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Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Ukraine – July to December 2025

31 December 2025

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07 July 2025

Ceasefire efforts

According to media reports from 02.07.25, the Trump administration intends to stop some US arms and ammunition deliveries, in particular Patriot anti-aircraft missiles, to Ukraine. A review by the US Department of Defence has revealed that its own stocks have shrunk considerably. Ukraine then summoned the deputy US ambassador and expressed its fears regarding a weakening of the country's defence capabilities. The Ukrainian Ministry of Defence reported that it had not been officially informed about the cessation of supplies. According to further reports, the US Department of Defence and State Department have countered the White House's announcement by stating that there are still "robust options" for military support for Ukraine and that this is a unique situation and not a general cessation of military aid. While the US Department of Defence confirmed on 03.07.25 that Ukraine would have to expect a halt to all US arms deliveries - including those deliveries that had been promised by the Biden administration - President Trump hinted at further aid for Ukraine on 04.07.25. According to reports, in addition to a possible end to US military aid due to the closure of the development aid agency USAID, Ukraine is also facing a reduction in US development aid.

While the latter still amounted to around USD 4.3 billion for Ukraine in December 2024, it had already fallen to around USD 1.3 billion by March 2025. Meanwhile, according to reports, the International Monetary Fund has released a further disbursement of USD 500 million to Ukraine. As part of the four-year aid programme, USD 10.6 billion of a total of USD 15.5 billion has been disbursed.

Following a further telephone conversation between Presidents Trump and Putin on 03.07.25, the US President stated, according to media reports, that no progress had been made in the efforts to end the war. According to Kremlin advisor Yuri Ushakov, President Putin reiterated that he did not want to give up his goals in Ukraine and insisted on a solution to the "root causes" of the conflict. In a telephone conversation between Presidents Trump and Zelensky on 4 July, they discussed possibilities for air defence and joint arms production. A corresponding meeting at working level was agreed for this purpose. According to media reports from 05.07.25, Zelenskyi stated that separate agreements with a US company and European allies of Ukraine would provide hundreds of thousands of drones, in particular interceptor drones, before the end of the year. In the meantime, according to media reports from 06.07.25, it has become known that US Secretary of Defence Hegseth apparently ordered the halt of promised

arms deliveries to Ukraine on his own authority, making false claims about the US army's weapons stocks. According to the Pentagon spokesman, there is currently no shortage of weapons for the US armed forces.¹

Civilian casualties

According to the governor, two people died in a Russian missile attack on Odessa on 03.07.25. On the same day, further Russian airstrikes reportedly killed five people in Pokrovsk (Donetsk region) and two people in a recruitment centre in the city of Poltava. According to the Russian occupation authorities, the former administrative head of the city of Luhansk, who was appointed by Moscow, was killed in an attack in the Russian-occupied city of Luhansk on 3 July. According to media reports, the regions of Dnipro, Sumy, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Kyiv, especially the capital, were hit by the heaviest Russian air strikes since the beginning of the war on the night of 4 July. The mayor of Kyiv spoke of one person killed, 23 injured and damage to residential buildings, educational and medical facilities. A total of 539 drones (270 shot down, 208 lost, 63 hits) and eleven missiles (nine hits) were used. On 05.07.25, the media reported two deaths in the Donetsk region and one person killed in each of the Kharkiv and Zaporizhia regions. On 06.07.25 another person died in Kharkiv and two people each in the regions of Donetsk and Kherson, according to the authorities. According to the authorities, four civilians in Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region) were killed in Russian airstrikes on 06.07.25. According to UNICEF data from 04.07.25, 222 minors were killed or injured in Ukraine in the second quarter of 2025 - three times more than in the first quarter.²

War, prisoner exchange and use of chemical weapons

According to the authorities deployed by Moscow in the Luhansk region, which was previously largely occupied by the Russian Federation (RF), the region has now been completely taken over by the RF. No official statement has yet been issued by the Ukrainian side.

Following several Russian airstrikes on military facilities in Ukraine, most recently in Poltava, the Ukrainian military commander-in-chief Oleksandr Syrskyj ordered on 01.07.25 to ban troop marches in tent camps and to set up new accommodation in training centres in order to better protect soldiers. Syrskyi also warned of a possible new Russian offensive in the Kharkiv region.

According to media reports from 04.07.25, another exchange of prisoners took place between the two warring parties on the Ukrainian-Belarusian border. Both military personnel and civilians were involved. Numbers were not disclosed. A further exchange was announced on 04.07.25.

According to media reports from 04.07.25, the German government confirms intelligence reports that the RF is using chemical weapons in Ukraine. According to these reports, "the use of tear gases and chloropicrin by Russian troops [...] has now become standard practice and is widespread". Chloropicrin is a chemical lung chemical warfare agent, the use of which violates the Chemical Weapons Convention.³

Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant and the Ukrainian economy

According to a statement from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on 04.07.25, the Russian-occupied Zaporizhia nuclear power plant was disconnected from the power grid for several hours and supplied by emergency generators. This was the ninth disconnection from the grid since the start of the war. The Ukrainian Energy Ministry blamed Russian shelling for the interruption of the last power line to the nuclear power plant. The head of the IAEA, Rafael Grossi, spoke of a still precarious nuclear safety situation in Ukraine.

According to the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, the Ukrainian economy is forecast to grow by just 2.5% in 2025. The main problems are the destruction of critical infrastructure, the worsening labour shortage, an expected poor harvest due to drought and the temporary end of customs relief for agricultural exports to the EU. Inflation is running at 16%.⁴

Expatriation of church leader

According to media reports from 03.07.25, President Zelensky has revoked the Ukrainian citizenship of the head of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOK), Metropolitan Onufriy, on the basis of intelligence findings. According to the report, Onufrij voluntarily assumed Russian citizenship in 2002 and unlawfully concealed this from the Ukrainian authorities, which is why he is now threatened with deportation to the Russian Federation. The UOK has denied that its leader has assumed Russian citizenship. The UOC broke away from the Moscow Patriarchate after the start of the Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. However, it is under threat of being banned due to accusations of continuing links to Moscow. Despite state pressure, around 10,000 UOK congregations are still registered in

Ukraine. The Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OKU), which is supported by the Ukrainian government and was founded in 2018, comprises around 8,000 parishes.⁵

14 July 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire and US arms deliveries

According to media reports, US President Trump announced on 07.07.25, that he would resume arms deliveries, particularly defensive weapons, to Ukraine. This reverses the delivery freeze announced last week by US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth (cf. BN of 07.07.25). According to further reports, Trump sharply criticized the Russian president's stance on 08.07.25, and promised Ukraine ten Patriot missiles and the consideration of further sanctions. Political observers speculate that Trump has now recognized the problem that Putin is not listening to him. The Kremlin, on the other hand, has shown itself unimpressed and wants to continue the dialogue with the US. According to the Kremlin, the resumption of US arms deliveries to Ukraine is not an obstacle to further talks with Ukraine, from which new date proposals are expected.

On 10.07. and 11.07.25, media reports confirmed the resumption of deliveries of artillery shells and mobile missiles to Ukraine under the Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) – a discretionary power that Trump's predecessor Joe Biden had already used to urgently arm Ukraine. Arms deliveries and financing would be handled through NATO and the EU. According to media reports on 11.07.25, President Zelensky said his country was ready to work with Europe to purchase “major US defense packages to protect human lives.” According to reports, Germany is considering purchasing two Patriot air defense systems from the US and making them available to Ukraine, as well as supplying a high three-digit number of long-range missiles. In addition, Zelensky has announced his intention to fill the Ukrainian ambassadorial post in the US. This would be a concession to the US president, as the current ambassador, Oksana Markova, has been accused by Republicans of being too close to the US Democrats.

Following talks between US Secretary of State Rubio and his Russian counterpart Lavrov on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Malaysia, Rubio said on 10.07.25, according to media reports, that the Russian side had presented him with a new approach to ending the war, which he intended to convey to Trump. He did not provide any details. Meanwhile, Trump announced on 11.07.25, that he “will have to make an important statement on Russia on Monday.”⁶

Civilian casualties

According to local authorities on 07.07.25, at least one person was killed and 71 injured in Russian drone strikes on Kharkiv. On the same day, regional authorities reported two deaths in Sumy and one in Odessa. According to media reports, on 09.07.25, the Russian Federation (RF) carried out its largest missile and drone attack on Ukraine to date, using 728 drones and 13 missiles (711 drones and seven missiles were intercepted). Eight civilians were killed in the Donetsk region (including three each in the cities of Rodynske and Kostyantynivka) and one in the Kherson region. According to media reports on 11.07.25, two people were killed in Kyiv and Kupiansk (Kharkiv region) in further Russian waves of attacks. According to official reports, a maternity hospital was also hit during a Russian air strike on Kharkiv on 11.07.25, in which nine people were injured. According to Ukrainian government information on 12.07.25, several people were killed in a new wave of attacks that, according to the Russian Ministry of Defense, were allegedly aimed at Ukraine's military-industrial complex, including western Ukraine (four in the Donetsk region, two each in the Chernivtsi, Sumy, and Dnipropetrovsk regions). On 13.07.25, the military administration reported at least one fatality after Russian shelling in Sloviansk (Donetsk region). President Zelensky spoke of increasing terrorization of the civilian population, with the Russian Federation deploying a total of 1,800 drones, 1,200 glide bombs, and 83 missiles over the past week.

Media reports on 10.07.25, citing UN figures, reported a new high in June 2025 for civilian deaths (232) and injuries (1,343). According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the continuous expansion of the waves of attacks is intended to further undermine Ukraine's fighting spirit. According to UNHCR figures, 5.6 million people have fled abroad so far; 3.8 million are internally displaced. According to these figures, most of the newly displaced people are currently remaining in the country and prefer to stay as close as possible to their home regions.⁷

War

Citing Ukrainian military sources, media reports say that on 07.07.25, the Russian Federation attacked two recruitment centers in the Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions with drones. According to these reports, recruitment offices in Poltava and Kremenchuk (Poltava region) and in Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region) were already attacked the previous week. The National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine has announced that the Russian Federation is currently conducting an “information campaign” regarding the locations of Ukrainian conscription offices “in order to destabilize the mobilization process and sow panic among the population.” According to military sources, however, recruitment is continuing as planned. According to further reports, Russian air strikes also targeted Ukrainian military airfields. In this context, the city of Lutsk (Volyn region) was attacked with drones and missiles on 09.07.25, and the town of Ozerne (Zhytomyr region) was allegedly targeted with a hypersonic missile on 08.07.25.⁸

ECHR rulings and reconstruction conference

According to media reports on 09.07.25, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) has ruled against the Russian Federation in four cases brought by Ukraine for human rights violations in Ukraine. The RF had supported the separatists in eastern Ukraine since 2014, shot down flight MH17 in 2014, and invaded Ukraine in 2022. The RF violated the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) by establishing a “system of violations” of human rights between 11.05.14 and 16.09.22. These included “extrajudicial killings of civilians and Ukrainian military personnel” outside of combat operations, “torture,” “forced labor,” “unlawful and arbitrary detention of civilians,” as well as looting and expulsion. The RF, which was expelled from the Council of Europe in 2022, does not recognize the ECtHR rulings.

According to media reports on 10.07.25, the reconstruction conference for Ukraine in Rome, attended by 60 countries, international organizations, and private companies, decided to establish two funds. The first, to be administered by Ukraine, is to be financed from seized Russian assets abroad amounting to approximately EUR 460 billion. The European reconstruction fund, with a volume of approximately EUR 400 billion, is to be financed through private investment. According to Ukrainian estimates, the reconstruction of the country will require approximately EUR 850 billion over a period of 14 years.⁹

Critical infrastructure in occupied areas

According to media reports on 12.07.25, large parts of the Russian-occupied part of the Zaporizhzhya region have been without electricity and water due to overloaded facilities caused by high air temperatures. No information was provided on.¹⁰

21 July 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire, US arms deliveries and EU sanctions

According to media reports on 14.07.25, US President Trump has threatened the Russian Federation's trading partners with punitive tariffs of up to 100% if no agreement is reached within 50 days on efforts to end the war in Ukraine. The Kremlin will not accept this “blackmail” but does not see the US arms deliveries as a continuation of peace efforts. According to reports, critical voices doubt that Trump will maintain the pressure and complain that Trump's announcement gives the RF another 50 days to achieve its war aims. On 15.07.25, Trump said that President Zelensky should not attack Moscow, nor would long-range missiles that could penetrate Russian territory be supplied to Ukraine. It is also unclear which allies can supply Patriot air defence systems, how many, and how quickly. Meanwhile, according to media reports on 18.07.25, Slovakia has abandoned its blockade, prompting the EU to adopt the 18th package of sanctions on 19.07.25, which includes a new oil price cap. According to media reports on 20.07.25, Ukraine has proposed renewed peace talks with the Russian Federation for this week. The Kremlin is said to be open to new talks but is sticking to its war aims.¹¹

Government reshuffle

As part of a government reshuffle carried out by President Zelensky, according to media reports on 15.07.25, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Yulia Svyrydenko, was appointed the new Prime Minister of Ukraine. She had previously led difficult negotiations on a raw materials agreement with the US and will focus

on economic development, arms production and reconstruction in Ukraine in her new role. The previous incumbent, Denys Shmyhal, is now Minister of Defence, succeeding Rustem Umerov, who was originally supposed to take up the important post of ambassador to the US. According to reports, Washington had rejected Umerov, prompting Zelensky to propose the former justice minister Olha Stefanishyna for the post. Umerov was then appointed as the new secretary of the Security and Defence Council.¹²

Civilian casualties

According to the governor, two people were killed by Russian drones in the Kherson region on 14.07.25. Also on 14.07.25, media reported the deaths of two people in Russian air strikes on the city of Shostka (Sumy region). According to media reports, one person was killed in Sumy and two in Kupiansk (Kharkiv region) in Russian air strikes on 15.07.25. According to the governor, two people were killed near the city of Kupiansk in a drone attack during the night of 16.07.25. Also according to the governor, two people were killed in a Russian bomb attack on the frontline town of Dobropillja (Donetsk region). On 18.07.25, according to media reports, several people were killed in Russian air strikes: Dnipropetrovsk region (3), Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions (1 each). According to media reports on 19.07.25, one person was killed in a Russian drone attack on Odessa. According to reports, two people died in Pavlohrad (Dnipropetrovsk region) in a Russian missile attack on 19.07.25. Media reports from 20.07.25 reported several fatalities following Russian attacks: Sumy and Kherson regions (1 each), Dnipropetrovsk region (2) and Donetsk region (3). On 21.07.25, at least one person was killed in Russian air strikes on Kyiv, according to official reports. Citing UN figures, media reports on 15.07.25 stated that at least 139 civilians had been killed and 791 injured in the first half of July 2025.¹³

