



EASTERN EUROPE



NEWS LOG

Last update:
06/06/2026

OVERVIEW - 2026

- **January 27:** Analysis reports nearly 2 million total military casualties.
- **February 10-14:** Ukrainian counteroffensive operations start reclaiming territories.
- **March 10:** United Nations commission accuses Russia of crimes against humanity regarding the forced deportation of children.
- **April 20:** Europol investigation successfully locates Ukrainian children forcibly transferred during the conflict.
- **May 15:** Creation of a special tribunal for Ukraine approved by the European Union.
- **May 28:** United Nations put the Russian armed forces on the blacklist of conflict-related sexual violence.
- **June 2:** Ukraine recaptured 282 square kilometers of territory in May.



All information was verified and sourced from OSINT, unless specifically mentioned otherwise.

Most of the information are from Franceinfo with Agence France Presse, Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Please note that victims mentioned in the articles are individuals who are not directly participating in hostilities, unless explicitly stated otherwise. In principle, the DCCI-ICCD does not record KIA and WIA, when engaged validly under IHL.

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RUSSIA AND UKRAINE EXCHANGE 370 POW WITH UAE MEDIATION

On June 5, 2026, Russia and Ukraine each released 185 POW in a swap mediated by the United Arab Emirates. The Russian Ministry of Defense confirmed the return of 185 soldiers from territory controlled by Kiev. President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that the returning Ukrainians included members of the armed forces, the national guard, the border guard service and a civilian. Some of the prisoners had been in captivity since the start of the war.

7 KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKES NEAR KIEV

On June 5, 2026, Russian strikes on several Ukrainian regions killed at least 7 people including 4 at a food processing plant near Kiev. The State Emergency Service reported that an administrative building at a factory manufacturing products for children in the Brovary district was hit and 4 other people were injured. Additional overnight strikes killed 2 civilians in the Zaporijjia and Kherson regions and 1 person in the Dnipropetrovsk region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky offered a meeting with Vladimir Putin to discuss a full ceasefire for the duration of negotiations.

3 KILLED IN UKRAINIAN STRIKE IN SIMFEROPOL

On June 4, 2026, Crimean Governor Sergey Aksyonov announced that a Ukrainian strike on non-residential buildings in Simferopol killed 3 people and injured 7 others. President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that previous strikes on Saint Petersburg targeted energy and military facilities as a response to Russian missile attacks.

UKRAINIAN DRONES HIT SAINT PETERSBURG, 7 CIVILIANS MURDERED BY UKRAINIAN DRONE IN DONETSK

On June 3, 2026, Ukrainian drones targeted the Saint Petersburg oil terminal and the Kronstadt military base on the opening day of a major economic forum. Governor Alexandre Beglov confirmed damage to several infrastructures without casualties. Another

Ukrainian drone struck a bus traveling from Moscow to Simferopol and killed 7 civilians and injured 11 others. Denis Pushilin, the head of the local pro-Russian administration in Donetsk reported the attack occurred in Yenakiyevo.

UKRAINIAN FORCES REGAINED TERRITORY FROM RUSSIA

On June 2, 2026, the Study of War (ISW) data revealed that Ukraine recaptured approximately 282 square kilometers of its territory in May. This marks the second consecutive month of Ukrainian gains following a period of continuous Russian advances. The ISW noted that successful medium-range drone campaigns limited Russia's ability to transport personnel and support front-line positions. Despite these gains Russia still occupies 19% to 20% of Ukraine including Crimea and Donbass. Progress for the Ukrainian army was primarily noted in the Donetsk and Zaporijjia regions.

23 CIVILIANS KILLED BY RUSSIA, 1 CIVILIAN KILLED BY UKRAINIAN DRONE IN KURSK

On June 2, 2026, Kursk Governor Aleksandr Khinchtein announced that a Ukrainian drone attack on a civilian vehicle killed the driver. The strike occurred in the village of Chchekino within the Rylsk district near the Ukrainian border. Meanwhile, a massive Russian attack involving 73 missiles and 656 drones killed at least 23 people in Ukraine, including 16 in Dnipro. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reiterated urgent calls for US ammunition and Patriot air defense systems. Dnipro authorities reported 2 children among the dead and 42 injured while Kiev Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed 7 deaths and over 50 injuries.

1 KILLED AND 26 INJURED IN OVERNIGHT RUSSIAN STRIKES ACROSS UKRAINE

On June 1, 2026, local authorities reported that Russian overnight strikes killed 1 man and injured 26 people across several Ukrainian regions. A man died in a drone attack on a village in the Kherson region while artillery fire hit an apartment building and injured 3 others. In the Tcherniguiv region, 8 people including 3 children were injured and 10,000 residents lost power after a strike on energy infrastructure. Regional officials also reported 7 injuries in Odessa, 4 in Dnipropetrovsk, 4 in Kharkiv and 1 in Zaporijjia.

CHILD KILLED BY UKRAINIAN DRONE IN OCCUPIED GENITCHESK

On May 31, 2026, a Ukrainian drone crashed into a residential building in the occupied city of Genitchesk and killed a boy born in 2020. Pro-Russian official Vladimir Saldo reported that 5 other people were injured in the strike. On the same day Dnipropetrovsk Governor Oleksandre Ganja announced that a Russian attack on the Nikopol district killed a woman and seriously injured 2 others.

DRONE HITS ZAPORIZHZHIA NUCLEAR PLANT

On May 31, 2026, a drone struck the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine and caused a hole in a turbine building wall. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi warned that attacking nuclear sites is “playing with fire” while the Russian public nuclear group Rosatom and its head Alexei Likhachev accused the Ukrainian army of a deliberate attack using a fiber optic guided drone. The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs rejected these claims as disinformation and questioned why Ukraine would strike its own territory. Later that afternoon, the plant authorities reported a second attack attributed to Ukraine that destroyed trucks at the transport workshop but noted the facility continues to operate normally.

1 KILLED IN UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE IN VOLGOGRAD, RUSSIAN DRONE EXPLOSION IN ROMANIA

On May 29, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack on a synthetic fiber factory in Voljski killed a 60-year-old man. Regional Governor Andreï Botcharov reported that a 55-year-old woman was also seriously injured and fires broke out at energy infrastructure sites. The Russian Ministry of Defense claimed to have neutralized 208 drones across multiple regions during the night. Meanwhile, the explosion of a Russian drone in Galati, Romania, led Ukrainian officials to warn of a threat to all of Europe. Foreign Minister Andriï Sybiga stated that the incursion proves the danger to the Black Sea region and called for strong European Union sanctions.

UN BLACKLISTS ISRAEL AND RUSSIA FOR CONFLICT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

On May 28, 2026, a United Nations report added the security forces of Israel and Russia to a blacklist for sexual violence during conflicts. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres documented cases of rape, genital mutilation and forced nudity against detainees in Gaza and prisoners of war in Ukraine.

RUSSIA ORDERS KIEV EVACUATION

On May 26, 2026, Russian Foreign Minister Sergueï Lavrov warned foreign diplomats and citizens to evacuate Kiev ahead of strikes on decision-making centers. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriï Sybiga urged allies to ignore Russian threats and increase military aid while French officials refused to evacuate their personnel. A separate Russian strike in Odessa killed a 45-year-old man.

4 DEAD IN RUSSIAN BOMBARDMENTS ACROSS KHARKIV AND KRAMATORSK

On May 25, 2026, Russian strikes in eastern and northeastern Ukraine killed 4 people and injured approximately 22 others. Kharkiv Regional Governor Oleg Synegoubov reported that an attack killed 2 men aged 68 and 25 and injured 19 people while damaging a civilian enterprise. In Kramatorsk, Mayor Oleksandre Gontcharenko stated that 2 people died and 3 were injured after Russian forces dropped 4 bombs on residential and industrial zones.

6 CIVILIANS INCLUDING 2 CHILDREN KILLED BY UKRAINIAN STRIKES

On May 25, 2026, Ukrainian attacks in Russian border regions and occupied Donetsk resulted in 6 fatalities. Regional Governor of Bryansk Igor Kovaltchouk confirmed 1 death in Belaïa Beriozka while a drone strike killed a civilian in Graïvoron. In Horlivka, local administration head Ivan Prikhodko reported that 4 civilians including 2 children born in 2012 and 2013 were killed.

4 DEAD AS RUSSIA LAUNCHES HYPERSONIC ORECHNIK MISSILE AT KIEV

On May 24, 2026, Russian forces conducted a massive strike using 90 missiles and 600 drones which killed 4 people and injured over 100 in Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that Russia deployed the hypersonic Orechnik missile against Bila Tserkva. Mayor of Kiev Vitali Klitschko and city military administration head Tymour Tkatchenko reported that the capital was the primary target where 62 people including 2 children were also injured. Resident Sofia Melnychenko witnessed panic in a metro shelter as the ceiling crumbled during explosions. Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiga reported damage to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chernobyl Museum. Russian bombardments in central Kiev partially destroyed the studio of the German public broadcaster ARD. Studio head Vassili Golod stated that the facility suffered severe damage from a shockwave that shattered windows and collapsed walls.

18 KILLED IN UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE ON STAROBILSK VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

On May 23, 2026, Russian emergency services updated the death toll from the previous attack on the school in Starobilsk. Authorities reported that 18 people died and 3 remained missing following a Ukrainian drone strike on the dormitory and education building. Russian President Vladimir Poutine labeled the attack a terrorist act and promised a military response. The victims were mostly young women, as young as 16 years old. Ukrainian military officials denied targeting civilians and claimed they hit a Russian drone unit. The United Nations condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure but could not verify details in the Russian-controlled region.

2 INJURED AS UKRAINIAN DRONES IGNITE RUSSIAN OIL DEPOT

On May 23, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack sparked a fire at an oil depot and export terminal in Novorossiysk. Mayor of Novorossiysk Andreï Kravtchenko reported that falling debris set fire to buildings. The strike resulted in 2 injuries and required specialized emergency services to intervene at the site.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE WARNS OF DEGRADED HUMAN RIGHTS IN SERBIA

On May 22, 2026, Human Rights Commissioner Michael O’Flaherty reported a degradation of the human rights situation in Serbia over the past year. The commissioner cited violent responses to protests following a station roof collapse in Novi Sad that killed 16 people in November 2024. O’Flaherty reported excessive police force, arrests of peaceful protesters and physical threats against journalists. The report warned about a hateful discourse in media labeling civil society members as traitors.

AT LEAST 6 KILLED DURING UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE ON LUGANSK SCHOOL

On May 22, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike on a school and dormitory in the occupied Lugansk region killed at least 6 people and injured 40. Russian President Vladimir Poutine reported that 16 drones targeted the building in Starobelsk in 3 waves and left 15 people missing. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that the dormitory collapsed while 86 teenagers aged 14 to 18 were inside. Governor Léonid Passetchnik published images of the destroyed buildings and Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov called for the punishment of those responsible for the attack. Russians requested an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council.

3 RAILWAY EMPLOYEES KILLED BY UKRAINIANS IN BRIANSK

On May 21, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack killed 3 employees of the Russian railway company in the Briansk region. The company reported that a driver, an assistant and a technician died when the drone hit a service locomotive at the Ounetcha station located near the borders of Ukraine and Belarus. The Russian Ministry of Defense stated that it intercepted drones over 12 regions during a 5-hour period. Ukraine has intensified these strikes while diplomatic efforts to end the conflict remain stalled.

2 KILLED DURING UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE ON SYZRAN, UKRAINE DEPLOYS FORCES TO DEFEND BELARUS BORDER

On May 21, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed 2 people in the city of Syzran located in the Samara region of Russia. Governor Viatcheslav Fedorichtchev confirmed the deaths and reported additional injuries. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed responsibility for the long range strike which targeted oil infrastructure over 800 kilometers from the border. The Ukrainian unmanned systems forces reported that a major fire broke out at the refinery. Meanwhile, Ukrainian security services (SBU) announced an unprecedented deployment of forces to reinforce the northern border with Belarus. These measures involve the police, army, national guard and border guards across 5 regions including Kiev and Tcherniguiv, to deter infiltration and sabotage. Belarusian President Alexandre Loukachenko stated that his country is ready to defend Russia by all means. Russia and Belarus concluded joint military exercises involving nuclear-capable missiles.

3 FINNISH CITIZENS SUSPECTED OF ILLEGAL EXPORTATION TO RUSSIA

On May 20, 2026, Finnish Customs announced that 3 citizens are suspected of exporting 135 trucks and 29 trailers worth 17.5 million euros to Russia. The investigation revealed that the company Idän liikenneväilytys IL oy claimed the vehicles were destined for Kazakhstan and Turkey between 2022 and 2023 when they were actually sold in Russia. Petteri Nevalainen who heads economic crime investigations stated that authorities have requested the confiscation of the value of the exported goods. The owner and 2 employees face charges for aggravated regulatory violations and 1 individual is in custody.

CHINESE ARMY SECRETLY TRAINING RUSSIAN SOLDIERS FOR THE WAR IN UKRAINE

On May 20, 2026, reports from the German newspaper Die Welt revealed that the Chinese army has secretly trained several hundred Russian soldiers on its territory. These troops participated in programs at 6 military sites focusing on unmanned systems and electronic countermeasures. Some participants belonged to the elite Rubicon drone unit and were deployed to command positions in Ukraine in early 2026. A spokesperson for the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that this support constitutes a threat to European security. Marc Henrichmann who is the president of the Bundestag secret services control commission noted the increasingly close cooperation between Vladimir Poutine and Xi Jinping. The report also claimed that Moscow trained 600 Chinese soldiers and shared information on Western weapons like Patriot air defense systems.

VILNIUS LEADERS AND POPULATION EVACUATED AFTER DRONE ALERT

On May 20, 2026, a drone alert in Vilnius forced President Gitanas Nauseda and Prime Minister Inga Ruginiene to relocate to emergency shelters. The alert paralyzed transport and flights at the international airport while the army activated the NATO air policing mission with Romanian F-16 jets. Crisis management chief Vilmantas Vitkauskas confirmed a drone was observed in the district after radar signals were detected near the Belarus border. Witness described taking shelter in a basement. This incident follows the recent resignation of Latvian Prime Minister Evika Silina due to defense concerns.

2 KILLED BY RUSSIAN ATTACK ON DNIPRO

On May 20, 2026, a Russian attack during the night killed 2 people and injured 6 others in Dnipro. Oleksandr Ganzha who is the head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration stated that 5 of the injured were hospitalized and 3 are in serious condition. Oleg Grygorov, the military head for the Soumy region reported 6 injuries during a massive drone attack in Konotop. In Vilniansk, regional military head Ivan Fedorov confirmed that a strike on a private residence injured 1 man, 1 woman and 2 children aged 2 and 12. Oleg Synegubov, who is the head of the Kharkiv region, also reported a drone attack in the Novobavarsky district. Rescue services noted that strikes in Odessa damaged residential areas and warehouses.

4 CIVILIANS KILLED BY RUSSIAN STRIKES

On May 19, 2026, Russian missile and drone attacks killed 4 people and injured over 20 others in the Tcherniguiv and Soumy regions. Governor Viatcheslav Tchaous reported that a ballistic missile hit a local company in Prylouky which killed 2 people and injured 17 including a 14 year old child. The strike also damaged a shopping center and fire dept trucks. In Gloukhiv, 2 men were killed and 4 people were injured during a drone attack. The state company Naftogaz reported that its production facilities were targeted for a 3rd consecutive day. Additionally, the regional prosecutor's office announced that 6 people were wounded by a Russian bomb in Kramatorsk.

