citizens, while 26% disagree. Even among those who generally have a negative attitude towards LGBT people, 42% agree that they should have the same rights as all citizens. Also, representatives of LGBTQ+ community are serving right now in the armed forces of Ukraine. In 2021, representatives of the community formed a separate platoon of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Currently, 66% of the respondents have a positive attitude towards the fact that LGBT people are a part of active resistance against the Russian invasion. Students and pupils, as well as military and police officers are the most tolerant among various professions and occupations.

**War crimes.** More than a month after Russian soldiers were pushed from the area, people in villages north of Ukraine's capital say they are still finding their neighbors buried in shallow graves – [reports](#) CNN. Officials say more than 300 people are still missing from that region.

**Wartime stories.** During the first months of the war Isabel Merkulova, a theater actress from Lviv, had to stop working and started volunteering, helping out incoming refugees and sorting humanitarian help from abroad. Less than a year ago, Isabel was playing a role in a theater show about war by a German-Ukrainian troupe; now, she is experiencing it herself. See how she copes with everything in the [story](#).

**Disinformation.** Russia keeps self-victimizing rhetoric by claiming that the West had betrayed them with a '*broken promise of not enlarging NATO to the East*'. The Kremlin has also used this myth to justify the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 – a move that has potentially incalculable consequences for European and even global security. Russia is maintaining not only military offensive in Ukraine, but also heavy disinformation flanks beyond. GLOBSEC [presented](#) the analysis and recommendations on the disinformation counteraction. Among the recommendations is to assign some existing groups within NATO a new mission - to coordinate the exchange of best practices of counteracting disinformation as well as refine, standardize, operationalise and test them during dedicated exercises. Together with the EU, NATO should create a programme that will support local initiatives in partner countries.

#### Reading corner.

- [Memo to Henry Kissinger: Appeasing Putin means enabling genocide By Stephen Blank | Atlantic Council \(atlanticcouncil.org\)](#) – '*Confirmation of Russia's genocidal objectives in Ukraine goes far beyond the unhinged public statements of Putin and his propagandists. During the first three months of the war, evidence has emerged of mass murders, widespread torture and sexual violence designed to hinder future childbirth, forced deportations (especially of children), the destruction of Ukrainian cultural heritage, and systematic policies of Russification. In areas occupied by the Kremlin, potential opponents of the Russian takeover have been subjected to Soviet-style round-ups and in many cases remain unaccounted for. These war crimes are not aberrations but rather a revival of traditional Russian imperial policies toward Ukraine.*'
- [Russia and the Menace of Unreality: How Vladimir Putin is revolutionizing information warfare By Peter Pomerantsev | The Atlantic](#) – In 2014, Peter Pomerantsev wrote an article right after occupation of Crimea and establishment of Russian backed proxy-republics in Donbas. That article is a good reminder how the Kremlin is now, like 8 years ago, trying to be the one to define 'reality' according to its own rules. Helping Putin to 'save his face' will only strengthen the Kremlin's weaponization of absurdity and unreality. '*The new Russia doesn't just deal in the petty disinformation, forgeries, lies, leaks, and cyber-sabotage usually associated with information warfare. It reinvents reality, creating mass hallucinations that then translate into political action. [...] The invention of Novorossiia is a sign of Russia's domestic system of information manipulation going global.*'

#### Statistics.

- The war claimed 35% of Ukraine's GDP. We have lost more than 200 factories. Our direct losses already exceed \$600 billion, according to the Head of the Office of President Andrii Yermak.
- Due to the Russian war in Ukraine, 243 small children were killed, 446 were injured, 139 children are still missing, [says](#) Head of the National Police.
- General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine announced the total estimated losses of the Russian military as of 10 a.m., June 2, 2022: personnel – around 30 500, tanks – 1363, APV – 3353, artillery systems – 661, MLRS – 208, anti-aircraft warfare systems – 95, fixed-wing aircraft – 210, helicopters – 175, operational-tactical level UAV

– 521, cruise missiles – 120, boats and light speed boats – 13, soft-skinned vehicles and fuel tankers – 2325, special equipment – 51.

**Every action counts, no contribution is too small!**

- Support [Medical battalion 'Hospitaliers'](#), a volunteer organization of paramedics operating since 2014. The team provides medical aid in the hot spots.
- Share this up-to-date information about the situation in Ukraine, either on social media, with local media or by spreading around this brief update.
- Subscribe to our daily updates on [Twitter](#) and [our website](#).
- You can support our project with donations via PayPal. More information [here](#).

Thank you for supporting Ukraine! Slava Ukraini! Glory to Ukraine!