War, armaments and energy infrastructure

According to media reports on 15 July 2025, Ukraine has extended the current martial law and mobilisation for another 90 days. The 16th extension will come into force on 7 August 2025 and remain in effect until 5 November 2025. According to a report by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) on 16 July 2025, Ukrainian forces have recently advanced in the Sumy region, while Russian forces have gained ground near Kupjansk, Borova and Torezk in eastern Ukraine. According to a report by military commander Oleksandr Syrskyj to President Zelenskyy, Ukrainian forces are continuing to withstand "intense pressure" from the " " following months of Russian attempts to capture the strategically important city of Pokrovsk (Donetsk region). Zelenskyy expects the new government under Prime Minister Swrydenko to increase domestic arms production. Approximately 40% of the weapons used by Ukraine are now domestically produced. This share is to be increased to 50% over the next six months. According to reports, Russian air strikes during the night of 16.07.25 caused power outages in the city of Kryvyi Rih (Dnipropetrovsk region). The water supply has been switched to generators. According to the private energy supplier DTEK, a total of 80,000 households in Kryvyi Rih and other locations in the Dnipropetrovsk region were without electricity. According to President Zelensky, further air strikes on 16.07.25 targeted energy infrastructure in the cities of Kharkiv and Vinnytsia. According to reports from 19.07.25, Russian drone attacks in the Sumy region led to power outages in several thousand households.¹⁴

Corruption, occupied territories and Russian deportation practices regarding Ukrainian citizens

According to media reports on 15.07.25, a total of 59 Ukrainian NGOs have issued an open appeal to President Zelensky in response to a judicial investigation into the most prominent Ukrainian anti-corruption activist, Vitaliy Shabunin. According to the investigating authorities, Shabunin, who was drafted into the armed forces in 2022, is suspected of systematically evading military service. He is said to have "failed to report for duty for an extended period of time and, under the guise of 'business trips', stayed in civilian facilities that do not belong to the defence forces". He continues to receive army pay and illegally uses a military vehicle. Shabunin's supporters, including the Anti-Corruption Centre, argued, however, that he had stayed away from his unit because he had been seconded to work for an official government anti-corruption agency. In addition, previous searches of his home had been carried out without the necessary court orders. Shabunin himself described the incident as "a step towards the corrupt authoritarianism of President Volodymyr Zelensky." Observers considered the case to be either the result of "complete incompetence on the part of officials" or a "targeted attack aimed at putting pressure on Vitaliy Shabunin, who continued to criticise the work of state agencies during his military service." If convicted, Shabunin faces up to ten years in prison. The presidential office has not yet commented publicly on the case.

On 18.07.25, media reported that bot networks were using short-lived "disposable bots" to comment on posts. The networks were targeting Ukrainians in Russian-controlled areas and had published thousands of comments on social media aimed at "creating an artificial consensus in favour of Russia".

According to RF reports, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha accused Georgia on 19.07.25 of increasingly deporting Ukrainian citizens – mostly former prisoners – to Georgia and detaining them there without valid identity documents instead of returning them directly to Ukraine.¹⁵

28 July 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

On 23 July, Russian and Ukrainian negotiators met in Istanbul to discuss a further prisoner exchange. Ukraine also proposed a meeting between Presidents Zelensky and Putin in mid-August, but this was rejected by the Russian chief delegate, Vladimir Medinsky, on the grounds that the purpose of such a leadership meeting could not be "a discussion from scratch". Instead, Medinsky called for several short, 24- to 48-hour ceasefires to allow the bodies of fallen soldiers to be recovered. This was rejected by the Ukrainian side, which is seeking an immediate and longer-lasting ceasefire.¹⁶

War operations and armament efforts

Russia's tactics in the air war have changed significantly since the beginning of the year compared to previous years: Targets throughout Ukraine continue to be attacked every day with Russian drones, cruise missiles and/or ballistic missiles. However, in addition, massive attacks are now taking place every three to five days on a single city or location, involving up to 800 drones and missiles. The drones are sent out in large swarms together with numerous decoys, operating at significantly higher altitudes and only approaching their targets in a steep dive shortly before reaching them. This undermines the previous cost-effective defence provided by Ukraine's mobile anti-aircraft and machine gun units – the use of Patriot missiles against the Russian drones, for example, is not financially viable given the cost of approximately 3.5 million euros per missile. The Russian version of the Iranian Shahed 136, Geran-2, on the other hand, costs only between €43,000 and €85,000 per unit.

The new tactics have meant that, compared to just under 5% previously, 15-20% of drones now reach their target, which has also led to a sharp rise in civilian casualties: in June 2025, 232 people died in air strikes alone – the highest monthly death toll since the start of the war. Experts therefore predict that the Russian leadership is working to increase its own attack capacity to up to 2,000 drones per mission by the end of the year.

During a visit to a factory that manufactures interceptor drones on 25 July 2025, President Zelensky announced that Ukraine aims to produce 500-1,000 interceptor drones per day.

The US government has announced the sale of Hawk surface-to-air missile systems to strengthen Ukraine's air defences, as well as Bradley armoured vehicles worth a total of \$322 million, subject to approval by the US Congress.¹⁷

Civilian casualties

According to press reports, at least two people were killed and a kindergarten and several shops were damaged in a Russian night attack on Kyiv with approximately 420 drones and more than 20 missiles between 20 and 21 July 2025. The entrance to the Lukianivska metro station, where hundreds of people had sought shelter, was also hit and partially buried. According to the Ukrainian government, a ten-year-old boy was killed by a Russian drone in the city of Kramatorsk on 22 July 2025. According to a representative of the Russian administration in the occupied territory of the Kherson district, a Ukrainian drone also hit a bus on 22 July 2025, killing three people and wounding three others. In the early morning of 24 July 2025, according to Ukrainian Governor Oleh Kiper, the city of Odessa was bombed in a series of massive air strikes, hitting the historic city centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and setting the historic Privoz market on fire. According to media reports, a family of three died in the village of Pidlyman in the Kharkiv Oblast on the same day as a result of Russian shelling. According to the governor responsible, the city of Kharkiv was also attacked by a Russian air strike on 24 July 2025, injuring 33 people, including several children. On 27 July 2025, Kharkiv was subjected to further intense bombing, injuring at least six people, according to the Ukrainian state emergency services. Among them were four rescue workers who were hit by a

second air strike deliberately carried out shortly after the first Russian attack, as they were already trying to help the victims of the first attack.¹⁸

Abolition of the independence of the anti-corruption agencies NABU and SAPO

On 22 July 2025, the Ukrainian parliament passed a law, which was signed by President Zelensky on the same day, placing the two previously independent institutions, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO), under the authority of the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office. This gives the Prosecutor General expanded powers over NABU and SAPO, such as control over their investigations and access to cases, the right to determine the composition of investigative teams, and the authority to close cases or transfer them to other law enforcement agencies. The legislative process was completed within a very short time without the possibility of broad discussion in parliament and civil society, after the Ukrainian domestic intelligence service SBU arrested two NABU officials on 21 July 2025 – one on suspicion of spying for Russia, the other for alleged business ties to Russian companies – and carried out dozens of searches of employees of the two agencies. President Zelensky stated that the changes introduced by the new law were intended to remove Russian influence from the fight against corruption and improve the work of the authorities. NABU and SAPO were only established after the Maidan protests in 2014 and were previously regarded as symbols of progress in terms of the rule of law in Ukraine and as bulwarks in the fight against rampant corruption. The adoption of the law triggered days of intense, nationwide protests among the civilian population. The European Commission, the President of the European Council and several European heads of government also expressed serious concerns about this law and demanded the immediate restoration of the independence of NABU and SAPO in order not to jeopardise Ukraine's EU accession process and EU financial support in the fight against Russia. In a surprising U-turn, President Zelensky then presented a new draft law on 24 July 2025 to repair the political damage that had been done. According to press releases, the Ukrainian parliament is to debate this on 31 July 2025, but it is currently unclear whether the draft will be able to obtain the necessary majority of 226 votes in the 450-member chamber.¹⁹

04 August 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports, US President Donald Trump increased pressure on the Russian Federation (RF) on 28 July 2025 and shortened the 50-day deadline for an end to the war, which had originally begun on 14 July 2025, to "ten to twelve days". On 29 July 2025, Trump clarified his statement, according to new reports, and announced that the 10-day deadline for significantly higher tariffs would begin on the same day. If no ceasefire is reached by then, the RF's trading partners would be subject to tariffs – so-called secondary tariffs – of "about 100 per cent". While President Zelensky welcomed the new ultimatum, the Kremlin remained unimpressed. It claimed to have gained immunity to such measures through many years of experience. The deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, warned of a war between the US and the Russian Federation. President Trump responded by dispatching two nuclear-capable submarines to "appropriate regions".

After massive Russian air strikes, especially on Kyiv, President Trump again threatened sanctions if the Kremlin did not agree to a ceasefire by 8 August 2025, according to media reports. In addition, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff could travel to Moscow for talks on 6 or 7 August 2025.²⁰

Civilian casualties

According to regional authorities, four people were killed and at least 35 injured in Russian air strikes in the Dnipropetrovsk region on the night of 29 July 2025, and 17 people were killed and at least 35 injured in an attack on a prison in the Zaporizhzhia region. According to the military administration, at least 31 people were killed and 159 injured in Russian missile and drone strikes in the Kyiv area on 31 July 2025. Among other things, a hospital, a school and a kindergarten were damaged. Furthermore, according to reports from 1 August 2025, one fatality was reported from the Zaporizhzhia region and two people were killed in the city of Kramatorsk (Donetsk region) following Russian attacks. Another attack on 1 August 2025 claimed one life in the Kharkiv region. According to official information from 3 August 2025, five and two people were killed by Russian shelling in the Ukrainian-

controlled areas of the Donetsk and Kherson regions. On 3 August 2025, according to the governor, three people died in the city of Stepanohirsk (Zaporizhzhia region) following a Russian attack.

According to media reports from 31 July 2025, at least 2,889 children have been killed or injured since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022 – 222 in the period from March to May 2025 alone.²¹

War, recruitment and espionage allegations

According to military sources, at least three soldiers were killed and 18 injured in a Russian missile strike on a Ukrainian army training ground on 29 July 2025. The exact location of the training facility was not disclosed.

According to media reports on 1 August 2025, the Russian Federation claimed to have captured the town of Chasiv Yar, a strategically important location in the Donetsk region. While a Ukrainian military analyst reported Russian control over the northern and eastern parts of the city and further heavy fighting in the western part, President Zelensky dismissed Moscow's claim as "Russian disinformation." Citing an AFP analysis of data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the RF reportedly captured approximately 5,900 km² between August 2024 and July 2025, compared to 1,360 km² in the 12 months prior. In July 2025, the RF captured 713 km² of Ukrainian territory, while Ukraine recaptured 79 km². According to the report, three-quarters of Russian advances in July took place in the Donetsk region, leaving 78% of the region under Russian control at the end of July.

According to media reports, President Zelensky signed a law on 29 July 2025 allowing Ukrainians over the age of 60 to join the armed forces on a one-year contract for non-combat duties, provided they pass a medical examination.

According to media reports on 31 July 2025, the Ukrainian secret service SBU arrested an air force officer on charges of spying for the Russian Federation. The unnamed pilot trainer allegedly disclosed the location coordinates and mission plans of fighter jets (F-16, Mirage 2000) supplied by Western allies and suggested attack tactics to the Russian Federation.²²

Energy infrastructure in occupied territories

According to media reports, power outages occurred on 28 July 2025 as a result of Ukrainian drone attacks in the Russian-occupied part of the Donetsk region. The power supplier Donezkenenergo reported that three substations and, as a result, 160,000 customers were without power.²³

Revision of the anti-corruption law

Following massive nationwide protests and international criticism of the new anti-corruption law (see BN of 28 July 2025), President Zelensky presented a revised draft law on 31 July 2025, according to media reports. The new law was passed by parliament on the same day and signed by President Zelensky. He had previously admitted that the new regulations had been a mistake. According to experts, this was not a slip-up. Rather, the fight against corruption is not a priority for the president, and projects demanded by the EU are also not progressing.²⁴

11 August 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports on 9 August 2025, President Trump has announced that he will meet with President Putin in Alaska on 15 August 2025 to negotiate peace terms in Ukraine. The talks will also include discussions on a "certain exchange of territories for the benefit of both sides". The Russian side has confirmed the summit meeting. Previously, the Kremlin had rejected the US proposal for a three-way meeting between Trump, Zelensky and Putin. In a statement, President Zelensky repeatedly rejected territorial concessions and, with a view to the planned summit, warned against making a decision without Ukraine.

In the context of Trump's threatened secondary tariffs on countries importing Russian oil – the deadline was 8 August 2025 if no progress had been made by then in reaching a peace agreement – the US president had already issued a corresponding implementing regulation on 6 August 2025, according to reports, and imposed 25% punitive tariffs on India, which are not due to come into force until 27 August 2025.²⁵

Civilian casualties

On 4 August 2025, according to police reports, two people were killed in Vovchansk (Kharkiv region) by a Russian drone strike. According to media reports on 5 August 2025, two people were killed in Russian attacks on a railway station in Losova (Kharkiv region). According to official reports, at least two people died in a Russian bomb attack on a holiday camp near the city of Zaporizhzhya. According to the governor's statement on 7 August 2025, three people were killed in Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) as a result of Russian artillery fire. According to media reports, several people were killed in Russian attacks on 8 August 2025: two in Sieversk and one in Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region), two in the Zaporizhzhia region and one each in the cities of Nikopol and Kherson. On 09.08.25, two people were reportedly killed by Russian drones in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. On 10.08.25, the authorities reported a total of six deaths in the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

According to media reports on 8 August 2025, the Ukrainian NGO "Save Ukraine" accuses the Russian Federation (RF) of "state-sponsored child trafficking". According to the NGO, the regional government installed by Moscow in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine, has published a database containing information on 294 alleged Ukrainian orphans under the age of 17 who have been separated from their parents.²⁶

War, prisoners of war and desertion

With reference to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), media reported on 6 August 2025 that Russian troops were advancing near the eastern Ukrainian towns of Kupiansk, Siversk, Torez and Velykomychailivka. Ukrainian troops had gained ground near Pokrovsk and in the Sumy region. According to the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Oleksandr Syrskyj, the situation in the Donetsk region and on the border with the Dnipropetrovsk region is particularly critical. Despite heavy losses, the RF is reportedly able to send around 9,000 additional soldiers into battle every month.