RUSSIA LAUNCHES 3 DAYS OF NUCLEAR DRILLS WITH BELARUS

On May 19, 2026, the Russian army began 3 days of nuclear force exercises involving over 65,000 military personnel. The Russian Ministry of Defense announced that the drills utilize 7,800 types of equipment including 200 missile launchers, ships and nuclear submarines. Testing includes Kinjal, Yars, Sineva, Iskander-M and Zircon missiles. These exercises include joint training for nuclear weapons deployed in Belarus. Russian President Vladimir Poutine described the development of nuclear forces as a top priority. This announcement followed the expiration of the New Start treaty. Russian Foreign Minister Sergueï Lavrov stated that Russia would respect nuclear limits if the United States did the same.

30 INJURED IN RUSSIAN MISSILE AND DRONE STRIKES

On May 18, 2026, Russian forces launched over 500 drones and 20 missiles against Ukraine which caused over 30 injuries. Governor Oleksandre Ganja reported that 26 people were injured in the Dnipropetrovsk region where strikes hit 6 districts and blew out windows in Dnipro. Local authorities confirmed that 5 additional people were wounded in Odessa, Kherson and Zaporijjia. The Ukrainian Air Force reported that while most of the drones were intercepted, only 4 out of 22 missiles were shot down due to a shortage of PAC-3 missiles for Patriot systems.

4 DEAD AS 600 UKRAINIAN DRONES TARGET RUSSIA

On May 17, 2026, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described a massive attack involving approximately 600 drones against Russia as entirely justified. Governor Andreï Vorobiov of the Moscow region reported that 1 woman and 2 men including 1 Indian citizen were killed near the capital. Moscow Mayor Sergueï Sobianine stated that 12 workers were injured near a refinery. In the Belgorod region, another man was killed in the Chebekino district when a drone hit a truck. Robert Brovdi who is known as "Madyar" and serves as the commander of the Ukrainian drone systems forces explained that these strikes target the defense industry and oil facilities.

1 CIVILIAN KILLED BY UKRAINIAN DRONE IN BELGOROD

On May 16, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack killed 1 civilian man in the locality of Krassnaïa Iarouga located in the Belgorod region. Regional authorities confirmed that the drone targeted a vehicle.

UKRAINIAN ARMY DEVELOPS AUTONOMOUS AI DRONE SWARMS

On May 15, 2026, military officials in Lviv discussed the deployment of hundreds of AI controlled drones designed to attack targets autonomously. Deputy Commander in Chief Andrii Lebedenko stated the goal is to compensate for Russia's numerical advantage and save soldiers' lives. Defense Minister Mykhaïlo Fedorov launched the Defense AI Center A1 to manage these innovations. Danylo Tsvok, director of the center, confirmed drone swarms are in testing. Alex Fink, director of the company Swarmer, stated their technology has been used in combat since April 2024.

205 PRISONERS OF WAR EXCHANGED BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

On May 15, 2026, the Russian army announced the exchange of 205 prisoners of war from each side following an agreement mentioned by U.S. President Donald Trump. The 205 Russian soldiers returned from territories controlled by Kiev to the Republic of Belarus for medical and psychological assistance. In exchange, 205 members of the Ukrainian armed forces were released. The United Arab Emirates provided mediation efforts for this operation.

4 KILLED AND 12 INJURED IN UKRAINIAN DRONE ATTACK ON RYAZAN

On May 15, 2026, the Russian Investigative Committee reported that a Ukrainian drone attack killed 4 people and injured at least 12 others in the city of Ryazan. The strikes damaged 2 buildings and industrial installations. Local Governor Pavel Malkov stated that Ukrainian drones targeted the region overnight while the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed to have downed a total of 355 drones.

36 NATIONS AND EU BACK SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOR UKRAINE

On May 15, 2026, Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, announced that 34 member states, Australia, Costa Rica and the European Union approved the creation of a special tribunal. Meeting in Chisinau, Moldova, the Committee of Ministers established the steering committee for this instance originally proposed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The European Commission will contribute 10,000,000 euros to the project.

UKRAINE WAR CAUSES GENERATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

On May 15, 2026, Jarno Habicht, the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in Ukraine, warned that the psychological stress from the war will affect generations. According to WHO data, 10,000,000 people have needed mental health support

since March 2022 and 71% of the population suffers from anxiety, stress and insomnia. Habicht noted that this stress caused physical health deterioration, including an 11% increase in stroke hospitalizations and a 7% increase in myocardial infarctions. The crisis is more severe among the more than 3,000,000 internally displaced persons. Additionally, over 3,000 attacks on healthcare infrastructure and transport have been recorded since the start of the war, resulting in at least 239 deaths and 991 injuries. Habicht emphasized that healthcare workers are under constant threat.

RUSSIA TORTURES AND DETAINS 16,000 UKRAINIAN CIVILIANS

NGO reports identified that Russia is holding over 16,000 Ukrainian civilians in 161 official and 42 unofficial detention centers, including “cellars, homes, garages and former administrative buildings”. Petro Yatsenko, spokesperson for the Coordination Center for the Treatment of Prisoners of War, stated that these civilians are held without legal basis to suppress resistance. The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) found that 92% of detainees including victims like Viktoria Kletchenko and Iouri Chapovalov were subjected to torture such as electric shocks and sexual violence. Human rights activists Oleksandra Matviichuk, Olga Skrypnyk, Vira Iastrebova and Igor Kotelianets emphasized that these mass incarcerations in territories like Kherson and Crimea constitute war crimes.

LATVIAN PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS OVER UKRAINIAN DRONE INTRUSIONS

On May 14, 2026, Prime Minister Evika Silina announced her resignation after losing coalition support following the dismissal of Defense Minister Andris Spruds. Silina blamed Spruds for failing to prevent Ukrainian drones from entering Latvian airspace. On May 7, 2 drones crashed in Latvia after being jammed by Russian defences, with one causing a fire at a petroleum storage site in Rezekne. Another drone incident occurred on March 25. President Edgars Rinkevics will meet political parties to form a new government while President Volodymyr Zelensky promised to send experts to modernize Latvian air defences.

RUSSIAN PRISON POPULATION DROPS BY 180,000 DURING WAR

On May 14, 2026, prison administration chief Arkadi Gostiev revealed that Russia’s inmate population fell from 465,000 in 2021 to 282,000 today. This 40% decrease is largely attributed to military recruitment since 2022 where prisoners including those convicted of serious crimes receive freedom for serving at the front. Gostiev noted that 16,000 additional inmates were deployed for military manufacturing producing goods worth 5.5 billion roubles. Total production in detention centers reached 47 billion roubles in 2025. This labor system reflects an economy of war addressing labor shortages caused by mobilization and emigration. Media reports indicate former soldiers frequently commit new crimes upon returning home.

10 KILLED IN MASSIVE RUSSIAN BOMBARDMENT OF KIEV

On May 14, 2026, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Russian strikes on Kiev killed at least 10 people including a 12-year-old child and injured 45 others. The attack involved 675 drones and 56 missiles overnight with most being shot down by air defenses. Mayor Vitali Klitschko declared a day of mourning after damage was recorded at over 20 sites including a 9 story residential building. This attack coincided with a summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping. Zelensky reported that Russia has used over 1,560 drones and criticized the strike on a UN vehicle in southern Ukraine.

6 KILLED AS RUSSIA LAUNCHES 800 DRONES

On May 13, 2026, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Russian drone attacks killed 6 people across Ukraine. Casualties included 3 victims in Rivne, 2 in Kherson and 1 in Zaporijjia. Ukrainian intelligence suggested Russia used drones to overload air defenses before targeting essential infrastructure.

1 PERSON KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS IN DNIPROPETROVSK

On May 12, 2026, Governor Oleksandr Ganja announced that Russian attacks on the Dnipropetrovsk region in eastern Ukraine killed at least 1 person and injured 4 others. These strikes occurred overnight following the expiration of a 3 day truce. Ganja shared these details on Telegram.

RUSSIA TESTS SARMAT INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE

On May 12, 2026, President Vladimir Poutine announced the test of the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile which will be operational for combat by the end of this year. This missile, nicknamed Satan II, reportedly has a range exceeding 35,000 kilometers. The test occurred following the February expiration of the New Start treaty between Moscow and Washington. While Russian Foreign Minister Sergueï Lavrov assured the country would observe arsenal limits if the U.S. does the same, U.S. President Donald Trump has called for a new treaty including China. Pavel Podvig from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research noted the deployment will not significantly change deterrence potential.

EU SANCTIONS RUSSIANS FOR FORCED TRANSFER OF 20,500 CHILDREN

On May 11, 2026, the European Union announced sanctions against 16 individuals and 7 organizations accused of the forced transfer of nearly 20,500 Ukrainian children to Russia. EU Foreign Policy Chief Kaja Kallas denounced these transfers as aimed at erasing the future generation of Ukraine. Sanctioned entities include structures linked to the Russian Ministry of Education involved in indoctrination and militarization. European officials identified 210 sites in Crimea and Siberia dedicated to cultural erasure. While international mediation helped return 2,100 children, many remain displaced.

7 CIVILIANS INJURED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS DURING CEASEFIRE

On May 10, 2026, Ukrainian authorities reported that Russian attacks injured at least 7 civilians including a child during the ongoing 3 day ceasefire. In the Synelnykove district, a 3 year old girl was hospitalized in stable condition after a drone attack. A 23 year old rescuer was injured in Nikopol while drones also wounded a 19 year old man and a 62 year old woman in critical condition in Kherson. In Mykolaïv, a 68 year old man and a 63 year old woman were hurt when a drone struck their vehicle. Another 52 year old man was injured in Zaporijjia.

RUSSIA AND UKRAINE ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS

On May 9, 2026, Russia and Ukraine exchanged accusations of violating a 3 day temporary ceasefire announced by U.S. President Donald Trump. Vladimir Poutine stated he had not received any prisoner exchange proposals from Ukraine despite the truce agreement. The Ukrainian general staff reported 51 attacks, while the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed Ukrainian groups launched drone and artillery strikes. In the Zaporijjia and Dnipropetrovsk regions, Russian drones killed 2 civilians and injured 3 others.

RUSSIA ACCEPTS 3 DAY TRUCE

On May 8, 2026, Russian Diplomatic Advisor Iouri Ouchakov confirmed Russia will observe a 3 day truce and exchange prisoners of war with Ukraine. The ceasefire runs from May 9 to May 11 This announcement coincides with the commemoration of the victory over Nazi Germany and aims to facilitate the return of captured soldiers.

REPORT EXPOSES SYSTEMATIC TORTURE OF POW IN RUSSIA

On May 8, 2026, a report involving testimonies from former Russian prison agents and NGO Gulagu.net director Vladimir Ossetchkine detailed systematic violence against Ukrainian detainees. An ex-agent identified as Alexeï described the death of a young lieutenant in October 2022 after he was denied care for gangrenous wounds resulting from severe beatings. Ukrainian authorities reported that 89% of released prisoners suffered mistreatment including sexual violence. Documented methods include electrocution and starvation where prisoners reportedly ate cockroaches and mice.

LARGE FOREST FIRE IN CHERNOBYL EXCLUSION ZONE, 3.000 ATTACKS ON HEALTH STRUCTURES

On May 8, 2026, Ukrainian authorities reported a significant forest fire in the Chernobyl exclusion zone following a drone crash. Reserve Director Denis Nesterov estimated the fire has spread to approximately 1.180 hectares while Chernigiv Governor Viatcheslav Tchaous claimed the area affected reached 40 square kilometers. Tchaous accused Russian forces of causing the fire and preventing firefighters from operating by hovering drones over the sector. Despite the intense smoke, Ukrainian rescue services assured that radioactivity levels remain within normal limits. On the same day, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that

over 3.000 attacks have targeted healthcare facilities in Ukraine since February 2022. WHO Europe Director Hans Kluge stated that 80% of these incidents hit hospitals or care centers while 20% involved ambulances or medical vehicles. He condemned these attacks as violations of international humanitarian law. The damage to infrastructure has severely limited the capacity of medical personnel to provide essential care for the 12.7 million people requiring humanitarian aid.

19 KENYANS KILLED AFTER RUSSIAN RECRUITMENT

On May 7, 2026, Kenyan Foreign Minister Musalia Mudavadi announced that 19 Kenyan citizens irregularly recruited by Russia died on the front. Speaking before a senate commission, he added that 32 others are missing in action and 2 are currently detained as POW in Ukraine. The ministry has identified 291 victims of irregular military recruitment while intelligence services previously estimated over 1.000 recruits. Victims were often promised well paid civilian jobs before being forced to sign military contracts. 53 recruits have been repatriated to this date.

KREMLIN CONFIRMS 2 DAY CEASEFIRE, UKRAINIAN DRONES TARGETS 20 RUSSIAN REGIONS

On May 7, 2026, Russian Presidential Spokesperson Dmitri Peskov confirmed a 2 day ceasefire in Ukraine starting May 8. The truce marks the commemorations of the 1945 victory against Nazi Germany. While Kiev proposed its own ceasefire earlier, Peskov stated the Russian side had no reaction to that initiative. Later that day, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced it shot down 347 Ukrainian drones across its territory during the 2 previous days. Belgorod Regional Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov reported that a woman was killed and 2 men were injured during an attack in the Chebekino district. In Briansk, Regional Governor Aleksandr Bogomaz stated that Ukrainian strikes hit residential buildings and injured 13 people during the night. The attacks targeted 20 regions including Moscow.

POLAND WARNS OF UNPRECEDENTED RUSSIAN HYBRID ATTACKS

On May 6, 2026, the Polish Internal Security Agency (ABW) reported an unprecedented surge in hybrid attacks organized by Russian special services. The agency opened 69 espionage investigations over the last 2 years which equals the total for the previous 3 decades. ABW highlighted serious challenges from sabotage operations targeting military installations and public buildings supporting Ukraine. Since 2022, 82 individuals have been charged with espionage including 62 placed in detention. The report noted that Russia uses intermediaries recruited online and paid in cryptocurrency.

UKRAINE ACCUSES RUSSIA OF VIOLATING UNILATERAL CEASEFIRE

On May 6, 2026, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiga accused Russia of ignoring a unilateral truce after a wave of overnight attacks. Ukrainian authorities reported that

Russian forces fired drones and missiles targeting cities including Kharkiv and Zaporijjia. Regional Governor Oleg Grygorov confirmed the death of 1 woman in the Soumy region. Ukrainian forces in Kramatorsk responded to the fire.

RUSSIA URGES EMBASSIES TO EVACUATE KIEV, 28 CIVILIANS KILLED ACROSS UKRAINE

On May 6, 2026, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs exhorted foreign embassies to evacuate their personnel from Kiev ahead of planned retaliatory strikes. Moscow warned that any disruption to the May 9 Victory Day celebrations would result in strikes against decision centers in the Ukrainian capital. Russian Presidential Spokesperson Dmitri Peskov stated security services have taken additional measures to protect commemorations. Russian bombardments killed at least 28 people in Ukraine just before the start of a potential truce. Strikes hit several regions including Zaporijjia where 12 people died and Kramatorsk where 6 fatalities were recorded. Other victims were reported in Dnipro, Poltava, Kharkiv, and Nikopol. Simultaneously, a Ukrainian drone attack in occupied Crimea killed 5 people in Dzhankoi according to local official Sergey Aksyonov.

RUSSIA RESTRICTS INTERNET

On May 5, 2026, Russian authorities briefly cut mobile internet access in central Moscow ahead of Victory Day celebrations. The Ministry of Digital Technologies stated the temporary block was necessary to face security threats including enemy drones. Mobile operators including MTS, Megafon, and Beeline warned subscribers of possible disruptions to payment services and geolocation until May 9. Russia has already imposed precedent setting digital restrictions on WhatsApp and Telegram citing national security.

5 PEOPLE KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKES ON GAS SITES, 17 CIVILIANS KILLED IN ZAPORIJJIA & KRAMATORSK

On May 5, 2026, Russian bombardments killed at least 5 people in the Poltava and Kharkiv regions according to Ukrainian authorities. Naftogaz CEO Serguii Koretsky reported that 3 employees and 2 rescuers died during a combined attack involving drones and ballistic missiles. Regional Head Vitalii Diakivnytych corrected an earlier report stating 4 individuals died and 37 were injured in Poltava. Another Russian aerial attack killed at least 12 people in the city of Zaporijjia according to Regional Governor Ivan Fedorov. More bombardments killed 5 civilians and injured 5 others in the center of Kramatorsk. Regional Governor Vadym Filachkine reported that Russian forces dropped 3 bombs on the city center around 5:00 PM. The attack targeted a bastion of the Ukrainian army.

9 CIVILIANS KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS ON MEREFA AND VILNIANSK

On May 04, 2026, Russian strikes killed 9 civilians in 2 Ukrainian cities according to local authorities. A missile strike on Merefa killed 7 individuals and injured over 30 others including

a 2 year old boy. Kharkiv Regional Governor Oleg Synegoubov identified the victims as 4 men and 3 women while the regional prosecutor noted the use of an Iskander ballistic missile. A witness reported finding his wife deceased in her car during the attack. In Vilniansk, a Russian drone strike killed a couple and injured 4 people including their son. The strike hit a market and a church in the southern Zaporijjia region.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKES MOSCOW

On May 04, 2026, Moscow Mayor Sergueï Sobianine reported that a Ukrainian drone strike damaged a residential building in the western part of the capital. The drone hit a structure on Mosfilmovskaïa street and no injuries were reported. Air defense systems shot down 2 other drones during the night and neutralized a 4th device the following morning. The incident occurred as Russia prepares for May 9 celebrations of “Victory Day”.

RUSSIAN FORCES LOSE TERRITORY

On May 04, 2026, an analysis of data from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) revealed Russian controlled territory in Ukraine decreased by 120 square kilometers in April. The ISW attributed the gain to Ukrainian ground counter attacks, mid-range strikes, and the suspension of Starlink terminal use by Russian forces in February. Despite this marginal regression representing 0.02% of Ukrainian territory, Russia continues to occupy over 19% of the country. Analysts noted that seasonal spring rains have also degraded troop movement conditions.

2 TEENAGERS KILLED BY DRONE IN BELGOROD

On May 1, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed 2 teenagers in the Russian village of Voltchya Alexandrovka. Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov stated that the drone targeted a motorcycle carrying 2 young men aged 18 and 15 who died because of the explosion. This incident occurred in the Belgorod region as Russia continues to bomb Ukrainian essential infrastructure. Efforts for a diplomatic solution under US mediation remain stalled.

DEADLY CROSS BORDER STRIKES KILL CIVILIANS

On April 28, 2026, military operations on both sides of the border resulted in at least 6 deaths and several injuries. In Russia, Belgorod Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov reported that Ukrainian drone strikes killed 3 civilians including 1 man in Voznessenovka and a couple in Bobrava while 3 others were wounded. Regional authorities also confirmed 1 man died in the Briansk region. A Ukrainian strike targeted an oil refinery in Touapsé causing a fire and leading Regional Governor Veniamin Kondratiev to order the evacuation of nearby streets. In Ukraine, head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration Oleksandr Ganja confirmed that a Russian strike killed a 40 year old man and wounded 5 others in Kryvyi Rig. Local authorities also reported that a 70 year old man died in Tchouguïv during a bombardment of a residential

neighborhood. Additionally, strong explosions were recorded in the center of Kyiv during a rare daytime attack.

EMPLOYEE KILLED AT NUCLEAR PLANT

On April 27, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed an employee at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. Russian administrators of the occupied site identified the victim as a driver working in the transport workshop. While the International Atomic Energy Agency continues to warn against military actions that could trigger a nuclear accident, both sides have repeatedly accused each other of endangering the facility. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of nuclear terrorism on the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl accident.

BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE, MORE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

On April 26, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack in the Crimean port of Sevastopol killed 1 man and wounded 3 others. Governor Mikhail Razvozhaev confirmed that the victim, born in 1983, was killed while inside a vehicle. The governor reported damage to a dance school and several houses across the city. This operation follows a day of intense Russian strikes in Dnipro where Ukrainian authorities recorded at least 8 deaths. Meanwhile, new Russian strikes across Ukraine killed at least 3 people. In Soumy province, head of the local military administration Oleg Grygorov reported that drones killed 2 men aged 48 and 72 in Bilopillia. Head of the Dnipropetrovsk military administration Olexandre Ganja confirmed 1 death and 4 injuries from missile and drone fire. Mayor Boris Filatov described Dnipro as a target of vast attacks lasting over 20 hours. Romanian authorities also confirmed a Russian drone crashed near the border.

ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSE RELEASE OF RATKO MLADIC

On April 25, 2026, several Bosnian victims' associations asked international justice to refuse the transfer of former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic to Serbia. The 84 year old general, who is serving a life sentence for genocide and crimes against humanity at the UN detention center in The Hague, reportedly suffered a stroke on April 10. His son Darko Mladic stated that a formal request for provisional release was filed by his lawyer to the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals presided by Graciela Gatti Santana. The Mothers of Srebrenica organization and 4 other associations argued that allowing him to leave international supervision would be a deep injustice and a humiliation for victims. Ratko Mladic was arrested in 2011 after 16 years on the run for his role in the 1992-1995 war which killed nearly 100,000 people including 8,000 men and teenagers systematically murdered in Srebrenica.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 5 IN DNIPRO & UKRAINIAN STRIKE KILLS 1 IN BELGOROD

On April 25, 2026, Russian strikes in the industrial city of Dnipro killed at least 5 people and wounded 34 others. Head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional military administration Oleksandr Ganja reported that victims include a 9 year old boy and a 17 year old girl. An apartment building was heavily damaged during the attacks. In the Zaporijjia region, head of the administration Ivan Fedorov announced that a Russian drone strike on a civil minibus killed 1 person and wounded 4 others. Separately, Moscow authorities reported 1 death and 3 injuries: in the Belgorod region, Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov reported that a Ukrainian drone strike on a car killed a woman and wounded others.

2 KILLED IN ODESSA STRIKES

On April 24, 2026, emergency services announced that Russian strikes on Odessa killed 2 people and wounded 14. The attack targeted 4 buildings in the southern Ukrainian port city located on the Black Sea. Regional authorities reported the strike occurred during the night and 8 of the injured were hospitalized. During a summit in Cyprus, European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky celebrated a 90-billion-euro loan to fund the war.

5 KILLED IN RUSSIAN BOMBARDMENT

On April 24, 2026, Ukrainian authorities announced that Russian strikes killed 5 people across the country. Military administrator Sergiy Lysak reported that a 75 year old married couple died in their home during a night attack on Odessa. Emergency services released photos of a gutted building and burning cars in the port city. In the Kherson region, administrator Oleksandre Prokoudine stated that a drone strike killed a 68 year old man and a woman. Another 60 year old woman died during shelling in the Kharkiv region according to official Oleg Synegoubov. These casualties are part of nearly 15,000 civilian deaths recorded since the 2022 invasion. Kiev continues to retaliate with strikes on Russian territory.

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA EXCHANGE PRISONERS

On April 24, 2026, Ukraine and Russia announced the exchange of 193 prisoners of war from each side. The Russian military stated that the United States and the United Arab Emirates provided mediation for the operation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed the return of the fighters including wounded personnel and those facing Russian criminal charges. Coordination Center spokesperson Petro Iatsenko noted that many released Ukrainians were previously held in Chechnya. He stated the youngest prisoner was 24 and the oldest was 60. These exchanges remain the only concrete results of direct talks since February.

DEADLY STRIKES IN DNIPRO AND RUSSIA

On April 23, 2026, Russian strikes killed at least 4 people in Ukraine while 2 deaths were reported in Russia from Ukrainian attacks. Regional official Oleksandr Ganja stated that a strike in Dnipro killed 3 people and wounded 10 others including 2 girls aged 9 and 14. The attack damaged an apartment building, a shop, and a vehicle. In northern Ukraine, Jytomyr

regional head Vitali Bounetchko announced that a Russian drone strike killed a woman at a transport infrastructure site. In Russia, Samara Governor Viatcheslav Fedorichtchev reported 1 death in Novokouïbychevsk after Ukrainian drone debris hit a residential complex. Belgorod Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov also confirmed that a civilian was killed in a separate drone attack near the border. Authorities in southern Russia reported that black rain fell on Tuapse following a 4 day fire at a refinery. The facility was hit by a Ukrainian strike earlier in the week and 4 storage tanks continue to burn. Emergency management officials in Krasnodar stated that combustion products diffused into the atmosphere and returned to the ground with precipitation creating a black deposit on all surfaces.

DRONE STRIKES WOUND 25 IN UKRAINE

On April 21, 2026, Russian drone strikes across Ukraine wounded at least 25 people during the night. Local authorities reported that 15 people were injured in the city of Soumy near the border where many elderly residents were affected. The Ukrainian Air Force stated that Russia launched 2 missiles and 143 drones while air defences successfully shot down 1 missile and 116 drones. Other injuries were recorded in the Kharkiv and Sloviansk regions while 4 people were wounded in Dnipropetrovsk. Regional official Oleg Grigorov confirmed that emergency operations were interrupted several times by new threats.

RUSSIAN PUBLISHER RAIDED FOR LGBT LITERATURE

On April 21, 2026, Russian police raided Eksmo, which is the largest publishing house in the country, for allegedly distributing LGBT literature. The TASS news agency reported that law enforcement searched several addresses belonging to the company founded in 1991. General Director Evguéni Kapiev was targeted in the investigation according to security sources. This action follows the May 2025 arrest of 10 employees including the distribution director for similar charges. The case reportedly involves books that features LGBT themes. The Kremlin has intensified conservative rhetoric since the 2022 invasion of Ukraine portraying the conflict as a battle against Western values. In late 2023, the Russian Supreme Court banned the international LGBT movement for extremism.

RUSSIAN PORT ATTACKED BY DRONES, GERMAN WOMAN ARRESTED FOR BOMB PLOT

On April 20, 2026, a drone strike killed 1 person in the Russian city of Tuapse on the Black Sea. Krasnodar Governor Veniamin Kondratiev reported that the victim died at the maritime port while another man was injured and received medical assistance. The attack also caused a fire at the port facilities. This is the 2nd time in less than a week that the city has been targeted by Ukrainian drones. On the same day, Russian security services announced the arrest of a German woman accused of planning a bombing in Piatigorsk. The FSB stated the woman born in 1969 carried an artisanal explosive device in her backpack intended for a target near security force facilities. Authorities claim a person from Central Asia acting on Ukrainian orders trained her. The explosive charge was allegedly provided by Ukrainian intelligence. FSB officials reported that electronic jamming prevented the explosion. A male suspect from Central Asia

born in 1997 was also detained and accused of planning to trigger the device remotely. The Zvezda television channel aired a video of the suspects confession where the woman said she was offered a high paying job by someone with a Ukrainian accent.

UN EXPERTS DENOUNCE BELARUS PRISON TORTURE

On April 20, 2026, a group of 17 UN experts expressed grave concern regarding alarming detention conditions in the Novopolotsk penal colony. The experts cited reports of prolonged solitary confinement, physical punishment and denial of medical care. The report specifically highlighted the case of blogger Ihar Losik who was arbitrarily detained from June 2022 to September 2025 on political charges. Ihar Losik was among 52 political prisoners released in September 2025 as Belarus President Alexandre Loukachenko attempted to improve relations with US President Donald Trump. Experts noted that Ihar Losik attempted suicide twice while in custody and was punished for it. They also mentioned the 2023 death of an elderly prisoner who died in isolation without adequate care. A separate UN report condemned the Belarus government decision to invalidate passports of former political prisoners forced into exile. NGO Viasna estimates that over 1100 political prisoners remain in Belarus.

EUROPOL LOCATES FORCIBLY TRANSFERRED CHILDREN

On April 20, 2026, Europol announced it located 45 Ukrainian children who were forcibly displaced during the conflict. The operation involved 40 investigators from 18 countries using open-source intelligence in collaboration with the International Criminal Court and NGOs. Kiev has documented nearly 20,000 children transferred to Russia, Belarus, or Russian occupied territories. Europol reported that some children were adopted by Russian citizens while others were sent to re-education camps or psychiatric hospitals. A UN commission previously concluded that Russian actions including forced transfers and disappearances of children constitute crimes against humanity. In 2023, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Vladimir Poutine regarding these illegal deportations.

TEENAGER KILLED IN CHERNIHIV ATTACK

On April 19, 2026, a 16 year old boy was killed during a Russian attack on the northern city of Chernihiv. Local administration head Dmytro Bryjynsky confirmed the fatality and reported that 4 other people were wounded. The strikes damaged 7 houses and 2 public buildings. Regional authorities stated that frequent attacks this week have severely impacted energy infrastructure leaving thousands of residents without electricity.

FATAL SHOOTING ROCKS KIEV

On April 18, 2026, 6 people died and over 12 were wounded during a shootout in Kiev. According to General Prosecutor Rouslan Kravtchenko, the suspect opened fire in a residential neighborhood before barricading himself in a supermarket and taking hostages. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that the attacker killed 4 people on the

street and 1 hostage before being neutralized by police. A woman died later in the hospital while 14 others were injured. Interior Minister Igor Klymenko stated the suspect was born in 1968 and used a registered weapon. Police Chief Ivan Vygivsky noted the man served in the military until 2005 and lived in Russia until 2017. Authorities have opened a terrorism investigation.

RUSSIA TRAINS YOUTH FOR PROPAGANDA WAR

On April 17, 2026, Russian authorities gathered 120 adolescents in Moscow to train them as pro-war influencers. Vladislav Golovine, a former soldier, stated the program aims to spread state values through artificial intelligence and online content. The “Movement of the First”, which claims 14 million online members, organized competitions for the best patriotic blogs. Russian President Vladimir Putin previously emphasized that teachers are essential for winning wars. Experts Keir Giles and Veronika Solopova warned that these 14 to 16 year old youths are easy to radicalize through social media algorithms. Former Georgian official Giorgi Revishvili and analyst Dietmar Pichler noted that short digital formats are powerful tools for Kremlin narratives.