According to reports from 04.08.25, many Ukrainian returnees from Russian captivity show signs of torture and severe abuse and report "systematic sadism". According to these reports, the Ukrainian Coordination Centre for Prisoners of War points to visible signs of systematic violence on almost all returnees: broken ribs, burns, electric shocks, psychological destruction. Furthermore, there are images and reports indicating waterboarding, mock executions, castrations, mutilation and murder. At least 359 Ukrainians have died in Russian captivity as a result of torture, starvation and denial of medical care. The NGO Media Initiative for Human Rights also speaks of approximately 2,000 verified civilians in Russian captivity who have been clearly identified and located. Estimates put the number at 16,000 civilians.

According to information from the State Investigation Bureau dated 5 August 2025, more than 29,000 deserters returned to the Ukrainian armed forces between 29 November 2024 and August 2025 under the amnesty law. However, more than 122,000 new cases of desertion were also registered during the same period. Since the start of the war, a total of almost 224,000 cases of desertion have been recorded by the public prosecutor's office. Only a small percentage are being prosecuted by the legal authorities and brought to court. Every month, 30,000 new soldiers are recruited, with monthly losses due to death, injury, capture and desertion at least the same. In addition, resistance to recruitment methods is also coming from the civilian population. On 3 August 2025, according to police reports, villagers in the Mykolajiw region beat up recruiters. In Vinnytsia, according to reports, a crowd was only prevented from freeing dozens of mobilised men from a football stadium on 1 August 2025 by a large police presence.²⁷

Energy infrastructure and sabotage

According to a statement by President Zelensky, confirmed by the Russian Ministry of Defence, the Ukrainian gas transport system in the Odessa region was attacked on 6 August 2025, triggering a major fire. According to the report, the Orlovka connecting pipeline, through which Ukraine receives natural gas via the Trans-Balkan route, is located in the village of Novosilske on the border with Ukraine. Zelensky described this as a "targeted blow against our preparations for the heating season."

According to reports from 6 August 2025, Ukrainian minors – the youngest case involving a ten-year-old – are being recruited online by the Russian secret service and incited to carry out acts of sabotage, particularly against military vehicles and recruitment centres. According to these reports, the police recorded 128 cases of arson attacks on such vehicles in the first half of 2025. Quick money – e.g. 1,000 USD – is offered as an incentive, and discontent in Ukrainian society is being exploited, for example by mobilising soldiers. The agents preferred to use images of

the young people taken during the fires in Russian propaganda films to create the impression that there was resistance to the defence measures in Ukraine.²⁸

Fight against corruption, poll ratings for President Zelensky and EU financial aid

On 2 August 2025, Ukrainian anti-corruption authorities announced that they had arrested several people in connection with a "large-scale corruption scheme" in the defence sector, whose systematic embezzlement of budget funds had driven up prices for electronic warfare and drone equipment. They allegedly diverted 30% of the contract value. On 4 August 2025, six suspects – individuals from politics, local government, the National Guard and the arms industry – were charged.

According to media reports on 7 August 2025, citing the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology, President Zelensky's approval rating has fallen to 58% (74% in May 2025) following the failed attempt to restrict the independence of Ukraine's anti-corruption authorities.

According to reports, the EU had previously called for the continuation of rule of law and anti-corruption reforms. After Ukraine admitted in June 2025, according to media reports on 30 July 2025, that it had failed to meet three of 16 reform targets, including the appointment of judges for an anti-corruption court, the EU Commission has now proposed to make only a reduced aid payment from its war fund to Ukraine for the first time (approximately EUR 3 billion instead of the EUR 4.5 billion originally planned).²⁹

18 August 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

In the run-up to the summit meeting between Presidents Trump and Putin in Anchorage, Alaska, on 15 August 2018, European heads of state and government held talks with President Zelensky and President Trump in order to coordinate their positions and influence Trump's negotiating stance accordingly. In a joint statement, which only Hungary did not endorse, the following points were considered important: 1) A follow-up meeting should not take place without Ukraine; 2) Negotiations must begin with a ceasefire; 3) Ukraine is ready to negotiate on territorial issues, with the so-called contact line as the starting point and legal recognition of Russian occupations rejected; 4) Negotiations must include robust security guarantees and a commitment to long-term Western military aid for Ukraine; 5) Everything must be part of a joint transatlantic strategy that increases pressure on the Russian Federation (RF) if no progress is made. According to further reports, President Trump dampened hopes in the run-up to the summit. He said it was an "exploratory meeting" intended primarily to prepare for a second meeting, this time with Zelenskyy. Trump did not want to make any agreements without Ukraine with a view to a possible exchange of territory. According to media reports, the Kremlin's focus was primarily on nuclear arms control and Russian-American economic relations, in addition to Ukraine. According to media reports on 16 August 2025, the summit ended without agreement on a ceasefire. According to Trump, there was a lot of agreement, without giving any details. Putin spoke of agreements that could be a starting point for a solution to the Ukraine conflict, also without giving any details. He insisted on respecting the "root causes" of the war, including limiting Ukraine's military strength and a commitment not to join NATO. Both sides expressed interest in another meeting. According to the Kremlin, a possible three-way summit with Zelensky was not discussed. According to Trump, it is now up to Zelensky to achieve a ceasefire in a meeting with Putin. After the meeting, Trump said that a peace agreement, not just a ceasefire, was necessary. Experts believe the summit was a complete success for Putin. The international press in countries with freedom of the press also commented very critically on the meeting. On 18 August 2025, Zelensky will travel to Washington to discuss the summit results with Trump, with possible territorial concessions also on the agenda. According to media reports, during a meeting of the "coalition of the willing" convened at short notice on 17 August 2025, it was decided that several European heads of state and government, including German Chancellor Merz, would also travel to Washington on 18 August 2025 to join the meeting. Following the summit, further details emerged, according to reports citing high-ranking insider statements. Putin reportedly demanded Ukraine's withdrawal from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as a condition for ending the war and offered to freeze the current front lines in the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. Putin also proposed a "non-aggression agreement." According to US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Putin agreed that the US and its European allies could offer Ukraine security guarantees modelled on NATO's Article 5 as part of a possible peace agreement. According to US Secretary

of State Rubio, who confirmed interest in a US contribution to Western security guarantees, a ceasefire is "not off the table," even if Putin insists that it can only come about after a peace agreement.³⁰

Civilian casualties

According to media reports on 12 August 2025, three civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region. According to the governor, four people died in the Kherson region on 13 August and 14 August as a result of Russian shelling. In addition, two people died in the Donetsk region on 13 August and three people on 14 August as a result of drone attacks and Russian artillery fire. Furthermore, one more person was reported killed in the Kharkiv region on 14 August 2025. On 15 August 2025, according to the governor, one person was killed in each of the Donetsk, Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk regions and four people in the Kharkiv region in Russian attacks. According to the governor on 17 August 2025, five people were killed in the Donetsk region in Russian attacks. According to reports, four people died in Kharkiv during the night of 18 August 2025. Referring to the UN monitoring mission in Ukraine, media reports on 13 August 2025 stated that the death toll in July 2025 was the highest since May 2022, with 286 civilians killed and 1,388 injured. According to these reports, 40% of the victims were killed by Russian drone and missile strikes on targets in the Ukrainian hinterland, including cities such as Kyiv, Dnipro and Kharkiv – a 20% decrease compared to June. 24 % were victims of drone strikes near the front line. Increased Russian bombing along the front line claimed 67 lives and injured 209.³¹

War, recruitment and prisoner exchanges

Against the backdrop of the summit in Alaska, the RF has increased military pressure in eastern Ukraine, according to media reports. Russian troops have advanced 10 km near the town of Dobropillia (Donetsk region). According to information from the regional governor on 15 August 2025, Ukrainian defence lines on the front line had been stabilised following the sudden Russian advance. After reports of Russian troops being spotted near Pokrovsk (Donetsk region), Kyiv had deployed additional troops to the region. The Ukrainian General Staff denied that there had been a breakthrough on the front line. In the Donetsk region, the governor ordered the evacuation of further towns close to the front line, including the town of Drushkivka. According to reports from 12 August 2025, Ukraine was able to report minor territorial gains in the Sumy region, where the Russian Federation controls around 200 km². On 15 August 2025, the Ukrainian army reported the recapture of six villages between Dobropillia and Pokrovsk.

According to media reports on 12 August 2025, President Zelensky instructed the government to make it easier for young conscripts to leave Ukraine and to raise the age limit to 22. The final decision rests with parliament. The background to this is that after the war began, many minors fled abroad and did not return after their 18th birthday due to fear of exit restrictions. Currently, conscripts aged 25 and older are being drafted.

According to media reports, both sides in the war carried out another prisoner exchange on 14 August 2025. According to these reports, 84 military personnel and civilians were exchanged, some of whom had been in Russian captivity since 2014, 2016 and 2017.³²

Collaboration of Ukrainian priests with the RF

According to media reports from 13 August 2025, Ukrainian courts have so far convicted 31 priests of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) for treason, spying for the Russian Federation and inciting hostilities. According to the SBU secret service, over 100 other UOC clergy are accused of similar crimes. On 13 August 2025, another priest was arrested in Zaporizhzhya for allegedly coordinating a spy network for the Russian military intelligence service in the city. He is said to have justified Russia's war of aggression during church services and recruited pro-Russian individuals for the Russian secret service for the purpose of gathering information. Unlike the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OKU), the UOC is considered close to the Moscow Patriarchate.³³

25 August 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

Following the meeting between US President Trump, President Zelensky and leading EU heads of state and government on 18 August 2025, media reports suggest that, for the first time since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, a comprehensive negotiation process involving all parties could be on the horizon. According to these

reports, Trump first wants to arrange a meeting between Presidents Putin and Zelensky, followed by a trilateral meeting with himself. The Kremlin has reacted cautiously to this and is only considering raising the level of representatives from both sides. Possible commitments to Ukrainian security guarantees could potentially lead to conflict. The details of what NATO Article 5-like assurances should entail must first be discussed. Zelensky has already announced that the security guarantees and the question of peacekeeping forces should be worked out in the next ten days. According to NATO Secretary General Rutte, the deployment of US troops was not discussed at the meeting. Later, Trump said in an interview that he might be willing to provide air support to Ukraine to secure an agreement. According to reports, the Russian Federation (RF) has rejected the deployment of NATO troops in Ukraine. The RF must also be included in all talks on security guarantees for Ukraine. The Kremlin must have a veto right against any support for Ukraine after the war. It remains unclear whether negotiations on a peace agreement should take place without a prior ceasefire agreement and whether there will be territorial concessions. Ukraine rejects this, but it is possible that Kyiv will de facto recognise that it has no control over the occupied territories in exchange for a ceasefire. Ukraine would then seek to regain control through diplomatic and economic means. After Trump reportedly threatened again on 23 August to impose sanctions on Russia if no progress was made within two weeks, US Vice President Vance stated that Putin had made "significant concessions" towards a negotiated solution by accepting that he could not "install a puppet regime" in Ukraine and that there would be "security guarantees for Ukraine's territorial integrity."³⁴

Civilian casualties

According to media reports, seven people were killed in Russian drone strikes in Kharkiv on 18 August 2025 and three more in missile strikes in Zaporizhzhia. On 19 August 2025, according to the governor, one person was killed in Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) by Russian shelling. On 20 August 2025, at least three people were killed in a Russian artillery attack on Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region). According to media reports from 22 August 2025, one person each was killed in Lviv, Kherson and the Kharkiv region by Russian attacks. According to official reports, two people died in a Ukrainian artillery attack in the Russian-occupied part of the Donetsk region. According to media reports on 25 August 2025, one person was killed in Russian attacks in Kupiansk (Kharkiv region) and in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), 325 attacks have been reported in Ukraine so far this year, damaging hospitals and ambulances. Ten people were killed and 114 injured.

Citing a statement by the Ombudswoman for Children's Rights in the Russian Federation, Maria Lvova-Belova, on 21 August 2025, media reports say that the Russian Federation has promised to return three children abducted from Ukraine to their parents. Ukraine estimates that a total of approximately 20,000 children have been abducted. In this context, the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague issued arrest warrants against Lvova-Belova and President Putin in 2023.³⁵

War

According to media reports on 20 and 21 August, the Ukrainian army has cut off Russian units that had broken through a defensive line near Pokrovsk (Donetsk region) and halted their advance. The nearby town of Dobropillia continues to be bombarded. Meanwhile, the Russian Ministry of Defence claims to have captured eight more settlements in eastern Ukraine. According to reports, President Zelensky has increasingly hinted at counterattacks against the Russian Federation. According to a statement by Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyj on 24 August 2025, his forces recaptured three towns in the Donetsk region. On 24 August 2025, both sides announced that they had exchanged 146 prisoners of war and civilians, including two Ukrainian journalists.³⁶

Energy infrastructure

Following Russian drone and missile strikes on 19 August 2025, the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy reportedly stated that the attacks on power plants in the Poltava region, where Ukraine's only oil refinery is located, had caused major fires. According to official reports, a Ukrainian drone attack on 19 August 2025 disrupted the power supply in the Russian-controlled part of the Zaporizhzhia region. The Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant was not affected. According to the Ukrainian Civil Protection Service on 20 August 2025, Russian drone attacks caused a major fire at an energy plant in the Odessa region. A natural gas distribution station in the Odessa region was also attacked.³⁷

Financial aid

According to media reports on 22 August 2025, the EU has paid Ukraine EUR 4.05 billion in financial aid, of which EUR 3.05 billion came from an aid programme worth up to EUR 50 billion for 2024 to 2027 and EUR 1 billion from a macro-financial assistance loan that is part of a G7 initiative worth EUR 45 billion. According to the EU Commission, the funds were released after the law that would have restricted the independence of Ukraine's anti-corruption authorities was withdrawn. According to further media reports dated 23 August 2025, the EU transferred a total of EUR 10.1 billion in proceeds from frozen Russian central bank funds to Ukraine in the first half of 2025.³⁸

01 September 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports on 26 August 2025, President Zelensky has called for the rapid development of security guarantees for Ukraine. Citing a report in the Financial Times, US media reports on 26 August 2025 indicate that the US is prepared to participate in security guarantees for Ukraine after the end of the war. This would include providing intelligence, monitoring the battlefield and participating in a European-led air defence shield. President Trump also threatened the Russian Federation (RF) with economic sanctions and pointed to the possibility of an economic war if President Putin did not back down. The threat of sanctions was reinforced by the US at an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council on 29 August 2025, following Russia's massive air strikes on Kyiv on 28 August 2025, which were widely criticised internationally.³⁹

Civilian casualties and killing of a politician

According to media reports on 25 August 2025, one person was killed by Russian shelling in the Sumy region. According to media reports on 26 August 2025, a mine near the town of Dobropillia (Donetsk region) was hit in a Russian attack. One miner was killed and 148 miners were temporarily trapped due to a power outage. According to media reports on 27 August 2025, one person was killed in Kherson during a Russian attack. According to media reports, at least 25 people were killed and over 50 were injured during massive Russian air strikes on Kyiv on the night of 28 August 2025. The offices of the EU representation and the British Council were also damaged. A total of 563 of the 598 Russian drones and 26 of the 31 missiles were intercepted. Impacts were recorded at 13 locations in the city, and debris from destroyed projectiles fell at 26 locations. On 28 August 2025, media reported Russian attacks on Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region), which claimed two lives. According to official reports, Russian attacks in the Dnipropetrovsk region on the night of 29 August 2025 also claimed two lives. According to official reports, at least two people were killed in Russian drone and missile attacks in the Zaporizhzhia region on 30 August 2025. According to media reports, Ukrainian MP and former Speaker of Parliament (2016-2019) Andriy Parubiy was killed in Lviv on 30 August 2025. Parubiy was one of the leaders of the Maidan protests in 2013/14 and is blamed by pro-Russian forces for the fire disaster in Odessa on 2 May 2014, when several pro-Russian activists died in the fire at the trade union building. According to Russian state media, Parubiy had been on a wanted list issued by the Russian authorities since 2023. According to further reports, President Zelensky announced the arrest of a suspect on 1 September 2025.⁴⁰

War events, prisoner exchange and recruitment

On 26 August 2025, the Ukrainian General Staff confirmed for the first time that Russian forces had advanced into the Dnipropetrovsk region. Dnipropetrovsk is not one of the five Ukrainian regions that the Russian Federation has illegally annexed as Russian territory. While Russian troops have advanced to the regional border in the south of the Donetsk region, they are making little progress in the north-east of the region due to Ukrainian fortifications there. Putin has made the surrender of this very area a condition for freezing the front line elsewhere (see BN of 18 August 2025). According to media reports on 29 August 2025, President Zelensky warned of an imminent Russian offensive in the Pokrovsk area (Donetsk region), as the Russian side is said to have concentrated up to 100,000 soldiers there. In contrast, according to Zelensky, the Ukrainian army is increasingly pushing back Russian troops in the Sumy region. According to a statement by Russian Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov on 30 August 2025, which has not been confirmed by Ukraine, the RF has brought over 3,500 km² and 149 villages in Ukraine under Russian control since March 2025. The RF now controls 99.7% of the Luhansk region, 79% of the Donetsk region, 74% of the Zaporizhzhia region and 76% of the Kherson region. According to media reports from 25 August

2025, approximately 6,000 military personnel and civilians have returned to Ukraine through prisoner exchanges. 70,000 Ukrainians are still considered missing.

According to reports, Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko announced on 27 August 2025 that all Ukrainian men aged between 18 and 22 can now cross the Ukrainian border in both directions without restriction, despite martial law. A corresponding regulation will be put into effect. This also applies to citizens who are currently outside the country for various reasons. They should maintain their connections to Ukraine as far as possible. Until now, men between the ages of 18 and 60 who were fit for military service were not allowed to leave the country (see BN of 18 August 2025).⁴¹

Energy infrastructure, water crisis in the Russian-occupied part of the Donetsk region

According to the national electricity grid operator, media reports indicate that Russian attacks on energy facilities in several regions on the night of 28 August 2025 caused damage that led to local power outages. According to these reports, 60,000 people in the Vinnytsia region have been cut off from the power supply. Previously, a substation in the Sumy region and a gas transport system in the Poltava region had been damaged. There were also hits in the Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk regions, leaving approximately 100,000 people temporarily without power. According to further media reports from 31 August and 1 September, Ukrainian authorities and the energy company DTEK reported power outages as a result of Russian air strikes on energy facilities in Zaporizhzhia (29,000 households affected), in the Odessa region (29,000 households affected, mainly in the port city of Chornomorsk) and in the Chernihiv region (30,000 households affected, mainly in the Nizhyn district). In some cases, emergency power generators were used. The targeted attacks were intended to weaken the Ukrainian energy system before the start of the heating season.

According to Denis Pushilin, the Kremlin-appointed governor of the Russian-occupied part of the Donetsk region, on 27 August 2025, tap water is only available in the area for a few hours every three days. In response, the local population has written an open letter to President Putin calling on him to intervene in the "humanitarian and ecological disaster". The water crisis is forcing people to queue for tankers. Pushilin has accused Ukraine of a "water blockade". Ukrainian authorities, on the other hand, have stated that parts of the canal were damaged during the war and are located in the frontline area. According to Pushilin, the situation can only be resolved if the Russian Federation takes complete control of the Donetsk region and the vital canal. This 135 km long connecting canal between two rivers begins 19 km northeast of the Ukrainian army-held city of Sloviansk and ends near the city of Donetsk in an area controlled by Russian troops.⁴²

New prosthetics centre in Kyiv

According to media reports from 26 August 2025, a new prosthetics centre was opened in Kyiv with German support. According to the Berlin Senate, the centre was built with donations and will provide care for amputees in the military and civilian population. Ukrainian trainees were trained for this purpose in Berlin.⁴³

08 September 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports, at a meeting of the "coalition of the willing" on 4 September 2025, 26 states agreed to give Ukraine security guarantees after the end of the war, including an international force stationed on land, water and in the air, not on the contact line. A decision on US support is expected in the coming days. President Trump emphasised that Europe must stop buying Russian oil, which is financing the Russian war. After President Putin denied reports of a three-way summit with President Zelensky on 1 September 2025, he stated on 3 September 2025 that bilateral peace talks should take place in Moscow. Ukraine rejected talks in Moscow and offered talks in Kyiv. Furthermore, according to information from 4 September 2025, the Russian Foreign Ministry rejected the possible deployment of foreign troops to Ukraine as "unacceptable". Western soldiers in Ukraine were not conducive to long-term peace and, especially now during the fighting, were a "legitimate target". In the course of the largest Russian air strikes to date, involving 810 drones and 13 missiles, including on Kyiv, the Cabinet of Ministers building was set on fire, according to media reports on 7 September 2025. On the same day, Trump declared his willingness to initiate a second phase of sanctions against the Russian Federation (RF), without giving details.⁴⁴

Civilian casualties

According to media reports on 2 September 2025, one person died in Russian attacks in the city of Bila Zerkva (Kyiv region) and one in each of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions. According to reports, at least nine people were killed in Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region) on 3 September 2025 by Russian artillery and drone attacks. On 4 September 2025, according to official reports, two people died in the Kharkiv region as a result of the explosion of a Russian drone that had been found. Also on 4 September 2025, according to the governor, two people were killed by Russian bombs in the Donetsk region. According to the governor, two Ukrainian mine clearance experts from a Danish aid organisation were killed in a Russian missile attack on 4 September 2025 near the northern Ukrainian city of Chernihiv. According to the regional military administration, a Russian attack on 6 September 2025 claimed one life in the Sumy region. According to media reports, massive Russian air strikes on the night of 7 September 2025 claimed at least two lives in Kyiv and one life each in the Sumy and Chernihiv regions.⁴⁵

War and recruitment

According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), Russian military bloggers have criticised Russian Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov for exaggerating progress on the Ukrainian battlefield. Instead of 3,500 km² and 149 settlements, as stated by Gerasimov on 30 August 2025 (see BN of 1 September 2025), the ISW claims that Russian forces have only captured 2,346 km² of Ukrainian territory and 130 settlements since March 2025. Russia's territorial gains are "still disproportionately small and slow in relation to the high losses". That is why the Kremlin is intensifying its propaganda to influence decision-making in the West. Ukrainian military commander Oleksandr Syrskyj has

announced on 5 September 2025, according to media reports, that he would improve the performance of interceptor drones through more personnel training and more effective technical equipment. According to military reports, more than 1,800 civilians, including approximately 300 children, have been evacuated from particularly vulnerable locations in the Donetsk region. It is reported that 216,000 people still live in the embattled region.

According to media reports from 3 September 2025, a 23-year-old Ukrainian recruit was shot dead in the Odessa region on 1 September 2025 while attempting to flee illegally to the Republic of Moldova. A second person was reportedly arrested. According to a statement by the Ukrainian Investigative Bureau, criminal proceedings for abuse of power have been initiated. A new regulation recently introduced allows Ukrainian men aged 18 to 22 to cross the Ukrainian border unhindered despite martial law (see BN dated 1 September 2025).⁴⁶

Energy infrastructure

According to media reports, Ukraine increased its electricity exports by 60% between July and August 2025, even though its power grid continues to be under attack. Electricity was mainly exported to Hungary and Moldova. According to media reports from 3 September 2025 cited by , 30,000 people in the northern Ukrainian region of Chernihiv were affected by power outages following night-time Russian air strikes. Energy facilities in western and central Ukraine were also targeted by Russian attacks. President Zelensky emphasised the strategic necessity of supplying air defence systems before winter.⁴⁷

Ukrainian children

Citing a statement by Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner Dmytro Lubinez, media reports on 2 September 2025 stated that President Zelensky had succeeded in bringing back people aged between three months and 18 years from the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine and from the Russian Federation. No details were given about the number of people involved. Also on 2 September 2025, there were reports about the start of the school year in Ukraine, with around 17,000 children attending seven underground schools in Kharkiv. More are to be opened.⁴⁸

Orthodox Church

According to media reports, on 29 August 2025, the Office for Nationalities and Religious Affairs of Ukraine filed a lawsuit with the Supreme Administrative Court to ban Ukraine's largest religious community, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), which has 10,000 parishes, because of its ties to the Russian Federation. According to the head of the agency, Viktor Yelensky, the loss of legal status would mean that the church's parishes could no longer be centrally organised. However, the parishes would not have to transfer to another church, such as the Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), which was founded in 2019. The UOC, which was previously subordinate to the Moscow Patriarchate, formally broke away from Moscow after the full-scale Russian invasion. The Ukrainian state doubts

that it is truly independent and is therefore seeking a new regulation based on a law passed in August 2024 that would ban religious organisations with ties to the RF (see BN of 26 August 2024).⁴⁹

15 September 2025

Civilian casualties

According to the governor, four people were killed in the Donetsk region and two in the Zaporizhzhia region during Russian attacks on the night of 8 September 2025. According to information from the governor appointed by the Russian Federation (RF) in the Russian-occupied part of the Donetsk region on 8 September 2025, two people were killed by Ukrainian air strikes on the cities of Donetsk and Makiivka. On 9 September 2025, six civilian deaths were reported in the Ukrainian-controlled part of the Donetsk region and one in the Zaporizhzhia region. According to a statement by President Zelensky, at least 24 elderly people were killed by a Russian glide bomb on 9 September 2025 in the frontline settlement of Yarova (Donetsk region) while they were queuing for their pension payments. Also according to Zelensky, one person was killed in a Russian air strike in the Zhytomyr region on the night of 10 September 2025. As a result of Russian attacks, media reports on 11 September 2025 reported the deaths of two people in the Donetsk region and one more person in the Zaporizhzhia region. According to the governor, Russian air strikes on 12 September 2025 killed three people in the Sumy region, two in the Donetsk region and one in the Zaporizhzhia region. On 15 September 2025, media reported the deaths of two people following artillery and drone strikes in the Kherson region.⁵⁰

War and military manoeuvres in neighbouring Belarus

According to an assessment by the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Oleksandr Syrskyy, on 8 September 2025, the Ukrainian army succeeded in stabilising the situation on the front lines in Lyman, Dobropillia and Pokrovsk (all in the Donetsk region). Thanks to "active defence tactics", several towns and a territory of 58 km² were recaptured in August. On 14 September 2025, President Zelensky announced that Ukrainian forces in the Sumy region were continuing to advance towards the Ukrainian border. The "Russian offensive operation" in the region had thus been "completely defeated". Meanwhile, according to media reports on 13 September 2025, the Ukrainian General Staff denies that Russia is advancing into the city of Kupiansk (Kharkiv region) through an underground tunnel under the Oskil River. The tunnel does not lead directly into the city. According to Ukrainian military observers, the RF still controls over 200 km² in the Sumy region. On 9 September 2025, media reports citing Western and Ukrainian government circles stated that Ukraine is facing shortages in the supply of air defence weapons due to delays in deliveries from the US following a review of military aid by the US Department of Defence. According to media reports, the Russian-Belarusian military manoeuvre "Zapad 25" ("West 25") will take place in Belarus from 12 to 16 September 2025, in the vicinity of Ukraine. The previous Zapad 21 manoeuvre was used by the RF as preparation for the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. According to the Ukrainian border guard, the Ukrainian government considers a similar scenario unlikely due to the now well-secured border with Belarus. According to Ukrainian military expert Vasyl Pechenko, there could be provocations at the border. The exercise could also represent a kind of hidden mobilisation for the RF.⁵¹

Energy infrastructure

According to media reports, Russian air strikes on the night of 8 September 2025 mainly targeted energy facilities, including the Trypillja thermal power plant in the Kyiv region. According to a statement by the Russian nuclear power plant administration on 11 September 2025, Ukrainian drones attacked a training centre at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. The report could not be independently verified.⁵²

Financial aid and defence spending

According to a statement by EU Foreign Affairs Representative Kaja Kallas on 9 September 2025, EU member states are providing a record €25 billion in military aid to Ukraine for 2025. According to the statement, a total of €169 billion in financial aid has been provided since 2022, including over €63 billion for military support. Furthermore, according to a statement by Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko on 9 September 2025, Ukraine has officially applied for a new financing programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

According to a statement by Defence Minister Denys Shmyhal on 13 September 2025, Ukraine will need at least USD 120 billion for defence in the war year 2026. According to reports, the chair of the budget committee in the Ukrainian parliament, Roksolana Pidlassa, currently estimates the steadily rising costs of a day of war at approximately USD 172 million, compared to USD 140 million in 2024 for salary payments, weapons and payments to injured soldiers and the surviving dependants of soldiers killed in action. According to this, the defence budget accounts for more than 31% of Ukraine's GDP.⁵³

22 September 2025

Sanctions policy, US arms deliveries and efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports on 15 September 2025, US President Trump is making possible sanctions against the Russian Federation (RF) contingent on Europe taking tougher action against the RF. In particular, Europe must "stop buying oil from Russia". In a telephone conversation with Trump on 16 September 2025, EU Commission President von der Leyen announced that the EU Commission would propose an accelerated phase-out of Russian fossil fuel imports and would shortly present the 19th package of sanctions against the RF, focusing on cryptocurrencies, banks and energy.