BLOODY NIGHT OF CROSS BORDER STRIKES, A POLISH SENTENCED BY RUSSIA

On April 16, 2026, massive Russian strikes killed at least 19 civilians and wounded 111 across Ukraine. In Odessa alone, 9 people died. In Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed the deaths of a woman and a 12 year old boy. In Russia, Ukrainian drones killed a 14 year old girl and another woman in Touapse. Governor Veniamin Kondratiev declared a state of emergency in the Krasnodar region. In Luhansk, a Russian controlled court sentenced Polish national Krzysztof Flaczek to 13 years in prison for being a mercenary fighting for Ukraine.

CIVILIANS KILLED IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

On April 14, 2026, Russian strikes killed at least 7 people in Ukraine including a woman in Kherson and an 8 year old boy in Tcherkassy. Regional governor Oleksandr Ganja reported 4 deaths and 25 wounded in Dnipro where a commerce was destroyed. In Russia, a drone strike killed 1 woman in her home in Ielets, according to Lipetsk governor Igor Artamonov.

DRONE WARFARE ESCALATES AS TRUCE EXPIRES

On April 13, 2026, new reports emerged of forced recruitment of African nationals by Russia. A Equatorial Guinean student alerted being forced to sign Russian documents and sent to Donetsk. The Cameroon government published a list of 16 citizens killed on the front after similar manipulations by a recruiter known as “Fabrice”. All Eyes on Wagner identified 1,417 Africans enrolled by Moscow since 2023.

MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF ORTHODOX EASTER TRUCE, POW EXECUTED

On April 12, 2026, Ukraine and Russia accused each other of thousands of violations during a 32 hour Orthodox Easter ceasefire. The Ukrainian general staff recorded 2,299 Russian violations including 28 assaults and 1,045 FPV drone strikes. Simultaneously, the Russian Ministry of Defense claimed Ukrainian forces committed 1,971 violations including 1,329 drone strikes and 3 nocturnal attacks. Ukrainian prosecutors accused Russian soldiers of executing 4 Ukrainian prisoners of war near Veterynarné. Ukrainian prosecutors and the military based these accusations on drone footage of the killing.

PRISONER EXCHANGE, RUSSIAN JOURNALIST ARRESTED AND DEADLY STRIKES

On April 11, 2026, Russia and Ukraine exchanged 350 prisoners of war just hours before a scheduled Easter truce. Each side repatriated 175 military personnel according to the Russian Ministry of Defense. On the field, Russian strikes killed 2 people in an Odessa residential area and 1 person in the Poltava region where a drone hit a cafe. Regional leaders Serhii Lysak and Vitalii Diakivnych reported significant damage to civilian infrastructure including a school and university residence. In Soumy, regional head Oleg Grygorov reported 14 residents wounded by drones. Meanwhile, Finnish police discovered a crashed drone and an unexploded warhead in a forest. Ukraine apologized to Finland for the incident. In Russia, in the previous days, a Moscow court placed investigative journalist Oleg Roldouguine in pre-trial detention. The Tverskoï court accused the Novaïa Gazeta reporter and other unidentified individuals of illegally collecting and distributing personal data. Oleg Roldouguine previously investigated corruption involving former President Dmitri Medvedev and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. His lawyer Marina Andreïeva denounced the investigation for lacking factual evidence. Oleg Roldouguine claimed his innocence. Novaïa Gazeta has faced increased military censorship since the 2022 invasion and previously lost its publishing license.

CEASEFIRE ANNOUNCED FOR ORTHODOX EASTER

On April 9, 2026, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a temporary ceasefire with Ukraine for the upcoming Orthodox Easter holiday. The Kremlin stated the truce will start on April 11 at 16:00 and last until the end of April 12, 2026. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky previously proposed a similar pause through the United States.

OFFICES OF NOVAYA GAZETA RAIDED IN MOSCOW

On April 9, 2026, masked security forces raided the Moscow offices of the independent media outlet Novaïa Gazeta. Journalists were prevented from meeting with their lawyers during the perquisition. State news agencies suggested the raid was linked to investigative journalist Oleg Roldouguine, who was questioned after a search at his home. Roldouguine has investigated corruption involving Former President Dmitri Medvedev and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov. Novaïa Gazeta ceased publishing in 2022 due to military censorship but continues online. Several former staff members have been killed, including Anna Politkovskaïa

in 2006. Former editor-in-chief Dmitri Mouratov won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2021 for protecting freedom of expression.

MEMORIAL DECLARED AN EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION

On April 9, 2026, the Russian Supreme Court declared the human rights NGO Memorial an “extremist” organization. This decision criminalizes all association with the group. Memorial was founded in 1989 by figures like Andreï Sakharov to document Soviet crimes and was co-laureate of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize. Prosecutor Alexeï Jafiarov previously accused it of creating a false image of the USSR. Activists have been persecuted, including Natalia Estemirova, who was executed in 2009, and historian Iouri Dmitriev, who is serving 15 years. Russian President Vladimir Putin has moved to marginalize the memory of Soviet purges. Dissident Oleg Orlov and other leaders now work from abroad.

FORMER RADIO FREE EUROPE JOURNALIST ARRESTED FOR TREASON

On April 9, 2026, the Russian FSB announced the arrest of a former Radio Free Europe correspondent in Chita for suspected treason. The man, born in 1960, is accused of helping Ukraine prepare cyberattacks against a local media outlet and critical infrastructure. The FSB claims he shared information through a Telegram group controlled by Ukrainian security services. His identity was not released. Radio Free Europe is a US-funded media organization that Russia declared illegal in 2024. People convicted of treason in Russia can face life imprisonment.

UKRAINE LAUNCHES PRIVATE AIR DEFENSE INITIATIVE

On April 9, 2026, a senior military official announced that Ukraine is allowing private companies to establish their own air defense systems. Inspector General of the Ministry of Defense Iouri Myronenko stated that 16 companies already have permits to use heavy machine guns on remote-controlled turrets. This project aims to relieve the army from defending industrial sites against Russian Shahed drones. Companies must pass security checks. Private firms can now purchase weapons at their own expense and train employees to operate drones and interceptors.

FATAL STRIKES ON ZAPORIZHZHIA AND KRASNODAR

On April 9, 2026, a Russian strike on the Zaporijjia region in southern Ukraine killed 1 person and injured 4 more. Regional administration head Ivan Fedorov reported that several houses were destroyed in Balabyne. Zaporijjia is a major industrial city near the front line that faces near-daily attacks. Russian Regional Governor Veniamine Kondratiev reported that a civilian also died in Russia following a drone attack in the Krasnodar region.

CIVILIAN KILLED BY DRONE DEBRIS IN KRASNODAR

On April 9, 2026, a civilian died in the village of Sauk-Dere in southern Russia during a Ukrainian drone attack. Regional Governor Veniamine Kondratiev stated the man was killed by debris while on his balcony. Fragments also fell in a field near Krymsk and in the village of Moldavanskoe.

UN CONCERN OVER POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN SERBIA

On April 9, 2026, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk expressed serious concern regarding the shrinking civic space in Serbia. The statement followed reported violence during municipal elections held in late March. Türk noted constant attacks against critics and restrictions on independent media. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic claimed victory in the elections on March 30, which were marred by reports of voter intimidation and police raids on opposition offices. The Council of Europe observed irregularities and violence in 10 municipalities. Serbia currently ranks 96th out of 180 countries for press freedom.

ST PETERSBURG COURT SENTENCES ANTIWAR ACTIVISTS

On April 8, 2026, a court in St. Petersburg sentenced 6 Russian activists from the Vesna youth movement to prison terms of 6 to 12 years. Anna Arkhipova, Vassili Neoustroïev, Ian Ksenjepolski, Evguéni Zateïev, Pavel Sinelnikov and Valentin Khorochenine were convicted of participating in an “extremist” organization and spreading false information about the army. Arkhipova, 28, received the heaviest sentence, with 12 years of prison. Ksenjepolski was sentenced to 11 years and Neoustroïev to 10 years. Zateïev, 24, received 6 years and 2 months. The Vesna movement opposed the 2022 military mobilization ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

DRONE STRIKES KILL FAMILIES IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

On April 7, 2026, Russian bombardments killed at least 9 people in Ukraine, while a Ukrainian attack killed a family in Russia. In Nikopol, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky reported 4 deaths and 16 injuries after a Russian drone hit a bus. Kherson Regional Governor Oleksandre Prokoudine noted 4 deaths in a residential area. In the Dnipropetrovsk region, an 11-year-old child was killed and 3 people were wounded in Pokrovska. In Russia, Governor Alexandre Avdeev announced that a Ukrainian drone hit a residential building in the Vladimir region, roughly 1,000 kilometers from the border. The strike killed a couple and their 7-year-old son, while their 5-year-old daughter survived with burns.

CAMEROONIAN MILITARIES KILLED IN UKRAINE

On April 7, 2026, Russia confirmed the deaths of 16 Cameroonian contract soldiers serving in its ranks during the invasion of Ukraine. A note from the Cameroonian Ministry of Foreign Relations acknowledged receiving a list of the deceased from the Russian embassy in Yaoundé. Families have been asked to contact the ministry. This is the first time Cameroonian

authorities recognized the involvement of their citizens in the conflict. Ukraine estimates that 1,800 Africans have been enrolled by Russia. The collective All Eyes on Wagner identified 1,417 Africans recruited between 2023 and 2025, with over 300 deaths.

UKRAINE PROPOSED ENERGY TRUCE

On April 6, 2026, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Ukraine sent a proposal to Russia for a truce on energy infrastructure strikes. This proposal was transmitted through American mediators. Zelensky stated that if Russia is ready to stop hitting the Ukrainian energy sector, Ukraine would do the same.

RUSSIAN ATTACK KILLS 4 IN ODESSA & KHERSON

On April 6, 2026, overnight Russian drone attacks killed at least 3 people, including a child, and injured 16 people in Odessa. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that a 2-year-old child was among the victims. DTEK, a private electricity provider, stated that an energy infrastructure site was heavily damaged, leaving 16,000 households without power. Strikes also hit a residential building, causing a fire. Zelensky reported that Russia launched over 140 drones during the night, also damaging energy sites in Tcherniguiv, Soumy, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk. In Kherson, regional prosecutors noted a woman was killed and 3 people were injured by bombardments. Meanwhile, Krasnodar Regional Governor Veniamine Kondratiev reported 8 injuries from massive Ukrainian drone attacks.

DEADLY STRIKES ON NIKOPOL MARKET

On April 4, 2026, Russian strikes killed at least 6 people and injured dozens in Ukraine, including an attack on a market. A Russian drone strike on a Nikopol market in the Dnipropetrovsk region killed 5 people and injured 25. Regional military administration head Oleksandr Ganja noted that a 14-year-old girl and two men in critical condition. In Kherson, Governor Oleksandr Prokoudine reported 1 woman died and two others were injured at a public transport stop. In Kharkiv, 6 people including an 11-year-old girl were wounded. Night strikes then injured 14 people in Sumy and 3 in Dnipropetrovsk, including a 5-month-old baby and a 6-year-old boy. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to discuss security.

CARGO SHIP HIT IN ROSTOV

On April 4, 2026, a missile and drone attack on the Russian region of Rostov killed 1 person and injured 4 people. Regional Governor Iouri Slioussar reported that a missile hit commercial infrastructure in Taganrog. The 4 injured victims included 3 local residents and 1 foreign national, all in critical condition. In the Azov Sea, a foreign-flagged cargo ship caught fire after being hit by drone debris several kilometers from the coast.

MASSIVE DAYLIGHT RUSSIAN ATTACK ON UKRAINE

On April 3, 2026, the Russian army fired nearly 500 drones and missiles against Ukraine during the day, killing at least 14 people. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated these attacks were Russia's response to his proposal for a Paschal truce. Regional military administration head Vadym Filachkine reported at least 2 deaths and 3 injuries in Kramatorsk from 5 impacts. 1 person died in Bucha, 3 in the Sumy region, 2 in Jytomyr and Dnipro, and 8 in the frontline regions of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporijjia. Public operator Ukrenergo implemented emergency power cuts in several regions due to the damage. Zelensky invited American mediators to Kiev to relaunch peace talks while Washington remains focused on the war in Iran.

MASSIVE DAYTIME AERIAL ATTACK

On April 3, 2026, Russia launched nearly 500 drones and missiles against Ukraine during the day, killing at least 6 people. Deaths occurred in the Kiev, Jytomyr, Soumy and Kharkiv regions. Prime Minister Ioulia Svyrydenko reported emergency power cuts in Kiev, Tcherkassy and Jytomyr after Ukrenergo implemented measures.

CASUALTIES IN KHERSON AND DONETSK

On April 2, 2026, Russian strikes in Ukraine killed at least 2 people and injured dozens. In the Kherson region, a 42 year old man was killed when a drone hit a car and 16 others, including 3 police officers and a teenager, were injured. Regional official Vadym Filachkine reported 9 people injured in Droujkivka, Donetsk, where administrative buildings were damaged. Tcherniguiv military administration head Dmytro Bryjynsky announced 1 person was killed by a Russian missile hitting a local company.

STAGNATION OF RUSSIAN TERRITORIAL GAINS

On April 2, 2026, an analysis of Institute for the Study of War data showed the Russian army made no territorial gains in Ukraine during March. For the first time since September 2023, Russian forces receded in some areas. The slowdown is attributed to Ukrainian counter-offensives, bans on Russian Starlink terminals and Kremlin restrictions on Telegram. Russian authorities are forcing citizens toward the national Max platform. Russia lost ground between Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk but progressed near Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. At this point, Russia occupies slightly over 19% of Ukraine.

FATAL DRONE RAIDS IN UKRAINE

On April 1, 2026, Russia launched drones against Ukraine, resulting in 5 deaths. In central Ukraine, 4 people were killed during an air alert in the Zolotonocha district of Tcherkassy. In

the east, 1 woman was killed and 2 people were injured in Kherson. In western Loutsk, fires caused by strikes destroyed a food warehouse and a postal center. Zelensky is scheduled to discuss peace efforts with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, US Senator Lindsey Graham, US emissaries Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner.

HUNGARIAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN TENSIONS

On April 1, 2026, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban used Ukraine as a scapegoat in his campaign for the April 12 legislative elections. Historian Csilla Fedinec noted the campaign frames Ukraine as a risk while presenting Orban as a guarantor of stability. Tensions rose after Ukrainian oil deliveries via the Droujba pipeline stopped, leading Orban to block a 90 billion euro European loan to Ukraine. Pro-Fidesz tabloids used AI-generated images to misrepresent the arrest of Ukrainian bank employees. Former cyber defense head Ferenc Fresz stated Russian disinformation campaigns including deepfakes are influencing the election.

ECHR CONDEMNS EXCESSIVE DETENTION

On March 31, 2026, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) condemned Russia for the excessive pretrial detention of Gulag historian Iouri Dmitriev. Judges ruled the detention between 2016 and 2018 violated the right to a trial within a reasonable timeframe and that the 2020 trial was unfair due to lack of legal counsel. Russia was ordered to pay 2,000 euros for moral prejudice. Dmitriev, a historian who identified 40,000 victims of Stalinist purges, was sentenced to 15 years for alleged sexual violence against his daughter. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitri Peskov stated Russia does not recognize the ECHR decision. Memorial reported Dmitriev was recently placed in isolation for 6 days for incorrect morning exercises.