Citing two informed sources, media outlets reported on 17 September 2025 that the Trump administration's first two arms deliveries to Ukraine, each worth \$500 million and including missiles for Patriot air defence systems, had been approved by the US Department of Defence and would soon be ready for shipment. This would be the first use of a mechanism developed by the US and its allies – the so-called "Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL)" – to supply Ukraine with weapons from US stocks and NATO countries' " " funds. Until now, the Trump administration has only sold weapons to Ukraine or sent donations that had already been approved by the Biden administration.

On the sidelines of the UN General Debate in New York beginning on 23 September 2025, President Zelensky is expected to hold another meeting with President Trump, according to media reports on 20 September 2025, at which the issues of security guarantees, sanctions and stalled peace efforts are to be addressed.⁵⁴

Civilian casualties and use of cluster munitions

According to information from Ukrainian regional authorities on 16 September 2025, one person was killed in the city of Zaporizhzhya and one in the Mykolaiv region in Russian attacks. According to information from the governor on 17 September 2025, one person died in Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region) and one in the Zaporizhzhya and Kherson regions as a result of Russian attacks. According to media reports on 18 September 2025, two people died in Kostyantynivka and one person each in the Chernihiv and Kharkiv regions as a result of Russian air strikes. According to reports, at least five people were killed in a Russian bombing raid on Kostyantynivka on 18 September 2025. The front line has approached the industrial city from three sides to within 8 km. Despite constant shelling, approximately 6,000 people are believed to remain in the city, down from an original population of over 60,000. According to a statement by President Zelensky, three people were killed in Dnipro on the night of 20 September 2025 when a residential building was hit by Russian cluster munitions. According to information from the governor on 21 September 2025, one person died as a result of Russian air strikes in the embattled frontline town of Pokrovsk (Donetsk region). On 22 September 2025, media reported one fatality from Russian shelling in Kostyantynivka. Also on 22 September 2025, according to Russian-controlled Crimean authorities, three people were killed in a Ukrainian drone attack on the peninsula.

Of the 314 victims killed or injured by cluster munitions worldwide in 2024, 208 were from Ukraine, according to Human Rights Watch's (HRW) Cluster Munitions Monitor. It is assumed that the actual number is much higher, as injuries caused by cluster munitions are not always recorded.⁵⁵

War

According to media reports on 18 September 2025, President Zelensky believes that the Russian Federation will not be able to launch any major offensives for the time being. The Russian armed forces have lost so many soldiers that they are unable to carry out any significant additional actions. The RF had prepared offensive operations along four main axes this year: Sumy in the northeast, Zaporizhzhya in the southeast, Pokrovsk (Donetsk region) and Novopavlivka in the border area between the Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions. The operation in Sumy has

already failed. Furthermore, 160 km² had been recaptured during a counteroffensive near the eastern Ukrainian coal mining town of Dobropillia, northwest of the city of Pokrovsk. The information could not be independently verified. According to a report dated 21 September 2025, the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) assesses the situation as follows: While Ukrainian forces advanced in the north of the Sumy region and near Pokrovsk, Russian forces advanced in the north of the Kharkiv region, near Lyman and Pokrovsk (Donetsk region), and near Novopavlivka and Velykomykhailivka in the east of the Dnipropetrovsk region. According to media reports, Ukrainian forces complained of another failure of the Starlink satellite communication service provided by Elon Musk's space company SpaceX. The system reportedly failed temporarily along the entire front on the morning of 15 September 2025. The last disruption occurred in July 2025. On 18 September 2025, President Putin stated that 700,000 soldiers were fighting in Ukraine.⁵⁶

Use of abducted Ukrainian children for Russian drone production

According to a report by Yale University, there are at least 210 locations to which the RF has taken Ukrainian children for military training, drone production and forced re-education as part of a large-scale deportation programme. According to the report, which is based on open-source information and satellite images, half of the locations are said to be administered by the Russian government. This is the first time that evidence has been found that abducted Ukrainian children are being used by the RF to manufacture equipment for military operations. Russian government documents have been seen that describe in detail how children aged 13 to 17 were given a course in April 2024 on assembling drones and other military equipment. According to reports on 18 September 2025, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that the report was full of fabrications and based on questionable data.⁵⁷

Draft budget provides for higher social spending in 2026

Following completion of the draft budget for 2026 by the Ukrainian government, President Zelensky announced an increase in teachers' salaries, scholarships and social spending, according to media reports on 16 September 2025. According to these reports, an additional €2.5 billion will be spent on pension increases. An increase in healthcare spending is also planned.⁵⁸

29 September 2025

U-turn in US rhetoric towards Russia, arms deals and efforts to achieve a ceasefire

In his speech to the UN General Assembly on 23 September 2025, US President Donald Trump reportedly called on EU countries to stop importing oil and gas from Russia. Trump also threatened further US sanctions against Russia if Moscow did not agree to start peace talks soon. According to media reports, at a meeting on 23 September 2025 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Ukrainian President Zelensky presented the US President with a shopping list of American weapons worth around USD 90 billion, which also included a request for the delivery of Tomahawk missiles. Talks on Ukrainian purchases of American weapons ("mega deal") and a separate drone deal, under which Ukraine would export drones to the US ("drone deal"), are scheduled to take place in the US in October 2025, according to media reports. The US Tomahawk cruise missile, with a range of up to 2,400 km, would give Ukraine the ability to carry out attacks in Moscow. According to media reports on 27 September 2025, US President Trump, after meeting with Zelensky, was open to allowing Ukraine to use US long-range weapons in Russia. US Vice President Vance confirmed in an interview on 28 September 2025 that the delivery of Tomahawk missiles to Kiev would be seriously considered if Moscow continued to reject peace talks mediated by US President Trump. After US President Trump had repeatedly called for de facto acceptance of Russian control of almost all occupied Ukrainian territories in recent months (see BN of 28 April 2025), new statements and a social media post by the US President on 23 September 2025, in which he described Russia as a "paper tiger" and said that, in his view, Ukraine would be capable of recapturing all occupied territories, caused a major media stir. According to media reports, it remained unclear whether Trump also considered the Crimean peninsula, which was annexed by Russia in 2014, to be Ukrainian territory.

In addition, President Zelensky announced on 27 September 2025 that Ukraine had received a US Patriot air defence system from Israel, which had already been in operation for a month. Zelensky also announced the delivery of two further US Patriot air defence systems for autumn 2025, without specifying their origin. Following the recent airspace violations in several EU countries by Russian fighter jets and drones, the eastern EU countries had agreed,

according to statements made by EU Defence Commissioner Andrius Kubilius on 23 September 2025, to set up a warning and defence system in the form of a "drone wall" and intend to discuss this at the highest level in October 2025. According to military experts, the system will also enable surveillance of Ukrainian airspace and open up new opportunities for cooperation in air defence. On 23 September 2025, US President Trump reportedly advocated shooting down Russian fighter jets if they enter NATO airspace.⁵⁹

Civilian casualties

According to Ukrainian President Zelensky, four civilians, including a 12-year-old girl, a nurse and a patient at a heart clinic, were killed and civilian infrastructure, including a residential building, was severely damaged in Russian attacks with over 40 missiles and around 500 drones in Kyiv on the night of 28 September 2025. In the Kiev area, five employees of a bread factory in the Fastiw district were injured after Russian air strikes on 28 September 2025. In the Kharkiv region, a car was hit by a drone on 28 September 2025, killing one man and injuring a woman and a girl. In the Chernihiv region, two people were injured and energy infrastructure was hit as a result of Russian artillery fire on 28 September 2025. Reports from the Donetsk region indicate that Russian troops deliberately attacked firefighters while they were extinguishing a fire on 27 September 2025, but that they were unharmed. According to Ukrainian sources, a resident was injured in a drone attack in the suburbs of Kherson on 27 September 2025. According to media reports on 26 September 2025, a shop was hit in a drone attack on Kharkiv, reportedly injuring four people. In addition, two people in the Donetsk region and six people in Kherson were reportedly injured as a result of Russian attacks on 26 September 2025. Attacks on 25 September 2025 reportedly killed two people and injured eight others in the Kherson region. According to media reports, Russian attacks on 24 September 2025 killed five people and injured 17 in the Donetsk region, injured 12 in the Kherson region and injured two in the Kharkiv region. On 23 September 2025, Russian attacks reportedly killed one person and injured seven in the Zaporizhzhia region, killed one person and injured one in Nikopol, and killed one person and injured eight in the Kherson region. According to Ukrainian sources, three people were killed and up to 16 injured, including children, in Russian air strikes in Zaporizhzhia on 22 September 2025. Reports indicate that 15 residential buildings were damaged. According to media reports, three people were killed and 13 injured on 22 September 2025 as a result of Russian attacks in the Donetsk region.⁶⁰

War

On 24 September 2025, according to official reports, Russia repelled a drone attack on energy facilities in the Volgograd region, while air defences destroyed around 70 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory. On the same day, two Iskander missiles struck a Ukrainian training centre during a Russian missile attack, resulting in casualties. On 25 September 2025, President Zelensky threatened air strikes on the Kremlin, while Moscow extended its ban on petrol exports until the end of the year due to Ukrainian drone attacks on refineries. According to media reports, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) warned again of risks after a drone detonated on 25 September 2025 approximately 800 metres from the nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine in the Mykolajiw region. On 26 September 2025, Ukrainian army chief Syrskyj reported that Russia was increasingly deploying small groups of four to six soldiers to weaken Ukrainian logistics, and that the front line had grown to 1,250 kilometres with up to 190 battles per day. On 27 September 2025, Zelensky lamented the use of reconnaissance drones on the border with Hungary, while Russia reported a Ukrainian drone attack on an oil pumping station in Chuvashia. According to media reports, on 28 September 2025, the coordinator of NATO support for Ukraine, Major General Maik Keller, stated that Ukraine was improving in attacks deep inside Russian territory. In Belgorod, a massive power outage occurred on 28 September 2025 following a Ukrainian attack. According to reports, Russia announced on 27 September 2025 that it had captured three villages in eastern Ukraine. According to the Russian Ministry of Defence, Moscow has captured around 0.8% of Ukraine's total land area since the beginning of 2025. The villages of Derylowe and Maiske in the Donetsk region and the settlement of Stepowe in the Dnipropetrovsk region have been taken, the Russian army said in a statement.⁶¹

06 October 2025

Civilian casualties

According to the governor, a family of four was killed in their home in the Sumy region on the night of 30 September 2025 in a Russian drone attack. According to press reports, another person was killed in the industrial city of Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk region), also as a result of a drone attack. According to the governor, a civilian was killed in the Kharkiv region on 1 October 2025 in the village of Velyka Shapktivka, located only a few hundred metres from the front line. According to the International Federation of Journalists, French photojournalist Antoni Lallican was the first journalist to be killed by a drone during the war in Ukraine on 3 October 2025. Lallican was near the front line in the Donetsk region for documentary purposes during the Russian attack and was wearing a bulletproof vest with the word "Press" written on it as an identification mark. According to reports from local authorities, another civilian was killed on 4 October 2025 in a drone attack on a railway station in the Sumy region. According to President Zelensky, at least five more people were killed during the night of 5 October 2025 in a large-scale combined attack involving over 50 missiles and 500 drones, four of them in the Lviv region alone. According to the governor responsible, another civilian was killed by Russian shelling in the Zaporizhzhia region.⁶²

War and energy infrastructure

According to President Zelensky on 29 September 2025, Ukrainian forces recaptured an area of more than 170 km² in a counterattack near the town of Dobropillia (Donetsk region). Overall, however, the situation in the border districts between the Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions remains difficult. According to press reports, Russian air strikes in the week of 29 September 2025 targeted Ukrainian energy infrastructure in particular, presumably with a view to the heating season and winter 2025/2026. According to these reports, on the night of 3 October 2025 alone, 35 missiles and 60 drones were fired at facilities belonging to the state-owned gas supplier Naftogaz in the regions of Poltava and Kharkiv, which are crucial for gas supply, causing considerable damage to a significant portion of the facilities, some of it severe. In addition, on the night of 5 October 2025, the Ukrainian authorities reported the most extensive air strike since the start of the war, with 140 drones and 23 missiles targeting the Lviv region on the border with Poland, which is otherwise considered relatively safe. In addition to industrial facilities, energy supply facilities were also affected.⁶³

13 October 2025

Civilian casualties

According to media reports on 7 October 2025, one person was killed in Russian attacks in the Kherson region. According to information from the governor on 8 October 2025, three people died in Russian air strikes in the Kherson region and two in the Donetsk region. According to information from the governor on 9 October 2025, three people were killed in Russian attacks in the Sumy region and two in the Kherson region. One person was killed in the Zaporizhzhia region during a Russian attack on the night of 10 October 2025. On 11 October 2025, media reports stated that one person had been killed in each of the Chernihiv and Zaporizhzhia regions and two people in the Donetsk region as a result of Russian attacks. On 12 October 2025, media outlets reported that seven people had been killed by Russian attacks: four in the Donetsk region, two in the Kherson region and one in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

According to UN figures, a total of 214 civilians were killed and nearly 1,000 injured in Russian attacks, particularly drone strikes, in September 2025. According to these figures, 69% of civilian casualties were near the front line, mainly in the Donetsk and Kherson regions.⁶⁴

Energy infrastructure

According to a statement made by Ukrainian Energy Minister Svitlana Hrynychuk on 7 October 2025, Ukraine intends to increase its natural gas imports by 30% due to increased Russian air strikes on Ukrainian gas infrastructure, which have caused significant damage. "We plan to import during the coldest months [author's note: January and February 2026], although the priority now is to secure imports for October to December and, if necessary, for further months. [...] The faster we can restore (production), the less we will have to import," said Hrynychuk. According to official information from 8 October 2025, energy infrastructure in the regions of Chernihiv

in the north, Kherson in the south and Dnipropetrovsk in the south-east of Ukraine was attacked. According to this information, a thermal power plant was severely damaged, although no location details were given. According to the mayor, Russian attacks on Kyiv on 10 October 2025 caused power outages and disruptions to the water supply in the eastern districts of the capital. According to the Ministry of Energy, power outages occurred in nine regions on the night of 10 October 2025, including Sumy, Kharkiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Odessa. According to media reports, power was restored to 270,000 households in Kyiv on the same day. The temporary interruption to the water supply to 2 million households in the capital had already been partially restored, with repair work continuing. On the evening of 10 October 2025, President Zelensky announced that power had been restored to more than 725,000 households, mainly in the Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kirovohrad, Cherkasy and Chernihiv regions. Due to the tense security situation, repair work in the Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson and Donetsk regions was being hampered. On 11 October 2025, the largest private energy supplier, DTEK, announced that the main work to restore the power supply had been completed. According to Ukrainian government information from 9 October 2025, the Russian Federation (RF) has attacked energy infrastructure facilities in the Ukrainian regions of Chernihiv, Sumy and Poltava 1,550 times, but only achieved 160 hits. According to media reports on 11 October 2025, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Oleksandr Syrskyj, estimates the efficiency of Ukrainian air defence at approximately 74% and calls for increased efforts to protect energy supplies, critical infrastructure and logistics in the hinterland.

According to media reports, the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant had been cut off from the external power supply for over two weeks and was being cooled by emergency diesel generators. On 9 October 2025, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announced that the restoration of the external power supply to the Russian-controlled nuclear power plant had begun. According to IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi, it will take some time to fully restore the grid connection.⁶⁵

Return of abducted children

According to a statement by Ukrainian Presidential Chief of Staff Andriy Yermak on 9 October 2025, 23 Ukrainian minors were brought from Russian-occupied Ukrainian territories to Kyiv-controlled areas as part of the presidential programme "Bring Kids Back UA". On 10 October 2025, according to the First Lady of the United States, another eight abducted children were handed over to their Ukrainian families. Melania Trump had previously drawn attention to the fate of the children in a letter to President Putin.⁶⁶

20 October 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports, US President Trump has threatened Russian President Putin with the delivery of Tomahawk cruise missiles (range: 2,500 km) to Ukraine if the Russian Federation (RF) does not stop its attacks on Ukraine. According to further reports, a telephone conversation took place between Trump and Putin prior to Trump's meeting with President Zelensky in Washington on 17 October 2025. After the conversation, Trump reportedly dampened expectations regarding Tomahawk deliveries, arguing that his country could not "deplete" its own stocks. In addition, another meeting between Trump and Putin in Budapest was agreed, although no date has yet been set. According to reports, during Trump's meeting with Zelensky, Trump gave no indication that the US would supply Ukraine with Tomahawk cruise missiles.⁶⁷

Civilian casualties

According to official reports from 14 October 2025, three people were killed by Russian artillery in Kherson. Another civilian was killed in Nikopol (Dnipropetrovsk region) by a Russian drone strike. According to the governor, 62 people were injured in Russian attacks on the Kharkiv region on 14 October 2025, including a hospital that was hit. According to further information from the governor on 14 October 2025, two people died in a Russian attack in Kostyantynivka (Donetsk region). On 13 October 2025, two people were also killed in Russian attacks in the Zaporizhzhia region. According to information from the Russian occupation authorities on 15 October 2025, one person was killed in a Ukrainian attack in the city of Horlivka in the Russian-controlled part of the Donetsk region. In the Kharkiv region, according to information from the governor on 18 October 2025, one civilian was killed in a

Russian attack. In the Donetsk region, the governor reported on 19 October 2025 that at least two people had been killed in Russian attacks.⁶⁸

War, military aid and recruitment

According to media reports on 15 October 2025, the situation in north-eastern Ukraine is becoming increasingly tense. Authorities have ordered the evacuation of dozens of villages in the Kharkiv region around the strategically important but almost completely destroyed city of Kupiansk. A total of 409 families with 601 children have been asked to leave 27 villages. The list was later expanded to include 40 locations. Russian forces have been trying to advance on Kupiansk for months. According to media reports from 16 October 2025, several soldiers were killed in southern Ukraine during a Russian missile attack on a military training area in the hinterland. No details were given. According to Defence Minister Denys Shmyhal, Ukraine will need between USD 12 billion and USD 20 billion in military aid in 2026. Citing the Kiel Institute for the World Economy, media reports on 15 October 2025 indicated a significant decline in European military aid to Ukraine in the summer of 2025, despite an initiative by European countries to purchase US weapons. Europe provided an average of EUR 1.65 billion per month in July and August 2025, which represents a 57% decline compared to the first half of 2025, when European countries provided an average of EUR 3.85 billion per month.

The lifting of the travel ban for Ukrainian men between the ages of 18 and 22 who are fit for military service (see BN dated 01.09.25) has led to an increase in the number of people seeking protection in this group in Germany "from around 100 per week before the regulation came into force to around 1,000 per week at present", as reported by the media on 15.10.25, citing the Federal Ministry of the Interior.⁶⁹

Energy infrastructure

Russian bombing raids on Kharkiv on 13 October 2025 caused power outages in 30,000 households, according to reports. Due to Russian air strikes on Ukrainian energy systems, media reports indicate that emergency power cuts were implemented on 14 October 2025 by Ukrainian energy supplier Ukrenerho in Sumy, Kharkiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk and parts of the regions of Kirovohrad, Kyiv (not in the capital) and Cherkasy. According to further reports, emergency power cuts were imposed on 15 October 2025 in all regions except the most heavily contested region of Donetsk. According to the state-owned gas company Naftogaz, an unnamed thermal power plant was hit. On 16 October 2025, according to media reports, gas facilities in eastern Ukraine, including the Shebelinka gas processing plant in the Kharkiv region, were attacked. Gas production facilities in the Poltava region were also temporarily shut down. The air strikes reportedly led to power outages in eight regions, including Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Poltava, Sumy and Vinnytsia. The population was asked to save electricity. According to energy suppliers, repair work was being carried out in all regions affected by Russian attacks. On 20 October 2025, media reported on an attack on a coal mine in the Dnipropetrovsk region. According to reports, all miners were evacuated. In addition, 55,000 households were temporarily cut off from the power supply after an attack on a power plant in the northern Ukrainian region of Chernihiv.

According to President Zelensky, the RF wants to destroy Ukraine's district heating system, which relies on electricity and water, before winter, which is why increased air defence assistance is needed. According to Ukrainian energy expert Hennadiy Ryabtsev, the RF is pursuing a new tactic of concentrating attacks on one or a few regions in order to overload the air defences there. This would allow more flying objects to reach their targets. According to Ryabtsev, Ukraine has done a lot to make its energy system more resilient. Energy companies have covered important objects with reinforced concrete arches and are equipped with more repair spare parts than last year. In addition, nets are to be used to deter flying objects. In principle, electricity production capacities are greater than before last winter. Where and how the energy companies are taking specific measures is not being disclosed. According to a statement published on 19 October 2025 by Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), complex repair work on the damaged power lines to the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant has begun (see BN of 13 October 2025). According to the statement, both sides in the conflict are cooperating constructively with the IAEA. The Russian and Ukrainian armed forces have established "local ceasefire zones" to enable the work to proceed.⁷⁰

Revocation of Ukrainian citizenship

According to media reports on 15 October 2025, the Ukrainian secret service SBU accuses the mayor of Odessa, Hennadiy Truchanov, of possessing a valid passport from the Russian Federation and thus from an "aggressor state".

As a result, President Zelensky revoked his Ukrainian citizenship and placed Odessa under military administration. Truchanov, who was considered a pro-Russian politician before 2022, rejected the allegations and announced legal action. According to reports citing a Ukrainian government source, ballet dancer and supporter of President Putin, Serhiy Polunin, and pro-Kremlin politician Oleh Zarov, who survived an assassination attempt in Crimea in 2023, have also had their Ukrainian citizenship revoked and are wanted by the Ukrainian police.⁷¹

27 October 2025

Efforts towards a ceasefire and sanctions policy

According to media reports on 22 October 2025, following a telephone conversation between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, plans for a summit meeting between Presidents Trump and Putin in Budapest will not be pursued for the time being. The background to this is the Russian Federation's (RF) continued hardline stance that Ukraine should give up the entire Donbass region. Trump had previously expressed the view that the war must be stopped at the current front line. According to media reports on 23 October 2025, US President Trump announced sanctions against Russia's two largest oil companies, Rosneft and Lukoil. According to further reports, on 23 October 2025, EU heads of state and government agreed on the 19th package of sanctions against the RF, including a ban on imports of Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) from 2027. In addition, it was initially agreed to ask the European Commission to present "options for financial support" for Ukraine, without directly addressing the frozen Russian assets demanded by President Zelensky. The wording of the proposal had previously been watered down following resistance from Belgium, which manages most of the Russian central bank funds blocked in the EU at the Brussels-based institution Euroclear and is demanding guarantees from the other EU member states in the event of a necessary repayment.⁷²

Civilian casualties

According to media reports, one person was killed in a Russian attack in the Kharkiv region on 20 October 2025. Media reports also stated that four civilians died in Russian drone strikes in the city of Novhorod-Siverskyi (Chernihiv region) on 21 October 2025. On 22 October 2025, the governor of the Kharkiv region reported the death of one person in a Russian drone attack. Also on 22 October 2025, media reported two people killed in the city of Kyiv and four fatalities in the Kyiv region as a result of night-time Russian missile and drone attacks. According to reports, a rescue worker in the Kharkiv region was killed in a Russian attack on the night of 23 October 2025. On 23 October 2025, according to media reports, two Ukrainian journalists were killed by a Russian drone in Kramatorsk (Donetsk region). On 25 October 2025, according to official reports, two people were killed in Kyiv and two in Dnipropetrovsk in Russian missile and drone attacks. According to a statement by the mayor, three people were killed in Kyiv during the night of 26 October 2025 in Russian drone attacks. According to information from the governor on 26 October 2025, four civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region and one person each in Kharkiv and in the city of Huljajpole (Zaporizhzhia region).⁷³

War events; extension of martial law; exchange of fallen soldiers and recruitment

According to reports, the situation of Ukrainian troops around the cities of Pokrovsk and Myrnohrad in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk has continued to deteriorate despite relief attacks. According to the Ukrainian General Staff, Russian forces have infiltrated several small infantry groups into the strategically important city of Pokrovsk, which has been under attack for months and is threatened with encirclement.

According to media reports on 21 October 2025, Ukraine has extended the current martial law and mobilisation by 90 days until the beginning of February 2026. Both measures would have expired on 5 November 2025.

According to reports from 23 October 2025, the RF, through the mediation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), handed over another 1,000 soldiers' bodies (a total of 14,000 bodies since the beginning of 2025) to Ukraine and received 31 fallen soldiers in return. Due to the slow but steady advance of Russian forces, Ukrainian forces were often unable to recover their own dead during their retreat.⁷⁴

According to media reports from 24 October 2025, during an identity check on a train in the Zhytomyr region, a 23-year-old man detonated an explosive device while being questioned by a border guard. Both individuals and two other passengers were killed. According to the border guards, the suspect had previously been arrested while

attempting to leave the country heading west. Men between the ages of 22 and 60 are not allowed to leave Ukraine without special permission and can be drafted to defend the country on the front lines.

Energy infrastructure

According to a statement by the regional energy supplier, a Russian attack on the northern Ukrainian border region of Chernihiv on 20 October 2025 caused partial power outages in the region. Following further attacks on power plants in the Chernihiv region on 21 October 2025, hundreds of thousands of people in the city of Chernihiv and the northern part of the region were cut off from electricity and water supplies, according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy. Power supplies were partially restored on the same day. According to the authorities, important facilities such as hospitals had to switch to autonomous emergency power supplies. Urgent repair work could not be carried out in full due to the Russian drone attacks. The RF is deliberately circling drones over the damaged infrastructure facilities to make repairs impossible and "deliberately prolong the humanitarian crisis," the Energy Ministry said in a statement. On 22 October 2025, media reported emergency shutdowns of the power grid in large parts of the country as a result of Russian air strikes. Repair work was being carried out where the security situation allowed, with the RF also targeting repair crews.⁷⁵

03 November 2025

Civilian casualties and UN report on Russian crimes against humanity

According to media reports on 29 October 2025, one person was killed in Russian drone attacks on energy facilities in the Odessa, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk regions. According to official information from 30 October 2025, at least nine people were injured in a Russian attack on a children's hospital. According to media reports on 31 October 2025, a total of seven people were killed in Russian attacks on energy facilities and other targets, including three people in the Zaporizhzhia region. In addition, a child from the central region of Vinnytsia died in hospital from his injuries. According to further reports on 31 October 2025, two people were killed in a Russian bombing raid on a thermal power plant in Sloviansk (Donetsk region). Another person died in a Russian attack in Kramatorsk (Donetsk region). According to reports, three people were killed in Russian air strikes in the Dnipropetrovsk region on 1 November 2025. On 1 November 2025, the media also reported three deaths in the Kherson region and one fatality each in the Mykolaiv, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions. On 2 November 2025, regional governors reported Russian attacks with several fatalities: Donetsk region (5), Dnipropetrovsk region (4), Odessa region (2), Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kharkiv and Sumy regions (1 each).