HUNGARIAN MINISTER SUPPORTS RUSSIA

On March 31, 2026, Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto admitted to working for Russian interests within the European Union following leaked transcripts. Transcripts from a media consortium including The Insider, VSquare and Delfi revealed Szijjarto provided strategic information to Moscow. An anonymous former European minister described Szijjarto as an enthusiastic mole in the Union. Leaked calls showed Szijjarto told Russian Foreign Minister Sergueï Lavrov he was at his service. He promised to support removing the sister of Russian billionaire Alisher Ousmanov, a close associate of Vladimir Poutine, from the European blacklist and requested Russian arguments to justify lifting sanctions in Brussels. Szijjarto argued these recordings provided no new information because Hungary publicly opposes sanctions.

3 WOUNDED IN UKRAINIAN ATTACK

On March 31, 2026, a drone attack in northwestern Russia damaged the port of Oust-Louga and a school. Port Oust-Louga, vital for Russian fertilizer, coal and oil exports, suffered

damages. Drone debris also damaged 3 residential buildings and 2 classrooms, injuring 3 people including 2 children.

DRONE RAIDS IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA KILL 1 AND WOUND 13

On March 30, 2026, Rostov Governor Yuri Slyusar reported 1 man killed after a drone strike on the port and industrial city of Taganrog. Taganrog Mayor Svetlana Kambulova confirmed 8 people were injured and residential buildings were damaged by drone debris. In Krasnodar, Mayor Evgeny Naumov reported 3 people injured. Belgorod Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov stated 2 women were in critical condition after Ukrainian drones hit vehicles.

LETHAL DRONE STRIKE ON BALTIC PORT

On March 29, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed 1 civilian in the Russian border region of Belgorod and damaged a Baltic Sea port. Belgorod Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov reported that a man died after a drone hit a car in Graïvoron. Simultaneously, a drone strike sparked a fire at the Russian port of Oust-Louga on the Baltic Sea. Governor Alexandre Drozdenko stated the port was damaged but reported no victims. The SBU interim chief Ievgueni Khmara claimed successful strikes on the Oust-Louga oil terminal.

FATALITIES IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

On March 28, 2026, Russian air attacks against Ukraine killed 4 people while a Ukrainian strike killed 1 child in Jaroslavl, Russia. In the port city of Odessa, 2 people died and 13 were injured after a strike hit a maternity ward roof. In Kryvyi Rig, Oleksandr Ganja, head of the Dnipro regional administration, reported 1 man killed at an industrial site. In central Ukraine, a Naftogaz operator, Roman Chmykhun was killed by drones hitting residential and industrial buildings. In Russia, Jaroslavl Governor Mikhaïl Ievraïev confirmed the death of one child.

PEACE TALKS REACH STALEMATE AMID REGIONAL CONFLICTS

On March 26, 2026, Finnish President Alexander Stubb warned that peace negotiations regarding Ukraine have reached a deadlock. During a meeting in Helsinki, Alexander Stubb stated that the war in Iran has significantly diverted international attention from the Ukrainian conflict. He suggested that United States negotiators have exhausted their options, leaving the status of Donetsk and occupied territories as the primary obstacles. Volodymyr Zelensky echoed these concerns, reporting no real progress after his delegation returned from the United States. Estonian Prime Minister Kristen Michal urged continued financial pressure on Russia, arguing that politeness is perceived as weakness by Moscow. The summit also focused on cracking down on the Russian « ghost fleet » of oil tankers used to bypass sanctions.

PERSISTENT BORDER STRIKES IN BELGOROD

On March 26, 2026, reports detailed the impact of daily Ukrainian missile and drone strikes on the Russian border city of Belgorod. Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov announced that 3 people were killed during the previous days, including one victim whose car was hit near the border. Emergency services chief Nikolaï Lebedev stated that responders conduct up to 1,000 missions daily when strikes intensify. Despite the deployment of anti-drone nets and concrete shelters, 25 people were previously killed in a single December 2023 attack.

UKRAINIAN DRONES STRIKE STRATEGIC RUSSIAN OIL TERMINAL

On March 25, 2026, Ukrainian drones struck the strategic port of Ust-Luga in the Gulf of Finland after traveling over 900 kilometers. Ukrainian security services and the General Staff claimed responsibility for hitting a petroleum terminal and a combat icebreaker at the Vyborg shipyard. Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov confirmed 1 death in Belgorod, while governor Vladimir Saldo reported 2 deaths in Russian-occupied Kherson. The massive attack also resulted in 2 Ukrainian drones falling in Estonia and Latvia with one hitting an Estonian power plant chimney without causing casualties. In Kronstadt, Governor Alexandre Beglov reported damage to residential windows.

MASSIVE RUSSIAN DRONE CAMPAIGN TARGETS UKRAINIAN CITIES

On March 24, 2026, Russia launched approximately 1,000 drones and 34 missiles at Ukraine during one of the largest daylight aerial assaults since the 2022 invasion. Military spokesperson Iouriï Ignat noted the unprecedented scale of the daylight strikes. The total 24 hour bombardment killed at least 8 civilians, 5 during the night and 3 during the day, and wounded dozens. In Ivano-Frankivsk, 2 people died and 4 were injured after strikes hit a maternity hospital and 10 buildings, according to regional head Svitlana Onychtchouk. Mayor Andriï Sadovy reported that strikes on the Unesco historical center of Lviv injured 13 people and damaged a 17th-century complex. Regional leaders Vitali Dyakivnych in Poltava, Ivan Fedorov in Zaporijjia, Yaroslav Shanko in Kherson, Oleg Grygorov in Soumy and Oleksandr Ganja in Dnipropetrovsk documented casualties. A 76 year old woman was injured in Dnipropetrovsk and a minibus driver was wounded in Soumy. Volodymyr Zelensky and Andriï Sybiga accused Russia of using « Shahed » drones to conduct « deliberate terror » against civilians.

EU CONCERNED BY SENSITIVE DATA LEAKS TO MOSCOW

On March 23, 2026, the European Commission expressed deep concern over reports suggesting Hungary leaked sensitive data to Russia for several years. An article in the Washington Post alleged that Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto regularly informed his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov about confidential EU discussions in real-time. Commission spokesperson Anitta Hipper requested « clarifications » from Budapest, emphasizing that mutual trust is fundamental for the union. Peter Szijjarto dismissed the allegations as « fake news », while Prime Minister Viktor Orban denounced a « grave attack » against Hungary during his re-election campaign. Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and German officials

expressed exasperation, noting that Viktor Orban continues to block a 90 billion euro loan to Ukraine.

RUSSIAN FORCES SEIZE BORDER VILLAGE NORTHERN UKRAINE

On March 22, 2026, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced that its forces captured Potapivka in the Soumy region. According to a military statement, units from the North Groupment took control of the small village located near the Russian border.

ZELENSKY VOWS TO INFILTRATE NEW RUSSIAN MESSAGING NETWORK

On March 20, 2026, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that Ukraine is working to infiltrate the new Russian messaging application MAX. The Kremlin is promoting MAX as a national alternative to Telegram and WhatsApp which are currently blocked in Russia. Unlike Telegram, the MAX app does not offer encryption and stores data on Russian servers allowing for state surveillance. Zelensky acknowledged that both nations have used Telegram to recruit agents and disseminate propaganda since the 2022 invasion. Russia has previously accused Kiev of using encrypted apps to organize assassinations and sabotage. Zelensky stated that while communicating with Russian society will be more difficult under the new system, Ukrainian forces will reach the MAX network.

RUSSIAN DRONES TARGET HUMANITARIAN EVACUATION VEHICLE IN DONETSK

On March 20, 2026, a Russian drone strike on a humanitarian vehicle in the Donetsk region killed 2 elderly women during an evacuation. 2 other people were wounded in the attack. In Zaporijjia, a 30 year old woman was killed and 2 others wounded by Russian strikes on residential houses. Ukrainian officials also reported damage to 2 grain ships and 2 injured crew members in Odessa.

DRONE STRIKES KILL CIVILIANS IN ZAPORIZHZHIA AND BELGOROD

On March 20, 2026, Russian strikes on the Zaporijjia district killed a 30 year old woman and destroyed several homes. Administration chief Ivan Fedorov reported that a 10 year old boy and a 48 year old man were wounded in the overnight attack. In the Russian border region of Belgorod, Governor Viatcheslav Gladkov announced that a Ukrainian drone killed 1 civilian in the town of Mourom. These casualties occur as negotiators prepare to meet in the United States for talks on Saturday.

UKRAINIAN DRONE ATTACK ON SEVASTOPOL PORT KILLS 1

On March 19, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike on a residential area in the port city of Sevastopol killed a man. Governor Mikhaïl Razvojaïev reported that 2 other people were

wounded. Ukrainian authorities also reported 3 injuries in Odessa following a Russian strike on a residential neighborhood.

RUSSIAN DRONES KILLS 3 IN SUMY REGION

On March 19, 2026, Russian strikes killed 3 men in the Sumy region near the northeastern border. 2 brothers aged 33 and 37 died in Khoutir-Mykhaïlivsky while a 62 year old man was killed by a drone in Velyka Pysarivka. Military administrator Oleg Grygorov reported additional injuries in nearby border communities. The Russian military utilized 133 drones during overnight operations with 109 being intercepted by Ukrainian defenses. In Odessa, administrator Oleg Kiper reported 4 people wounded during nocturnal raids. These attacks occur as Russian forces attempt to regain territory in Sumy.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE KILLS ONE IN KRASNODAR

On March 18, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack on residential buildings in Krasnodar killed 1 person. Governor Veniamine Kondratiev reported that 3 buildings were damaged and a fire in 1 apartment was quickly contained.

UKRAINIANS GATHER AT BORDER TO WELCOME RELEASED PRISONERS OF WAR

On March 18, 2026, citizens in northern Ukraine organized along roadsides with flags to greet soldiers returning from Russian captivity via the Belarusian border. Released soldier Iaroslav Roumiantsev recalled being moved to tears after 39 months of isolation and mistreatment.

ROMANIAN PARAMILITARIES JOIN RUSSIAN FORCES AND AFRICA CORPS

On March 17, 2026, approximately 40 members of the RALF paramilitary group joined Russian military contingents in Ukraine and the Africa Corps following the arrest of their leader Horatiu Potra. Potra, a former French Foreign Legion member known as the Romanian Prigozhin, was imprisoned in Bucharest for allegedly planning a coup with pro-Russian candidate Calin Georgescu. RALF previously worked for Félix Tshisekedi in the DRC against M23 rebels. Investigations revealed Potra met with Ambassador Valeri Kuzmin and had Moscow hotel reservations. Igor Spivak and Alexander Kalinin attempted to intervene during the arrest of Potra in Dubai. Kalinin is also accused of recruiting Moldavians to fight for Russia in the Dnestr detachment.

DEADLY STRIKES HIT ZAPORIZHZHIA AND RARE DAYTIME RAIDS TARGET KIEV

On March 16, 2026, Russian strikes in Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk killed 3 people. Regional leaders Ivan Fedorov and Oleksandr Ganja reported that 7 people including 3

children were wounded. In a rare daytime attack, Russian drones targeted central Kiev causing residents to flee to subways during rush hour. Mayor Vitali Klitschko stated that drone fragments fell in the city center without causing casualties. In Kharkiv, Mayor Igor Terekhov reported at least 3 injuries from drone strikes. Meanwhile, the Mayor of Moscow reported that 250 Ukrainian drones were destroyed near the Russian capital.

RUSSIAN ATTACKS KILL 6

On March 14, 2026, Russian forces launched massive strikes on several regions of Ukraine killing at least 6 people and wounding dozens. Governor Mykola Kalachnyk reported 5 deaths in the Kiev region where 30 sites including schools and apartments were hit. 1 person died and 18 were wounded near Zaporizhzhia. The attack also targeted Sumy, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Mykolaiv regions.

ADOLESCENT KILLED IN MENSKA

On March 12, 2026, a Russian strike on the village of Menska killed a 15 year old girl and injured her parents. Local authorities confirmed 2 residential buildings were damaged near Tcherniguiiv. Meanwhile, Kirill Dmitriev met with US negotiators Steve Witkoff, Jared Kushner and Josh Gruenbaum in Florida. Steve Witkoff confirmed they discussed various topics.

EUROPEAN DRONE PRODUCTION EXPANDS

On March 12, 2026, reports indicated that Ukrspesystems opened a production line in Mildenhall, UK. UK minister Luke Pollard and Ukrainian diplomat Valery Zaloujny inaugurated the site which will assemble Shark drones. The UK facility is announced to help transpose Ukrainian expertise. Other partnerships include Skyfall drones production in Denmark. The company Fire Point has begun construction in Denmark of a plant to produce propellant used in missiles and drones. Similar programs like Summa Defense in Finland and QFI in Germany were also reported.

RUSSIAN AND UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKES

On March 11, 2026, a Russian drone attack on Kharkiv's Shevchenkivsky district killed 2 people and injured 7 others. A business building was set on fire during the raid. In Briansk, the Russian official Alexandre Bogomaz updated the toll from the earlier Kremny factory strike to 7 deaths and 42 injuries. In Kherson, a Russian drone hit a minibus, injuring 20 people. In occupied Zaporijjia, 2 men were killed when a Ukrainian drone hit their car near Vassilivka.

UN ACCUSES RUSSIA OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

On March 10, 2026, a UN commission accused Russia of crimes against humanity for the forced deportation of Ukrainian children. The report linked the policy directly to Vladimir Poutine. While 1,205 cases were confirmed, thousands are believed to have been transferred. The commission noted that 80% of examination cases did not result in children returning home.

CIVILIANS TARGETED IN SLOVIANSK & STRATEGIC FACTORY HIT IN BRIANSK

On March 10, 2026, Russian air strikes on Sloviansk killed 4 people and injured 16 others. Three aerial bombs hit the city center, damaging 6 buildings and 10 vehicles. A 14 year old girl was among the wounded. Sloviansk remains one of the last major cities held by Kiev in the Donetsk region. Ukraine used British Storm Shadow missiles to strike the Kremny military factory in Briansk. Russian official Alexandre Bogomaz initially reported 6 civilian deaths and 37 injuries. Dmitri Peskov, the spokesperson of the Russian government, accused British nationals of direct involvement in the launch.

DRONE EXPERTISE SENT TO THE GULF

On March 9, 2026, Kiev announced sending military experts to the Middle East to help Gulf countries intercept Iranian drones. The army uses its experience with Shahed and Guern 2 models to assist allies. Konstantyn, an antiaircraft commander, noted the war has shifted to drone against drone combat. Ukraine also uses F 16, Mi 24 helicopters and Yak 52 planes to counter drones entering its territory.

STRIKE ON OCCUPIED ZAPORIJJIA

On March 8, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike on an apartment building in Vassylivka killed 1 woman. Over 10 people were injured in the occupied zone. Meanwhile, Ukraine accused Russian forces of targeting firemen in Velyka Babka. A drone strike hit a house, and a second drone destroyed the fire truck arriving to extinguish the fire.

MASSIVE RAIDS ACROSS ELEVEN REGIONS

On March 7, 2026, Russian missile strike on a Kharkiv apartment building killed 10 people, including a 13 year old girl and a 9 year old boy. 16 people were injured as rescuers searched for victims in the Soviet era building. In Dnipropetrovsk, 1 died in Nikopol following Russian attacks. Injuries were also confirmed in Zaporijjia and Chuguiv.

UKRAINIAN LEGION RECRUITS ABUSED

On March 6, 2026, exactions committed by South American volunteers against their own members, within the Ukrainian military intelligence (GUR) were reported. Recrue Bruno Gabriel Leal da Silva died from beatings in the Advanced Company unit led by Leanderson Paulino. The unit belongs to the tactical group commanded by Bohdan Khodakovskiy. Sources confirmed frequent mistreatment between South American recruits. The GUR also reportedly expedited the release of 2 French Guyanese recruits who deserted after being misled by a Brazilian recruiter linked to organized crime.

HUNGARY ACCUSED OF TAKING HOSTAGES & DRONE ATTACKS IN KHERSON

On March 6, 2026, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiga accused Hungarian authorities of taking 7 Oschadbank employees hostage in Budapest. The employees were convoying 35 million euros and 9 kilos of gold from Raiffeisen Bank in Austria when their vehicles were stopped. Andrii Sybiga described the act as state racketeering. Oschadbank confirmed the vehicles remained in central Budapest while the location of the staff was unknown. On the same day, Governor Vladimir Saldo reported that Ukrainian drones killed 2 civilians near a grocery store in Olechky, Kherson. The drones reportedly dropped explosive charges on people gathered before the store opened. Saldo stated 12 others were injured.

PRISONER EXCHANGE

On March 5, 2026, Russia and Ukraine exchanged 200 prisoners of war each as the first part of a 1,000 person swap coordinated in Geneva. Russian negotiator Vladimir Medinski and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed the return of soldiers, including defenders of Azovstal. Dmytro Loubinets noted the difficult psychological state of those released. The mediation involved the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

WIDESPREAD STRIKES ACROSS UKRAINE & ANTI-WAR COMMITTEE DESIGNATED AS TERRORIST

On March 2, 2026, Russian attacks killed at least 8 people. Governor Vadym Filachkine reported 3 deaths in Kramatorsk and 2 in Droujkivka. Other victims included an elderly woman in Tcherniguiv and a man in Dnipropetrovsk. A drone strike on a suburban train caused 1 death and 9 injuries according to national police. Simultaneously, the Russian Supreme Court designated Mikhaïl Khodorkovski's Anti-War Committee of Russia (CAR) as a terrorist organization.

RUSSIANS AND UKRAINIANS RAIDS KILL CIVILIANS

On March 1, 2026, a Russian strike killed 1 man and wounded 4 others in the Synelnykove district. Local administrator Oleksandr Ganja reported that drones and artillery hit the Slavgorod and Mezhyvska communities. Additional attacks were reported in Odessa and Kharkiv. In the Russian region of Bryansk, Governor Aleksandr Bogomaz stated a Ukrainian drone killed 1 woman in Chernookovo.

GERMAN FIRMS SEARCHED FOR EMBARGO BREACH

On February 26, 2026, customs police in Essen searched 3 companies in Hamburg for allegedly violating the embargo against Russia. One company director is suspected of importing goods worth over 4 million euros in more than 900 separate violations. A freeze on 3.5 million euros in assets was executed. The European Union has implemented strict import and export restrictions on Russia since the 2022 invasion. The specific nature of the goods imported in this case has not been disclosed yet.

GHANA MINISTER MEETS ZELENSKY IN KYIV

On February 25, 2026, Ghanaian Foreign Minister Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa met with President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kyiv to request the release of 2 ghanaians prisoners of war. These men were captured while fighting for the Russian army. Zelensky stated they discussed how Russia recruits Africans and how to counter these networks. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiga reported that over 1780 Africans from 36 countries are currently fighting against Ukraine. Ablakwa thanked Ukraine for treating the prisoners humanely and confirmed they were victims of criminal trafficking networks.

CIVILIAN DEATHS IN UKRAINE STRIKE ON SMOLENSK

On February 25, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack on a fertilizer factory in the Smolensk region killed 7 people and injured 10 others. The Russian Investigative Committee reported that at least 30 drones were used in the strike. Governor Vassili Anokhine confirmed that the attack caused fires at the facility in Dorogobouj and damaged a fire station and a vehicle. This is one of the deadliest strikes on a Russian industrial site since 2022.

VIOLENCE AGAINST UKRAINIAN WOMEN REFUGEES

On February 24, 2026, the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) reported that Ukrainian women refugees face high levels of physical and sexual violence in the EU. Director Sirpa Rautio noted that 1 in 4 refugees has experienced violence since the war began. The report, based on an inquiry with 1200 women in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic, revealed that 62% suffered violence in their host countries. Additionally, 51% experienced sexual harassment. Many women reported abusive job or housing offers.

CASUALTIES IN ZAPORIJZIA RESIDENTIAL AREAS AFTER DRONE STRIKES

On February 24, 2026, Russian drone strikes on Zaporijjia injured 5 people, including 1 child. National emergency services reported that a drone hit a factory building near a nine-story residential complex, sparking a fire that spread over 200 square meters. Another strike damaged 5 buildings and several cars in a residential courtyard. The city remains under almost daily bombardment.

RAMAPHOSA THANKS PUTIN FOR RECRUIT RETURNS

On February 24, 2026, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa thanked Vladimir Putin for facilitating the return of South Africans recruited to fight in Ukraine. Pretoria received calls for help from 17 men who claimed they were duped into enlisting. Four returned last week and 11 others are expected shortly. Ramaphosa confirmed an investigation is ongoing into the recruitment activities. Reports suggest they were recruited by the MK party, led by Jacob Zuma, for a security guard training program. Zuma's daughter, Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, recently resigned from parliament following accusations of involvement. On February 25, 2026, 11

South Africans who were allegedly trapped into fighting for Russia arrived in Durban. Journalists saw the men being escorted by police, with one individual in a wheelchair.

GHOST FLEET AGENTS IDENTIFIED

On February 23, 2026, reports identified 2 Russian security agents, Aleksander T. and Maksim D., aboard the ghost fleet oil tanker Boracay arraigned by France. Maksim D. is a former Wagner group member. Both were employed by Moran Security Group, a firm led by Alexey Badikov and founded by former FSB officers like Vyacheslav Kalashnikov. Attorney Henri de Richemont confirmed the presence of the Russians but denied his client's involvement.

CIVILIAN DEATHS IN ZAPORIJJIA AND ODESSA

On February 23, 2026, local authorities reported that Russian strikes killed 3 people in the Zaporijjia and Odessa regions. Ivan Fedorov, head of the Zaporijjia military administration, stated that a drone strike on an industrial site killed a 33-year-old man. In Kharkiv, Mayor Igor Terekhov reported a missile attack. The UN reported that nearly 15.000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed since the invasion began in 2022.

REFUGEE INDEMNIFICATION REGISTRY OPENED

On February 23, 2026, the Council of Europe announced that Ukrainian refugees can now file claims for compensation for « moral prejudice » caused by the war. Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, stated that responsibility is the foundation for lasting peace. The Registry of Damages for Ukraine has already received 110.000 claims related to the destruction of homes, torture or the death of relatives. According to the UNHCR, 6.8 million Ukrainians remain outside the country. The registry aims to quantify future reparations that will be demanded from Russia.

MASSIVE RUSSIAN MISSILE ATTACK ON UKRAINE

On February 22, 2026, Russia targeted Ukraine with missiles and drones, hitting energy and railway infrastructures. In Lviv, explosions killed a police officer and injured 25 people. In Kiev, resident Meanwhile, Hungary announced it would block the 20th European sanctions package and a 90 billion euro loan for Ukraine, accusing Kiev of oil delivery blackmail.

RUSSIAN GULAG MUSEUM CLOSED

On February 20, 2026, the Moscow mayor's office announced the permanent closure of the Gulag History Museum. The facility will be replaced by a museum dedicated to the memory of Nazi crimes during the "Great Patriotic War". A source close to the former museum's direction reported that the collection, founded by Anton Antonov-Ovseïenko in 2001, will be entirely dismantled. The Gulag museum had been officially closed for "fire safety" since November 2024.

DRONES TRANSFORMING THE UKRAINIAN FRONT

Minister of Defense Mykhailo Fedorov stated that drones cause 80% of damage on the front. Expert Kateryna Bondar explained that maintaining connections is the primary challenge, leading to the use of fiber optic cables. Companies like General Cherry, led by Marko Kouchnir, and SwiftBeat, led by Eric Schmidt, are developing AI-guided drones. Companies like The Fourth Law, with employee Maksym Savanevsky, also develop guiding systems. Despite the technology, infantrymen argued that soldiers remain indispensable for taking positions.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE KILLS 1 IN SEVASTOPOL

On February 20, 2026, a man died after a Ukrainian drone strike on Sevastopol, according to Russian authorities. Mikhail Razvozhayev, governor of the Crimean port city, reported the victim suffered head and chest injuries.

CIVILIANS INJURED IN UKRAINIAN ATTACKS

On February 17, 2026, Sevastopol's governor, Mikhail Razvozhayev, reported a Ukrainian drone attack, which injured several civilians, including a child. The attack, one of the longest recent drone assaults, also targeted a Krasnodar oil refinery, damaging a storage tank and sparking a 700 m² fire.

KENYANS TRAUMATIZED AFTER FORCED RECRUITMENT BY RUSSIAN ARMY

Kenyan MP Kimani Ichung'wah said that over 1,000 Kenyans have been recruited and sent to fight in the Russia-Ukraine war, far exceeding the previously reported 200. Many were deceived by recruitment agencies promising high-paying jobs in Russia, only to be forced into military service. The recruits, often transiting through Istanbul, Abu Dhabi, Uganda, or

South Africa, were made to sign contracts in Cyrillic under threat. As of February, 89 are on the frontline, 28 are MIA and 39 are WIA. 30 have been repatriated. Four Kenyan men, Victor, Mark, Erik, and Moses, recounted to AFP how they were tricked into joining the Russian army under false promises of lucrative jobs. Victor described being sent to the front near Vovchansk, Ukraine, where he witnessed hundreds of corpses and survived by hiding under a dead body. Mark, Erik, and Moses also suffered injuries from drone strikes and artillery. All four eventually escaped with the help of the Kenyan embassy. The recruitment was orchestrated by Kenyan agencies like Global Face Human Resources, whose employee Edward Gituku is facing human trafficking charges. Families of the deceased, like Grace Gathoni and Charles Ojiambo Mutoka, demand accountability from Russia.

RUSSIA CLAIMS CAPTURE OF DOZEN UKRAINIAN VILLAGES

Russian Chief of General Staff Valery Gerasimov announced that Russian forces had captured a dozen villages in eastern Ukraine during February, despite harsh winter conditions. Gerasimov's visit to frontline troops came ahead of Geneva peace talks and the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion. Russia has accelerated its offensive in recent months. Gerasimov also claimed progress near Sloviansk and in creating a "security zone" in the Sumy and Kharkiv regions. Moscow continues to demand Ukraine's withdrawal from Donetsk as a precondition for any peace deal, a condition Kiev rejects.

UKRAINE REGAINS TERRITORIES IN COUNTEROFFENSIVE

Between February 10–14, 2026, Ukrainian forces reclaimed 201 km² of territory from Russia, marking their largest gain since June 2023, according to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW). The advance coincided with reported Russian Starlink outages, which disrupted Moscow's communications and command on the front. Russian military bloggers noted the loss of Starlink access after Elon Musk announced measures to block its use by the Kremlin. Without Starlink, Russian forces only advanced on one day during the week. Ukrainian gains were concentrated near Zaporizhzhia, where Russian troops had made significant progress since summer 2025. As of mid-February, Russia controlled 19.5% of Ukrainian territory, up from 18.6% a year earlier.

2 KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS

On February 14, 2026, a woman died in a Russian drone strike on a residential building in Odessa, southern Ukraine, according to local military administrator Oleg Kiper. The attack damaged the building's roof. In the Zaporizhzhia region, another person was killed and three injured in separate strikes.

RUSSIA ACCUSED OF POISONING ALEXEI NAVALNY

On February 14, 2026, five European countries, the UK, Sweden, France, Germany, and the Netherlands, accused Russia of poisoning opposition leader Alexei Navalny with a rare

toxin, epibatidine, while he was imprisoned in Siberia. The joint statement, issued at the Munich Security Conference, asserted that only the Russian state had the means and motive to use the lethal substance. Navalny's widow, Yulia Navalnaya, stated that his « assassination » was now « proven by science. » Russia's Foreign Ministry dismissed the allegations as « informational chaos » and a distraction. Navalny, a vocal critic of the Kremlin and the Ukraine war, died in 2024 under disputed circumstances.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 6

On February 13, 2026, Russian strikes killed six civilians in eastern and southern Ukraine: three young brothers in Kramatorsk, and a 48-year-old man in Zaporijjia. Attacks also hit Odessa's port, injuring 6 and damaging logistics infrastructure.

2 CIVILIANS KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS

On February 12, 2026, Russian strikes killed two civilians in Lozova and left 2,600 Kiev apartment blocks without heat. 6 others were injured. Nationwide, 100,000 homes lost power, and 300,000 in Odessa lost water. Russia launched missiles and drones, targeting Kiev, Kharkiv, Dnipro, and Odessa. Since October, Russia has intensified attacks on Ukraine's energy grid, causing widespread blackouts and heating shortages amid freezing temperatures.

UKRAINIAN FAMILY KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKE

On February 11, 2026, a Russian drone strike on a residential house in Bogodoukhiv, Kharkiv region, killed a 34-year-old father and his three young children, two 1-year-old boys and a 2-year-old girl. Their 8-months-pregnant mother survived with a skull trauma and burns. The house was completely destroyed, trapping the family under rubble. The Kharkiv region has seen intensified Russian attacks on transport and energy infrastructure. Prosecutors opened a preliminary investigation for war crimes. Nearly 15,000 Ukrainian civilians have been killed and 40,600 injured since the Russian invasion began in February 2022.

8 CIVILIANS KILLED IN UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN STRIKES

On February 10, 2026, Russian shelling killed a woman and her 11-year-old daughter in Sloviansk, Donetsk region, injuring 16 others. The attack destroyed residential buildings. In Russian-occupied Zaporijjia, Ukrainian strikes killed 5 and injured 9, including a priest, Sergiï Kliakhine, during a funeral gathering in Skelky village. A Russian driver was also killed in Belgorod by a Ukrainian drone.

3 CIVILIANS KILLED IN RUSSIAN ATTACKS

On February 9, 2026, Russian airstrikes killed at least 3 civilians in Ukraine's Kharkiv and Odessa regions. In Bogodukhiv, Kharkiv, a woman and a 10-year-old child died when a

drone strike destroyed a residential building, injuring 3 others. In Odessa, a 35-year-old man was killed and 2 wounded by Iranian-made Shahed drones, damaging 21 apartments.

RUSSIAN STRIKE KILLS COUPLE IN ZAPORIZHZHIA REGION

On February 6, 2026, a Russian drone strike destroyed a private home in Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia region, killing a 49-year-old man and a 48-year-old woman.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA TALKS "COMPLEX BUT CONSTRUCTIVE"

On February 6, 2026, the Kremlin described two days of negotiations in Abu Dhabi between Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. as "very complex" but "constructive." The only public outcome was the prisoner exchange. Further talks are expected. The main stumbling block remains territorial disputes, with Moscow demanding Kiev cede all of Donetsk, including areas still under Ukrainian control, in exchange for a potential frontline freeze. Kiev has refused, fearing Western pressure to concede.