According to media reports from 28 October 2025, Russian forces are using drones to track and attack civilians near the front line. In a report on the matter, the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine found that civilians had been hunted and, in some cases, attacked by drones equipped with cameras as they sought shelter. According to further reports, the findings are based on interviews with 226 people, including victims, witnesses and local authorities, as well as on numerous verified online videos. The attacks took place over more than a year in the southern Ukrainian region of Kherson, near the front line and across the Dnipro River. The UN report states: "These attacks were carried out as part of a coordinated strategy to drive civilians out of these areas and constitute the crime against humanity of forcible transfer of population."⁷⁶

War and recruitment

In an analysis of the situation in the heavily contested Pokrovsk (Donetsk region), the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) has determined that Russian Chief of General Staff Gerasimov continues to spread "exaggerated claims of combat successes." The ISW assumes that Russian forces would achieve tactically significant territorial gains in and around Pokrovsk and Myrnohrad, but without causing an imminent collapse of Ukrainian defences in the area. According to media reports on 3 November 2025, Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief Syrskyj stated that he had sent special forces to Pokrovsk to repel a massive Russian attack. According to the ISW, Russian troops are attempting to encircle the outskirts of the city. The Russian Federation (RF) has been trying to occupy the strategically important city of Pokrovsk for a year without achieving a decisive breakthrough.

The death of a Ukrainian man in Ukrainian military custody has triggered an investigation, according to media reports on 31 October 2025. According to these reports, the man was forcibly arrested in Ternopil on 17 October

2025 in order to be recruited. The military has described it as a fatal accident. Forced recruitment is prohibited. Nevertheless, according to the report, isolated cases of forced recruitment have come to light.⁷⁷

Energy infrastructure

According to media reports, Russian air strikes on 30 October 2025 targeted energy facilities in the central, western and south-eastern parts of the country, causing power outages. Two facilities in the Lviv region were reportedly damaged. The largest private energy company, DTEK, complained of attacks on thermal power plants in several regions, including a power plant in Sloviansk (Donetsk region). In some regions, there were also interruptions to water and heating supplies. The Ukrainian government and the energy supplier Ukrenerho subsequently announced temporary restrictions on electricity supplies to private and industrial customers throughout the country in order to stabilise the electricity grid. According to reports, there are power cut schedules for every house due to power outages and repair work. Residents can check electricity tables to find out whether they will have power the next day. On 3 November 2025, media reported Russian drone and missile attacks in the Dnipropetrovsk and Odessa regions, which cut off power to tens of thousands of people. Russian attacks also led to power outages in the Donetsk region and in approximately 58,000 households in the Zaporizhzhia region.

According to media reports, on 30 October 2025, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported military activities "that have caused damage to substations critical to nuclear safety in Ukraine" without naming the perpetrators. The IAEA reported incidents near two nuclear power plants (in southern Ukraine and Khmelnytskyi), which resulted in both plants losing access to an external power line. A third nuclear power plant in Rivne had to reduce the output of two of its four reactors.⁷⁸

10 November 2025

Civilian casualties

According to media reports, one person died in a Russian drone attack in the Sumy region on the night of 3 November 2025. According to official reports from 4 November 2025, one person was killed in a Russian attack in the Dnipropetrovsk region. In a report accompanying a video, Ukrainian media reported on 4 November 2025 that a civilian carrying a white flag was killed by a Russian drone in the Kupjansk district (Kharkiv region) the previous day, prompting the regional prosecutor's office to launch an investigation into war crimes. On 8 November 2025, following Russian drone and missile attacks, media reported the deaths of three people in Dnipro (Dnipropetrovsk region) and the Zaporizhzhia region, two people in the Donetsk and Kherson regions, and one person in the Kharkiv region. According to information from the governor on 9 November 2025, three more civilians died in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region.

According to information from the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture on 3 November 2025, a total of 116 journalists have been killed since February 2022; 26 others are reportedly in Russian captivity. The total number also includes those who joined the military after the full-scale invasion began.⁷⁹

War events

On 4 November 2025, media outlets reported on an AFP analysis of data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), according to which Russian forces made steady territorial gains in October 2025, particularly in the Donetsk region. A total of 461 km² of Ukrainian territory was captured that month. This pace is in line with the average monthly increase this year, but is lower than the increase in July 2025, when Russian troops captured 634 km². The Russian occupying forces now control 81% of the Donetsk region and a total of 19.2% of the entire Ukrainian territory.

After Russian troops reportedly advanced into Pokrovsk (Donetsk region) and the surrounding area, large parts of the territory are outside the firm control of both warring parties, according to Ukrainian mapping from 04.11.25. According to an assessment by the ISW, Ukrainian forces have been able to liberate a significant part of the Russian advance towards Dobropillia on the eastern flank of the Pokrovsk offensive.

The ISW reports significant Russian losses, but also deception tactics by Russian troops, according to which Russian soldiers are operating in civilian clothing to infiltrate Ukrainian lines, which is considered a war crime. Pokrovsk is located on a crucial supply line between Myrnohrad and the western front sections. A Russian breakthrough would jeopardise the connection to the last major Ukrainian defence centres in the Donbas, the cities of Kramatorsk and

Sloviansk. Critical voices warn that holding on to untenable positions could destabilise the entire front section west of Pokrovsk and make it impossible to establish a new line of defence.⁸⁰

Energy infrastructure

According to media reports, extensive Russian air strikes on Ukrainian energy infrastructure on the night of 8 November 2025 led to power cuts in several regions. Energy facilities in the regions of Odessa, Kyiv, Poltava and Kharkiv were damaged. In many places, hot water and heating were also cut off. According to the state energy supplier Ukrenerho, power supplies were restricted for several hours in most regions on 9 and 10 November 2025. Further reports indicate that substations supplying power to the western Ukrainian nuclear power plants in Khmelnytskyi and Rivne were repeatedly attacked. In the heavily affected central Ukrainian region of Poltava, power was largely restored to 250,000 people on 9 November 2025. According to a statement by the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy, the Russian Federation (RF) has changed its tactics: it is simultaneously attacking power plants and power transmission and distribution systems, making it difficult to quickly restore normal power supplies. According to an announcement by the Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz, at least 300 million cubic metres of US liquefied natural gas are to be imported through an agreement with Poland to secure heating supplies for the upcoming heating season.⁸¹

Former mayor of Odessa under house arrest

According to media reports on 31 October 2025, a Kyiv court ordered 60 days of house arrest for the former mayor of Odessa, Hennadiy Truchanov, for negligence during the deadly floods on 30 September 2025, in which nine people lost their lives. He failed to fulfil his official duties by not ensuring the proper functioning of the city's drainage systems and informing the population about the impending emergency. Truchanov responded by calling it a "political diversionary tactic". President Zelensky had previously stripped Truchanov of his Ukrainian citizenship, citing reports that he possessed a Russian passport, which Truchanov denies (see BN of 20 October 2025).⁸²

17 November 2025

Civilian casualties

According to reports, at least seven people were killed in Kyiv and one person each in the Kherson and Dnipropetrovsk regions during Russian air strikes on the night of 14 November 2025. According to official sources, three people died in the Kherson region and one each in the Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia regions during Russian attacks on 15 November 2025. According to media reports, three people were killed in Russian air strikes in the city of Balakliya (Kharkiv region) on the night of 17 November 2025.⁸³

War events

According to media reports from 11 November 2025, the heavily contested town of Myrnohrad (Donetsk region), located east of Pokrovsk, is almost completely surrounded by Russian troops. As Russian troops advance in the Zaporizhzhia region, the Ukrainian military blog DeepState has reported a "significant increase in grey areas" and unclear control in the region. On 11 November 2025, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Oleksandr Syrskyj, spoke of a "significantly deteriorated" situation for the Ukrainian army in the Hulajpole area (Zaporizhzhia region). In addition, President Zelensky described the situation near Orichiw (Zaporizhzhia region) as "one of the most difficult" at present. Citing DeepState, media reports say that on 15 November 2025, Russian troops shot and killed two captured Ukrainian soldiers in the Zaporizhzhia region. The incident was reported to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the UN. According to media reports from 16 November 2025, Russian attacks on the Ukrainian railway network have tripled since July 2025.⁸⁴

Corruption in the energy sector

According to media reports, the independent Ukrainian anti-corruption agency NABU announced on 10 November 2025 that it was conducting a large-scale investigation into the Ukrainian energy sector. The investigation focused on the involvement of several high-ranking figures in alleged bribery payments in transactions with the state-owned nuclear power plant operator Enerhoatom. The investigation centred on Timur Minditsch, a businessman and confidant of President Zelensky who had previously fled abroad. While the government dismissed the

supervisory board of Enerhoatom on 11 November 2025, according to further reports, NABU announced the indictment of seven people for an alleged bribery scheme worth USD 100 million involving the nuclear authority and other state-owned enterprises.⁸⁵

Financial assistance

According to media reports dated 11 November 2025, Germany will increase its financial aid for Ukraine in the 2026 budget to EUR 11.5 billion, up from the originally planned EUR 8.5 billion. In view of the approaching winter, German Foreign Minister Waidephul is providing Ukraine with an additional €40 million in winter aid for humanitarian measures (repair of heating systems and damaged houses, delivery of generators and material goods such as blankets and hygiene products), according to media reports from 11 November 2025. According to media reports on 14 November 2025, EU Commission President von der Leyen has announced that she will grant Ukraine a loan of EUR 6 billion. According to von der Leyen, the EU will cover Ukraine's financial needs for the next two years.⁸⁶

24 November 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

On 20 November 2025, the Ukrainian presidential office confirmed, following consistent media reports, that it had received a draft US-Russian peace plan. The plan is a 28-point plan drawn up under the leadership of the two special envoys Steve Witkoff and Kirill Dmitriev. After the paper became public, President Zelensky announced that he would soon hold talks with US President Trump. The key points of the draft, which according to reports primarily favoured the Russian Federation (RF), were adjusted at a meeting of representatives from Ukraine, the US, European states and the EU Commission in Geneva on 23 November 2025. The White House then announced that Ukraine was satisfied with the jointly revised version of the peace plan and saw it as reflecting the country's most important interests. The original deadline for Ukraine to agree to the US peace plan, Thursday, 27 November 2025, was meanwhile relaxed by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Although he would like to see an agreement reached by Thursday, he said that the exact timing was secondary in view of the deaths in Ukraine.⁸⁷

Civilian casualties

According to media reports, three people died in Russian air strikes on 17 November 2025 in the frontline town of Balaklija (Kharkiv region) and two people in the Dnipropetrovsk region. According to information from the governor on 18 November 2025, one person was killed in the Kharkiv region by a Russian missile strike. According to media reports, at least 33 people were killed in a Russian drone and missile attack on the western Ukrainian city of Ternopil on the night of 20 November 2025. According to the governor, five people died on 20 November 2025 in a Russian attack on the city of Zaporizhzhya. According to official reports, Russian attacks on 21 November 2025 killed one person in the Donetsk region and two people in the Dnipropetrovsk region. According to official reports, Russian attacks on 22 November 2025 killed eight civilians in the Donetsk and Kherson regions. According to official sources, four people were killed in a Russian drone attack on the Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on 23 November 2025.⁸⁸

War events

Russian forces advanced near Lyman, Pokrovsk, in the Kostyantynivka-Druzhkivka area and in the western part of the Zaporizhzhia region. Russian forces also continue to advance in the embattled city of Pokrovsk in order to close the Pokrovsk-Myrnohrad pocket. Ukrainian counterattacks have not been able to stop the Russian forces' initiative, but they are making it more difficult to capture the city of Pokrovsk.⁸⁹

Energy infrastructure

According to the Russian occupation authorities, a Ukrainian attack on the night of 18 November 2025 damaged the Sujiwska and Starobeschewe thermal power plants in the Donetsk region. Both power plants were temporarily shut down to allow repair work to restore power to several localities. No Ukrainian statement was initially available. According to official reports, Russian attacks on the night of 20 November 2025 hit energy infrastructure in seven Ukrainian regions. Power restrictions were imposed across the country. According to the Ukrainian State

Emergency Service, Russian attacks on the Odessa region on the night of 23 November 2025 damaged an energy facility in the city of Odessa.⁹⁰

01 December 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports, on 30 November 2025, a Ukrainian and a US delegation met in Florida for final negotiations on the US-Russian draft peace plan presented on 20 November 2025, which had been amended by Ukraine and the EU in Geneva on 23 November 2025 (see BN of 24 November 2025). The Ukrainian delegation arrived on 30 November 2025 under the new delegation leader Rustem Umerov, Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council, after President Zelensky, who is struggling with the consequences of one of the most extensive anti-corruption proceedings in recent years with , parted ways with his chief negotiator and chief of staff Andriy Yermak on Friday. The draft peace plan, which was finalised in Florida, is to be presented to President Putin on 2 December 2025 by US Special Envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner. According to media reports, in addition to a series of concessions by Ukraine, the draft peace plan also includes the cession of heavily fortified defensive lines in Ukrainian territories not yet under Russian control. Andriy Yermak has been linked to the so-called "Minditsch Gate" scandal. In his capacity as Ukraine's chief negotiator, Yermak reiterated on 27 November 2025, following the negotiations in Geneva on 23 November 2025, that Ukraine would not sign any peace plan that included territorial concessions.