UKRAINE AND RUSSIA EXCHANGE 157 PRISONERS EACH

On February 5, 2026, Ukraine and Russia conducted their first prisoner exchange since October, with 157 prisoners returned to each side. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced that most of the freed Ukrainians had been in captivity since 2022, including military personnel, national guards, border guards, and civilians. Nineteen of the released Ukrainians had been previously sentenced by Russian courts, 15 of them to life imprisonment. The exchange followed negotiations in Abu Dhabi and was hailed as a rare concrete result amid ongoing diplomatic efforts to end the war.

RUSSIAN MILITARY REPORTS STARLINK OUTAGES ON FRONT

On February 5, 2026, Russian military observers reported widespread outages of Starlink satellite terminals used by Russian forces on the Ukrainian front. The disruption followed Elon Musk's announcement of measures to block unauthorized use of Starlink by the Kremlin, after Ukraine accused Russia of using the technology to bypass electronic jamming and target Ukrainian positions. Russian military bloggers and press confirmed the outages. Analysts noted that Russia lacks a comparable alternative, leaving fiber-optic cables as the only, more complex and costly, option for frontline communications.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE KILLS 2 IN RUSSIA-CONTROLLED LUGANSK

On February 4, 2026, a Ukrainian drone attack killed a young man and a woman, both 20 years old, in Novokrasnianka, a village in the Russia-controlled Lugansk region. The strike hit a minibus. Lugansk was illegally annexed by Russia in September 2022, though Moscow does not fully control the territory. Both sides continue to target each other's positions and infrastructure.

UKRAINIAN ARTILLERY STRIKE KILLS 3 IN RUSSIA-CONTROLLED KHERSON

On February 3, 2026, Ukrainian artillery fire killed three civilians in Nova Kakhovka, a city in the Russia-controlled part of the Kherson region. The strike hit a food store and an administrative building, according to Vladimir Saldo, the Moscow-installed governor. Nova Kakhovka, strategically located near the Kakhovka Dam, has been under Russian control since the early days of the invasion in 2022.

UKRAINIAN STRIKE KILLS 2 IN RUSSIA-CONTROLLED ZAPORIZHZHIA

On February 3, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed an 18-year-old man and a young woman in the Russia-controlled part of Zaporizhzhia, according to local authorities. The attack also wounded eleven people, including three children. The strike occurred as Russia and Ukraine prepared for a new round of negotiations in Abu Dhabi, mediated by the United States. The region, which Russia claims to have annexed in 2022, remains a frequent target for both Ukrainian and Russian forces, with civilians often caught in the crossfire.

RUSSIA CONVICTED OF “INHUMAN TREATMENT” OF NAVALNY BY EUROPEAN COURT

On February 3, 2026, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) unanimously ruled that Russia subjected opposition leader Alexei Navalny to “inhuman and degrading treatment” and “illegal detention” following his arrest in January 2021. The court found that Navalny’s imprisonment was based on a politically motivated conviction for fraud, which the ECHR had previously deemed unfair. During his detention, Navalny was subjected to sleep deprivation, constant video surveillance, and forced head shaving. The ECHR also concluded that Russia violated Navalny’s right to life and liberty. However, Russia, which was expelled from the Council of Europe in 2022, no longer recognizes the ECHR’s authority and has refused to comply with its rulings. Navalny died in an Arctic penal colony in February 2024 under disputed circumstances.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE KILLS 2 IN RUSSIA

On February 2, 2026, a Ukrainian drone strike killed two civilians in the Russian border region of Belgorod, according to the local governor, Vyacheslav Gladkov. The attack hit a private residence in the town of Stary Oskol, causing a fire and partial collapse of the building. This strike is part of Ukraine’s increasing use of long-range drones to target Russian military and logistical sites, as well as border regions, in response to Russia’s sustained aerial campaign against Ukrainian cities.

RUSSIAN STRIKE HITS MATERNITY IN ZAPORIZHZHIA, 6 WOUNDED

On February 1, 2026, a Russian strike targeted a maternity hospital in the central-eastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, wounding at least six people, including two women undergoing medical examinations. Images released by local authorities showed shattered windows, destroyed medical equipment, and debris scattered across consultation rooms. The attack occurred as Russian forces intensified their bombardment of Ukrainian cities and critical infrastructure, causing widespread power and heating outages during the winter. In the southern city of Kherson, a woman suffered severe injuries, including the amputation of part of her leg, after a Russian shelling.

AFRICANS FORCED INTO RUSSIAN ARMY

Kenyan nationals revealed how they were deceived into joining the Russian army, promised jobs but forced into combat in Ukraine. Recruited by Global Face Human Resources, they were taken to Russia, coerced into signing contracts in Cyrillic, and sent to the front. Many were injured or killed; some escaped with Kenyan embassy help. Over 1,000 Kenyans may have been recruited, with at least 23 confirmed dead. Russian recruiters exploit economic desperation, using social media and local agents. The organization All Eyes on Wagner reported Russia recruited Africans from 35 countries since 2023, with 316 confirmed dead in Ukraine. Egypt, Cameroon, and Ghana provided the most recruits.

6 KILLED IN RUSSIAN STRIKES ACROSS SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL UKRAINE

On January 29, 2026, Russian strikes killed six people in southern and central Ukraine. Three died in Vilniysk after drone attacks set residential buildings on fire, according to Governor Ivan Fedorov. **Two more were killed in Kherson and one in Kryvyi Rig.** EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas warned of a “humanitarian catastrophe” in Ukraine due to relentless Russian strikes, leaving hundreds of thousands without heating and electricity in freezing temperatures. The EU announced €145 million in emergency aid and 947 generators to help Ukrainians cope with the cold. The EU also pledged €50 million to protect Naftogaz’s distribution network. New sanctions against Russia are being prepared, including a ban on maritime services for Russian “shadow fleet” oil tankers and luxury exports.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 3

On January 28, 2026, Russian strikes killed three people. In Bilogorodska, a suburb southeast of Kiev, two people were killed and four injured. In Dnipropetrovsk, a 46-year-old man was killed and five injured. Attacks also caused injuries in Odessa, Kryvyi Rig and Zaporizhzhia.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 12, GROUND FORCES MOVE FORWARD

On January 27, 2026, Russian attacks killed 12 people and damaged a passenger train and energy infrastructure. In Kharkiv, a drone struck a train wagon carrying nearly 200 passengers, killing 5 and injuring at least 2. In Odessa, three bodies were recovered from rubble after a drone attack, with 30 injured, including two children and a pregnant woman. Governor Oleg Kiper reported extensive damage to residential buildings and public facilities. DTEK energy company reported “enormous” damage to one of its plants. In Sloviansk, a Russian bomb killed a couple and injured their 20-year-old son, according to the Donetsk regional prosecutor’s office. **The Russian Defense Ministry announced the capture of Koupiansk-Vouzlovy in Kharkiv and Novoiakovlivka in Zaporijjia.**

HUNGARY LAUNCHES PETITION AGAINST UKRAINE’S SUPPORT

On January 27, 2026, Hungary launched a “national petition” against EU support for Ukraine, as announced by Secretary of State Janos Nagy. The petition, sent to Hungarian citizens, opposes further financing of the war, long-term funding for Ukraine and energy price increases. Prime Minister Viktor Orban, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, faces declining poll numbers amid economic stagnation and public discontent.

2 MILLION MILITARY CASUALTIES

On January 27, 2026, a US think tank reported nearly two million military casualties (KIA, WIA and MIA) in the Ukraine war. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) estimated Russia suffered 325,000 deaths and 1.2 million total casualties, while Ukraine lost 100,000–140,000 soldiers and 500,000–600,000 total casualties. The UN reported over 15,000 civilian deaths and 40,600 injuries since February 2022, with 2025 being the deadliest year. President Volodymyr Zelensky previously stated Ukraine lost nearly 46,000 soldiers, a figure analysts consider underestimated.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 1, INJURE 27 IN KIEV AND KHARKIV

On January 23, 2026, Russian bombardments across Ukraine left at least one person dead and 27 injured in Kiev and Kharkiv. Air raid alerts covered the entire country overnight. **In Kiev, one person was killed and four injured,** with damage reported in five districts, including a private clinic. Mayor Vitali Klitschko noted **disruptions to heating and water supplies amid temperatures below -10°C.** **In Kharkiv, 19 people were injured** after 25 Iranian-made Shahed drones struck residential buildings, a shelter for displaced people, a hospital and a

maternity ward. Mayor Igor Terekhov described a nearly two-and-a-half-hour attack. The strikes occurred as Russian, Ukrainian and American negotiators met in Abu Dhabi for the first time to discuss ending the four-year war, with territorial disputes remaining the main obstacle.

RUSSIAN MISSILE BARRAGE KILLS 4 IN KYIV

On January 9, 2026, Russia launched a massive missile and drone attack across Ukraine, killing at least four in Kyiv, including a rescuer, damaging residential buildings and critical infrastructure. Kyiv's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, reported 24 injured and widespread power outages. A hypersonic missile, possibly the new Russian Orechnik, struck Lviv, damaging unspecified critical infrastructure. Ukraine retaliated by cutting power to 556,000 people in Russia's Belgorod region.

RUSSIA REJECTS EU PLAN FOR MULTINATIONAL FORCE

On January 8, 2026, Russia dismissed a European-led plan to deploy a multinational force in Ukraine after the war, calling it an "axis of war." Moscow warned that any Western military presence would be considered as a "legitimate target". Over a million Ukrainians in Dnipropetrovsk lost water and heating after Russian drone strikes. Russia continues to demand Ukraine's NATO non-membership and withdrawal from occupied Donetsk.

RUSSIAN STRIKES HIT KYIV CLINIC, KILL 2

On January 5, 2026, Russian drone and missile attacks across Ukraine killed two in Kyiv, including one at a private clinic, and injured three. The strikes, involving 165 drones, caused power outages and damaged homes in Fastiv. Ukraine's allies prepared for a Paris summit to discuss peace plans, with US representatives Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner attending. Russia claimed advances in Sumy and Donetsk regions, while Ukraine vowed to pursue both diplomacy and active defense.

RUSSIAN STRIKE ON KHARKIV CENTER WOUNDS 19

On January 2, 2026, a Russian missile strike on central Kharkiv injured 19 civilians, including a six-month-old baby and elderly residents. The attack destroyed a commercial building and damaged a residential block. Russia denied responsibility. The escalation comes as diplomatic efforts, including a Paris summit, struggle to secure a lasting ceasefire.

UKRAINE ORDERS EVACUATION OF 3,000 CHILDREN FROM FRONTLINE

On January 2, 2026, Ukraine ordered the forced evacuation of over 3,000 children and their parents from 44 frontline communities in Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk, citing worsening security. Since June 2025, 150,000 people, including 18,000 children, have been

relocated from combat zones. The move reflects Russian advances in southern and eastern Ukraine.

RUSSIA ACCUSES UKRAINE OF KILLING 27 IN NEW YEAR'S DRONE ATTACK

On January 1, 2026, Russia accused Ukraine of killing 27 people in a drone strike on a café and hotel in the occupied Kherson village of Khorly during New Year's celebrations. Moscow's installed governor, Vladimir Saldo, shared images of charred bodies and accused Kiev of sabotaging peace talks. Ukraine did not immediately respond, but President Zelensky later stated that Russia launched over 200 drones at Ukrainian energy infrastructure that night. Ukraine authorities later denied accusations that its drone strike killed civilians. Ukrainian military spokesman Dmytro Lykhoviy stated that Ukraine only targets military sites.

STRIKES INJURE PEOPLE IN BOTH UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

On December 31, 2025, Russian drone strikes on Odessa injured six people, including a seven-month-old baby and two other children. The attack also damaged residential buildings and caused water and heating outages. Odessa, Ukraine's main Black Sea port, has faced weeks of intensified Russian strikes on energy and port infrastructure. In the east, two men were injured by Russian drones in Dnipropetrovsk. In Russia, drone attacks wounded two in Tuapse and three in Belgorod, damaging a refinery and homes.

RUSSIA STRIKES KIEV KILLS 2

On December 26, 2025, Russia launched a massive drone and missile attack on Kiev, killing two people, injuring dozens, and leaving 600,000 households without power. The strike, using 519 drones and 40 missiles, came just before Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's planned meeting with Donald Trump in Florida to discuss territorial issues and Western security guarantees. Zelensky accused Russia of undermining peace efforts, while Trump stated he would decide on Ukraine's fate. The attack also damaged residential buildings, schools, and kindergartens, and caused widespread heating outages.

US PROPOSES FRONTLINE FREEZE

On December 24, 2025, President Volodymyr Zelensky announced a revised US peace plan that no longer requires Ukraine to withdraw from Donetsk or renounce NATO membership, two key Russian demands. The 20-point plan proposes freezing the frontline and creating demilitarized zones. Zelensky said no consensus was reached on Donetsk or the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, which the US suggests managing jointly with Russia. The Kremlin's Dmitri Peskov said Moscow is "formulating its position." Zelensky also pledged to hold presidential elections "as soon as possible" after any deal.

COLOMBIAN MERCENARY SENTENCED IN RUSSIAN-OCCUPIED UKRAINE

On December 24, 2025, a Russian court in occupied Donetsk sentenced Colombian national Oscar Mauricio Blanco Lopez to 19 years in prison for “mercenary activities” after he fought for Ukraine. The Russian Prosecutor General’s Office said Blanco, 42, signed a contract with the Ukrainian army in May 2024 and was captured in December 2024. Russia systematically prosecutes foreign fighters as mercenaries.

UKRAINE WITHDRAWS FROM SIVERSK AMID RUSSIAN ADVANCE

On December 23, 2025, Ukraine’s military announced its withdrawal from Siversk, Donetsk region, citing Russian numerical and equipment superiority. The Russian army had claimed Siversk’s capture, advancing towards key cities Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. Siversk, once home to 11,000, is now largely destroyed. Russia has accelerated its offensive, recently capturing the logistical hub of Pokrovsk.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 2, CAUSE BLACKOUTS

On December 23, 2025, Russian drone and missile strikes killed 2 people, 1 in Kiev region, 1 in Khmelnytsky, and injured over 10, including children across 13 regions. Zelensky reported 650 drones and 30 missiles launched, causing emergency power cuts. Poland’s air force was put on alert due to strikes near its border. Zelensky awaited results from US-brokered talks in Florida, where negotiators worked on security guarantees for Ukraine.

ODESSA HIT AGAIN

On December 22, 2025, Russian strikes damaged energy and maritime infrastructure in Odessa region, injuring 1 person and cutting power to over 120,000 households. Governor Oleg Kiper reported hits on industrial sites and an agricultural warehouse. Reconstruction Minister Oleksii Kouleba said Russia aims to destroy maritime logistics. The strikes followed Ukrainian drone attacks on Russian-linked tankers in the Black and Mediterranean Seas.