According to media reports, President Victor Orban travelled to Moscow on 28 November 2025 for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, where he once again promoted the idea of holding a "peace summit" in Hungary after a previously planned summit was cancelled by US President Trump, according to media reports on 22 October 2025. According to media reports, German Foreign Minister Waidephul spoke of a "decisive week" ahead. On the one hand, various observers questioned President Zelensky's authority to agree to territorial cessions due to the loss of trust caused by the corruption scandal. On the other hand, observers doubted that President Putin would renounce territorial concessions in the western regions of Donbass, which were formally incorporated into the Russian constitution as separate territory but remain under Ukrainian control.⁹¹

Civilian casualties

According to media reports, two people died in Lyman and one person in Vyshhorod during Russian air strikes on 29 November 2025. According to media reports, two people died during Russian air strikes on Kyiv on 28 November 2025. According to reports, two people were killed in Russian air strikes on 28 November 2025 on the Nikopol and Synelnykove districts in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Russian air strikes on 26 November 2025 reportedly killed one person in the Sumy region. In the Kherson region, Russian air strikes on 25 November 2025 reportedly resulted in one civilian fatality. According to reports, attacks on 24 November 2025 resulted in one fatality in the Donetsk region and three in the Kherson region. On 23 November 2025, Russian attacks in the city of Kharkiv reportedly resulted in four fatalities.⁹²

War

Ukraine reportedly expanded its attacks on the Russian oil tanker fleet, destroying/damaging two oil tankers belonging to Russia's "shadow fleet" off the Turkish Black Sea coast on 28 November 2025 and off the Senegalese coast on 30 November 2025 with the help of naval drones. According to statements made by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on 30 November 2025, Russia attacked Ukraine last week with 1,400 combat drones, 1,100 guided bombs and 66 missiles. According to media reports, Ukrainian counterattacks were unable to stop the Russian forces' initiative, allowing them to continue advancing in Pokrovsk and the Kostyantynivka-Druzhkivka area, among other places.⁹³

Energy infrastructure

According to Ukrainian sources, a Russian attack on the night of 28 November 2025 destroyed energy infrastructure, which, according to the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy, resulted in more than 600,000 people in the capital Kyiv and five other regions being temporarily cut off from the power supply. According to media reports, many Ukrainian provinces are without electricity for at least ten hours a day. The Poltava region was the worst

affected, with an average of 13 hours without power per day between 10 November and 16 November 2025. The capital Kyiv experienced comparatively few outages, with an average of almost eight hours without power per day during the same period. Overall, since the beginning of winter, Russian attacks have increasingly focused on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. In the comparative period from 27 October to 2 November 2025, power outages in both the Poltava region and the capital Kyiv averaged only three hours per day.⁹⁴

08 December 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

After recent efforts to reach a ceasefire have so far failed to produce an agreement, President Zelensky is reportedly meeting with German Chancellor Merz, Prime Minister Starmer and President Macron, among others, for talks in London on 8 December 2025. Key issues still to be resolved include territorial questions and security guarantees for Ukraine. According to US Special Envoy for Ukraine Keith Kellogg on 6 December 2025, the peace negotiations are in their final stages. Particularly contentious issues include territorial concessions in the Donetsk region and the fate of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant. According to reports, the EU Commission plans to use Russian assets in Europe to secure a "reparation loan" to Ukraine. To this end, not only the EUR 185 billion in assets registered with the central securities depository Euroclear in Brussels are to be used, but all Russian assets frozen as part of the sanctions against Russia. According to reports, EUR 90 billion is to flow to Ukraine in 2026 and 2027, with the remainder to follow later as needed. Several EU member states, including Belgium in particular, have expressed criticism of such a move.⁹⁵

Civilian casualties

According to Vadym Filashkin, head of the Donetsk Regional Military Administration, nine civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region between 2 and 6 December 2025. Since the start of Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine on 24 February 2022, 3,754 people have been killed and 8,546 injured in the Donetsk region, according to Filashkin. This means that 14,200 civilians remain in the active combat zone in the Donetsk region. According to media reports from 4 December 2025, one person was killed in Russian attacks in the Dnipropetrovsk region. According to Oleksandr Prokudin, head of the regional state administration of the Kherson region, one civilian was killed in Russian attacks on 3 December 2025. According to Vladyslav Hayvanenko, acting governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, four people were killed and 40 others injured as a result of Russian attacks on 1 December 2025 following the impact of an Iskander-M ballistic missile in the city of Dnipro. According to reports, one civilian was killed in each of the Russian attacks on 1 December 2025 in Kramatorsk, Kostyantynivka and Lyman.⁹⁶

War

According to information provided by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on 7 December 2025, Russian forces deployed more than 1,600 combat drones, 1,200 glide bombs and around 70 missiles against Ukraine last week. The main target of the attacks was Ukraine's energy infrastructure. According to reports, Russian forces captured approximately 505 km² of Ukrainian territory in November 2025. Although this represents an acceleration compared to the 267 km² of territory captured in October 2025, analyses indicate that Russian forces are not on the verge of a decisive breakthrough. Contrary to Russian President Putin's claim that the Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk has been completely captured, Ukrainian sources say that Ukrainian soldiers are still present in some outlying areas of the city and are successfully preventing its complete capture. The tying down of Ukrainian troops in the city of Pokrovsk would lead to other sections of the front being overstretched, enabling Russian troops to capture large territories relatively quickly, as was recently the case in Hulajpole, for example.⁹⁷

Energy infrastructure

According to the military administration in the Kremenchuk district in the central Ukrainian region of Poltava, several energy sector companies were attacked with drones and missiles during a Russian attack on the night of 7 December 2025, resulting in the failure of heat and water supplies in several locations in Ukraine. According to Ukrainian Reconstruction Minister Oleksiy Kuleba, Russian attacks on 5 December 2025 caused damage in the Odessa region that resulted in a temporary loss of heating for 9,500 people and water supply for 34,000 people. According to media reports, the intensification of attacks on energy infrastructure has meant that people in large

parts of the country have had to cope without electricity for up to 16 hours a day. According to Ukrenerho CEO Vitaliy Saychenko on 6 December 2025, the situation following the renewed Russian attacks on Ukraine's power grid is currently very difficult, as repairs would take several weeks. Instead of the previous four to eight hours, power cuts would now last twelve to 16 hours a day and affect most parts of the country. As a result of the power cuts, there would often be no water supply in homes either, because pumps and other infrastructure necessary for the supply would fail.⁹⁸

15 December 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to reports on 9 December 2025, US President Trump has urged Ukraine to hold new elections, as the country is reaching a point "where it is no longer a democracy". In doing so, Trump has echoed Russian criticism of the suspension of elections during the war. According to media reports on 10 December 2025, President Zelensky pointed out that elections were not possible under the current martial law. Two conditions were necessary for this: the creation of a legal basis and the guarantee of secure elections. According to reports, Zelensky thus countered Trump's accusation that he was using the war as a pretext to prevent elections, while at the same time implying a demand for a ceasefire from the Russian Federation (RF) and security guarantees from the US and Europe.

In the struggle to finalise the peace plan, which has been reduced from 28 to 20 points, Zelensky emphasised the removal of "openly anti-Ukrainian positions", according to media reports on 9 December 2025, referring primarily to the territorial concessions demanded by the RF. According to reports from 12 December 2025, Zelensky stated that only the Ukrainian people should decide on possible territorial concessions "in the form of elections or a referendum". In addition, Kyiv insists on a military strength of 800,000 soldiers instead of the 600,000 previously envisaged in the peace plan. However, there are doubts that the Ukrainian army actually has this number of soldiers at its disposal. According to information from the public prosecutor's office, more than 300,000 cases of desertion or absence from the troops have been registered since 24 February 2022, which is why the figures are now subject to secrecy. Other outstanding issues include the status of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant and the US proposal for a unilateral Ukrainian withdrawal from the Donetsk region and the establishment of a "free economic zone" there.⁹⁹

Civilian casualties

According to media reports on 8 December 2025, four civilians were killed in the Donetsk region and five in the Kharkiv region in the previous 24 hours as a result of Russian shelling. On 9 December 2025, two deaths were reported as a result of Russian shelling in the Kherson region and three in the Donetsk region. According to information from the regional military administration on 11 December 2025, two people died in the Sumy region as a result of a Russian glide bomb. Also on 11 December 2025, according to reports, two civilians were killed in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region. According to official reports from 12 December 2025, two more people were killed in further Russian attacks in the Donetsk region. Media reports on 14 December 2025 announced the deaths of one person each in the Sumy and Donetsk regions.

Since the start of the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, 1,316,600 people have been evacuated from the Donetsk region, including 201,600 children and 47,300 people with disabilities (as of 26 November 2025). Currently, 196,800 civilians remain in the part controlled by the Ukrainian authorities and 14,400 in the zone of active hostilities.

According to official figures from the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office, 676 children have been killed and 2,293 injured in Ukraine since 24 February 2022. According to these figures, 19,546 children have been abducted to the Russian Federation.

Citing data from the UN Population Fund, media reports on 11 December 2025 indicate a significant increase in the maternal mortality rate among pregnant women in Ukraine. From 2023 to 2024, this rate rose by 37%. The war is "exposing more women to the risk of death, and more pregnancies are ending in life-threatening complications".¹⁰⁰

War

According to a statement by the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Oleksandr Syrskyj, the Ukrainian army has recaptured 54 km² west of the fiercely contested city of Pokrovsk (Donetsk region). The northern part of the city is being held up to the railway line. At the same time, he has ordered his troops to withdraw

from positions around Pokrovsk in the face of a Russian breakthrough. A troop change was no longer possible. According to further reports, on 11 December 2025, the Ukrainian army leadership rejected Russian claims of having captured the city of Siwersk (Donetsk region). Siwersk is located 30 km east of Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, the last two major cities in the Donbas under Ukrainian control. Also on 11 December 2025, the Institute for the Study of War reported the advance of Russian troops in the Kostyantynivka-Druzhkivka area and near Oleksandrivka (northern Kharkiv region).¹⁰¹

Energy infrastructure

According to the governor, Russian drone attacks on 8 December 2025 caused a power outage in the city of Sumy. Some critical infrastructure was then supplied with power via emergency generators. On 9 December 2025, the Ukrainian grid operator stated that emergency power cuts had been introduced in most regions. According to the Ministry of Energy, half of the population of Kyiv is affected by power outages. On 12 December 2025, media reports indicate that a Russian air strike on Odessa resulted in power and water supply failures in parts of the city. According to further media reports, Russian air strikes on the night of 13 December 2025 caused temporary power outages in seven Ukrainian regions, including Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson and Kyiv. A total of over one million households were affected.¹⁰²

22 December 2025

Efforts to achieve a ceasefire

According to media reports, on 14 and 15 December 2025, President Zelensky, US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff, Trump's son-in-law and advisor Jared Kushner, and leading European heads of state and government met in Berlin to discuss the basis for a plan to end the war. According to these reports, European supporters agreed in a joint statement to secure a possible ceasefire through the deployment of a multinational force led by Europe and supported by the US. Details of a US-led mechanism for monitoring a ceasefire have not been disclosed. Furthermore, the statement envisages a Ukrainian troop strength of 800,000 in peacetime. No progress has been made on the territorial issue. In an initial response, the Kremlin reaffirmed its unchanged position and its rejection of a ceasefire and European participation in peacekeeping forces. President Putin subsequently warned that Russia would expand its territorial gains if Ukraine did not comply with his demands. Meanwhile, US President Trump called on Ukraine to speed up the negotiations. Washington is pushing for a plan under which the US would offer Ukraine security guarantees based on the NATO model and Kyiv would likely have to cede territory in return. According to further reports, the US discussed the results of the Berlin talks with the Russian side and continued negotiations in Miami from 19 December to 21 December 2025. Witkoff and Kushner met there for talks with Ukrainian chief negotiator Rustem Umjerow and representatives from the UK, France and Germany, as well as in a separate meeting with Putin's adviser Kirill Dmitriev. A US proposal put forward by President Zelensky regarding trilateral talks between the US, the Russian Federation (RF) and Ukraine was denied by the RF. Zelensky also stated that he was in favour of proposals that left the front line unchanged. In a joint American-Ukrainian statement on 21 December 2025, both sides reportedly stated that no progress had been made in the negotiations. Details of the results of the talks are not yet known. The RF intends to restate its position in the coming days.¹⁰³

Dealing with Russian assets in the EU regarding Ukraine financing, winter financial aid

According to media reports, European heads of state and government agreed on a compromise at the EU summit in Brussels on 18 and 19 December 2025 regarding the financing of Ukraine for the next two years. According to this agreement, Ukraine will receive an interest-free loan of EUR 90 billion from the EU to cover military needs and the budget. Russian assets are to remain frozen until the Russian Federation has compensated Ukraine. If Russia fails to do so, the assets will be used for repayment. The original, technically complex and politically sensitive plan to use the Russian Central Bank's funds directly for loans was rejected by several EU states. However, work on the model is continuing. Without a result, Ukraine would have run out of money by May 2026 at the latest.

According to media reports on 18 December 2025, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development has pledged €70 million in winter aid to expand decentralised heat supply, for example with mobile heating systems.¹⁰⁴

Civilian casualties

According to the regional military administration, Russian shelling in the Donetsk region killed one civilian on 16 December 2025 and three people on 17 December 2025. In the Kherson region, two people died as a result of Russian shelling on 18 December 2025, according to official reports. According to the governor, one person was killed in a Russian drone attack on the Odessa region on 18 December 2025. Also on 18 December 2025, local authorities reported 32 injuries as a result of Russian air strikes on and around the city of Zaporizhzhya. According to the regional governor, one person was killed in Russian air strikes on the port city of Odessa on 18 December 2025. A Russian missile attack on infrastructure around the Ukrainian Black Sea port of Pivdennyi (Odessa region) on 19 December 2025 claimed at least eight lives and injured 27 people, according to official reports. According to media reports from 20 December 2025, one person was killed in Russian attacks in the Donetsk region. According to media reports, two people were killed by Russian guided missile strikes in the city of Izium (Kharkiv region) on 20 December 2025.¹⁰⁵

War

According to media reports on 21 December 2025, Ukrainian forces repelled a Russian offensive on the Sumy region. In this context, Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner Dmytro Lubinez accused the Russian Federation of forcibly deporting at least 50 people from the northern Ukrainian border village of Hrabowske to Russian territory on 20 December 2025. Most of them were elderly people who had previously refused to be evacuated.¹⁰⁶

Energy infrastructure

According to media reports on 19 December 2025, Russian air strikes caused power outages in the city of Odessa and in the city of Arzys (Odessa region). In addition to the energy infrastructure, the railway infrastructure was also damaged. A substation was almost completely destroyed. Critical infrastructure is being supplied with power by diesel-powered emergency generators. Until the repair work was completed, approximately 85,000 households remained without heating and another 64,000 without electricity. Following massive Russian attacks on 13 December 2025, media reports on 18 December 2025 stated that the port of Odessa was still without electricity at that time and was being supplied by diesel generators. According to government information from 20 December 2025, the Russian attacks in the vicinity of the Black Sea port of Pivdennyi (Odessa region) destroyed the bridge over the Dniester River, the most important transport route to the west and to the Republic of Moldova. According to the report, 40% of fuel deliveries to Ukraine were handled via this route. While logistics are being handled via other regions, a pontoon bridge has been erected.¹⁰⁷

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