UKRAINE REPORTS RUSSIAN INCURSION AND CIVILIAN DEPORTATIONS NEAR SUMY

On December 21, 2025, Ukrainian forces clashed with Russian troops in Grabovske village, Sumy region, as Russia attempted a border breakthrough. Ukraine’s military claimed to repel the attack, denying Russian presence in nearby Riasne. Human rights ombudsman Dmytro Loubinets accused Russia of forcibly deporting about 50 civilians from Grabovske to Russia, arrested on December 18 and transferred on December 20. Regional head Oleg Grygorov urged evacuations as Russia claimed capture of nearby Vyssoke.

RUSSIAN STRIKES IGNITE MASSIVE FIRE AT UKRAINE’S OIL TERMINAL

On December 20, 2025, Russian strikes on Odessa region caused a major fire at Ukraine’s largest vegetable oil terminal, killing 1 employee and injuring 2 others. The attack, part of

Moscow's intensified campaign against Odessa's port and energy infrastructure, destroyed hundreds of tons of sunflower oil and marked the fifth and most destructive strike on the Allseeds terminal since Russia's invasion in 2022.

LAVROV REJECTS EU MULTINATIONAL FORCE IN UKRAINE

On December 19, 2025, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov dismissed the European proposal for a multinational force in Ukraine as an "insolent" attempt to establish military control over Ukrainian territory. The EU plan, announced December 15, aims to provide security guarantees and economic support to Ukraine. Lavrov warned that Russia would consider any Western forces in Ukraine as "legitimate targets."

BRITISH NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 13 YEARS IN RUSSIA FOR "MERCENARY" ACTIVITIES

On December 18, 2025, a Russian court in Donetsk sentenced British national Hayden Davies to 13 years in prison for "mercenary activities" after he fought for Ukraine. Davies, captured in late 2024, told the court he entered Ukraine via Poland in August 2024, received military training, and earned about \$500 per month. Russia systematically labels foreign fighters in Ukraine as mercenaries.

BELARUSIAN CONVICTED IN RUSSIA FOR SABOTAGE

On December 18, 2025, a Russian military court sentenced Belarusian national Sergei Yeryomeyev to 22 years in prison for sabotaging oil trains in Siberia in November 2023. The FSB accused him of acting on orders from Ukrainian secret services (SBU) and a Belarusian contact in Lithuania. The same day, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko announced the deployment of Russia's nuclear-capable Orechnik ballistic missile in Belarus.

DRONE ATTACKS KILL 3 IN AZOV SEA PORT

On December 18, 2025, a Ukrainian drone attack on the Russian port of Rostov-on-Don killed three people: two crew members on a cargo ship and one civilian in nearby Bataisk. The attack caused a fire that was later contained. Ukraine has increasingly targeted Russian ports and oil terminals in response to Russian bombardments.

RUSSIAN STRIKES WOUND 32 IN ZAPORIZHZHIA

On December 17, 2025, Russian airstrikes on Zaporizhzhia and surrounding areas wounded at least 32 people, including 5 children. Regional official Ivan Fedorov reported damage to a residential building, a house, and an educational facility. The city, home to 710,000 before the war, is regularly shelled as the front line lies less than 30 km away. Russia claims annexation of the Zaporizhzhia region.

NEW SPYWARE TARGETS BELARUSIAN JOURNALISTS

On December 17, 2025, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) revealed that Belarusian security services used a new spyware, “ResidentBat,” to monitor journalists. The software, installed manually during interrogations, grants access to calls, messages, screenshots, and files.

RUSSIA CLAIMS CONTROL OF KUPIANSK, UKRAINIAN COUNTER-CLAIMS

On December 16, 2025, Russia announced it had “full control” of Kupiansk, a key northeastern Ukrainian city, despite Ukrainian claims of recent advances in the area. Russian military spokesman Leonid Charov stated that “all districts are under Russian control,” though Ukrainian groups continue daily attempts to enter the city.

RUSSIA’S CRACKDOWN ON NAVALNY’S ORGANIZATIONS

On December 16, 2025, the European Court of Human Rights ruled unanimously that Russia violated multiple articles of the European Convention on Human Rights by targeting organizations linked to Alexei Navalny. The court found that raids, asset freezes, and the labeling of Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation as “extremist” were part of a concerted effort to eliminate democratic opposition. Russia must pay damages of €5,000 to €30,000 to each applicant, though Moscow no longer recognizes the court’s authority.

UKRAINE-US TALKS IN PROGRESS, EU PROPOSES MULTINATIONAL FORCE

On December 14, 2025, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and US negotiators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner held talks in Berlin, reporting “much progress” on a 20-point peace plan and economic programs. Zelensky seeks a ceasefire without territorial concessions, while the US pushes for Ukraine to cede parts of Donbass. European leaders later proposed a “multinational force” to guarantee Ukraine’s security, backed by the US, and long-term support for an 800,000-strong Ukrainian army. The Kremlin dismissed the proposals, insisting on Ukraine’s non-NATO status and territorial concessions.

UKRAINIAN DRONE ATTACK INJURES SEVEN IN RUSSIA

On December 12, 2025, a Ukrainian drone strike hit a residential building in Tver, 180 km northwest of Moscow, injuring six adults and one child. Acting Governor Vitaly Korolyov reported debris caused a fire and shattered windows, forcing 20 residents to evacuate. Russia claimed to have downed over 300 Ukrainian drones the previous night, disrupting Moscow airport flights.

NATO WANTS TO “TEST” PUTIN

On December 11, 2025, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte urged testing Vladimir Putin's sincerity for peace in Ukraine, as the U.S. and Europe finalize a plan to end the war. Speaking in Berlin, Rutte warned that without massive European defense investment, Putin "won't stop at Ukraine." He criticized China as Russia's "lifeline," supplying 80% of critical drone components. Rutte stressed that a Russian-occupied Ukraine would force NATO to "significantly increase" its eastern presence. The alliance recently pledged 5% of GDP for defense by 2035.

RUSSIA CLAIMS CAPTURE OF SIVERSK

On December 11, 2025, Russia announced the capture of Siversk, a strategic town in eastern Ukraine, 30 km from Kramatorsk and Sloviansk. Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov informed President Putin, who praised the "good dynamics" on all fronts. Siversk, once home to 11,000, is now largely destroyed. Russian forces had encircled the town since September, breaking Ukrainian defenses by December. Half the town is under Russian control, the rest remains contested. Russia also claimed recent gains near Pokrovsk, Kupiansk, and Vovtchansk, though Ukraine denied some advances.

MASSIVE RUSSIAN STRIKES ON UKRAINIAN ENERGY & TRANSPORT

On December 6, 2025, Russia launched 653 drones and 51 missiles at Ukrainian energy and transport infrastructure, leaving thousands without heat or water. The Russian Defense Ministry claimed targets included military-industrial and port facilities. President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attacks as deliberate suffering for millions. Fires damaged Fastiv's main railway station, disrupting travel. Regions hit included Chernihiv, Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, and Dnipropetrovsk. In Odesa, 9,500 lost heating and 34,000 water.

RUSSIA JAILS PACIFIST POLITICIAN

On December 5, 2025, a Russian court in Pskov ordered the pre-trial detention of Lev Schlosberg, a prominent Yabloko party member and longtime critic of Vladimir Putin, until February. The 61-year-old pacifist, already under house arrest since June, faces charges of spreading "false information" about the Russian army, a practice rights groups call "chain arrests." Schlosberg thanked supporters, stating, "Freedom is within us." Yabloko, the only registered party opposing the Ukraine war, saw two other members, Maxim Kruglov and Nikolai Rybakov, also prosecuted.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE HITS CHECHENS

On December 5, 2025, Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov reported that a Ukrainian drone struck a high-rise in a Grozny-City complex, causing no casualties. Kadyrov accused Kyiv of targeting civilians to "create the illusion of pressure" and compensate for military weakness. Russian state media Vesti shared footage of the damaged glass tower, with broken windows and flames.

The Russian civil aviation agency briefly restricted flights at Grozny airport for safety. Ukraine did not comment or claim responsibility.

FOREIGNER SENTENCED IN RUSSIA FOR MERCENARY ACTIVITIES

On December 4, 2025, a Russian court in Luhansk sentenced Minh Hoang Tran, a Czech-Vietnamese national, to 13 years in prison for fighting with Ukrainian forces. Prague condemned the verdict, stating Russia violated the Geneva Convention by denying him prisoner-of-war status. Since 2022, Russia has prosecuted several foreign fighters as “mercenaries”.

RUSSIAN MISSILE ON DNIPRO KILLS 4

On December 1, 2025, a Russian missile hit Dnipro, killing 4 people and wounding 22. The attack damaged a gas station and businesses. Dnipro, a major industrial hub, has been a frequent target since Russian forces first entered the region in summer 2025.

HIGH-STAKES TALKS IN U.S.

On November 30, 2025, Ukrainian and US negotiators, led by Rustem Umerov and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, began talks in Florida to discuss a US-brokered plan to end the war with Russia. The Ukrainian delegation, under military and political strain, sought to secure the country’s sovereignty and reconstruction. The talks followed a week of amendments to the controversial 28-point US plan, criticized as overly favorable to Moscow.

NEW RUSSIAN CONDITIONS TO STOP THE WAR

On November 27, 2025, Russian President Vladimir Poutine declared Moscow would “cease hostilities” if Ukrainian forces withdraw from territories Russia claims as its own, including Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporijjia. Poutine insisted on international recognition of these regions as Russian, excluding Ukraine’s approval. He also warned of economic retaliation if the West seizes frozen Russian assets. Meanwhile, the Russian Supreme Court labeled Alexei Navalny’s Anti-Corruption Foundation a “terrorist” organization, exposing its supporters to life imprisonment.

RUSSIAN DRONE ATTACK KILLS 4, INJURES 17 IN KHARKIV

On November 23, 2025, a Russian drone strike on residential buildings in Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, killed 4 people and wounded 17, according to Mayor Igor Terekhov. The attack, which destroyed three apartment blocks and a civilian infrastructure site, occurred despite ongoing peace negotiations in Geneva. Terekhov condemned the strike as a deliberate targeting of civilians.

RUSSIA CLAIMS CAPTURE OF KEY CITY

On November 20, 2025, Russia announced the capture of Kupiansk, a strategic city in northeastern Ukraine. Commander Sergei Kuzovlev said that Kupiansk was a “key node” in Ukrainian defenses. Putin, visiting a command post, was briefed by Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov on advances in Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, and near Pokrovsk and Siversk. Putin reiterated Russia’s goal of “unconditionally” achieving its military objectives.

31 KILLED IN WESTERN UKRAINE

On November 19, 2025, at least 31 people were killed, including 3 children, and 73 others were injured in Ternopil after a massive Russian drone and missile attack. The strike, involving 476 drones and 48 missiles, also damaged residential buildings and industrial sites, causing large fires. President Zelensky, in Turkey for peace talks, criticized insufficient pressure on Russia.

RUSSIAN MISSILE KILLS TEENAGER

On November 18, 2025, a Russian missile strike killed a 17-year-old girl and injured 9 others in Berestyn, Kharkiv region. Governor Oleg Synegoubov reported 19 drones targeted Kharkiv, damaging a nine-story apartment building. In Dnipropetrovsk, drone attacks caused fires.

RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL FIVE

On November 17, 2025, Russian strikes killed at least 5 people in eastern Ukraine, according to local authorities. In Balakliya, 3 died and 15 were injured, including 4 children, after nighttime missile attacks damaged a kindergarten, residential buildings and vehicles. In Nikopol, a 76-year-old woman and a 51-year-old man were killed by Russian artillery. The port of Izmail near Romania was also hit, causing a fire on a Turkish-flagged civilian ship.

RUSSIA CLAIMS CAPTURE OF TWO SOUTHERN UKRAINIAN VILLAGES

On November 16, 2025, Russia’s Defense Ministry announced the capture of Rivnopillia and Mala Tokmachka in Zaporizhzhia region. Rivnopillia is located 70 km southeast of Zaporizhzhia city and 13 km from Orikhiv. Aerial footage showed Russian soldiers raising flags over damaged houses.

RUSSIAN MISSILES KILL SIX IN KYIV

On November 14, 2025, a Russian missile and drones struck residential areas across Kyiv, killing 6 in an apartment block and injuring over 30. Witness Maria Kaltchenko described flames and explosions. Twenty sites, including a hospital and shops, were hit. Azerbaijan summoned Russia’s ambassador after its Kyiv embassy was damaged. In Odessa, two died in a market attack.

NORTH KOREAN DEMINERS DEPLOYED IN KURSK

On November 14, 2025, Russia's Defense Ministry announced that North Korean deminers are operating in Kursk region, previously occupied by Ukrainian forces. Trained in Russian military centers, they use robots to clear "hundreds" of explosives. South Korea's intelligence estimated 5,000 North Korean troops were sent to Russia since September. Pyongyang and Moscow signed a mutual defense pact in 2024.

FINLAND ACCUSES CHINA OF FUELING RUSSIA'S WAR

On November 12, 2025, Finnish Defense Minister Antti Hakkanen stated that China is "massively" supporting Russia's war effort by supplying military components, cooperating on defense industry projects and conducting joint exercises. Nordic countries are boosting military cooperation with Ukraine, including plans to unify 250 fighter jets and triple munitions production.

13,500 KM² CONTAMINATED WITH MINES

On November 12, 2025, the UN Development Program (UNDP) reported that 13,500 km² of Ukraine's waterways, including the Dnieper River and Black Sea coast, are contaminated with mines and unexploded ordnance. Ukrainian divers have cleared only 190 km² (1.4%) and removed over 2,800 explosives. Sergueï Reva, head of demining operations, said underwater robots help locate munitions up to 300 meters deep. Ukraine has become the world's most mine-contaminated country.

RUSSIAN DRONE ATTACK KILLS ONE AND DAMAGES SCHOOL

On November 10, 2025, seven Russian drones struck Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine, killing a 62-year-old man and damaging an educational institution and homes. In Kharkiv region, another drone hit a vehicle, wounding three, including a 16-year-old. Moscow reported intercepting 37 Ukrainian drones overnight.

RUSSIAN STRIKES PROVOKES BLACKOUT IN UKRAINE, 4 DEAD

On November 9, 2025, Russia launched drones and missiles at Ukraine, damaging energy infrastructure and causing widespread blackouts, including in Kyiv. In Dnipro, a drone struck a residential building, killing 3; 1 person also died in Kharkiv. The strikes also disrupted rail networks and left cities like Kremenchuk without electricity, water, or heating. Russia claimed it targeted military and energy sites.

UKRAINIAN DRONE STRIKE KILLS ONE IN RUSSIA

On November 6, 2025, a Ukrainian drone attack killed a 48-year-old civilian and damaged an industrial zone in Volgograd, Russia. Governor Andrei Botcharov reported broken windows and balcony damage in a residential building. Ukraine's military claimed responsibility for striking a major Lukoil oil refinery in Volgograd, sharing images of explosions. Russia's Defense Ministry said 75 Ukrainian drones were downed overnight.

RUSSIAN STRIKE KILLS SIX

On November 2, 2025, Russian missile and drone strikes killed six people, including two young boys aged 11 and 14, in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk and Odessa regions. Ukrainian Prosecutor General's office and human rights ombudsman Dmytro Loubinets confirmed the casualties. A separate attack on Zaporijjia left 58,000 households without power.

RUSSIAN WAR CRIMINAL EXTRADITED TO LITHUANIA

On October 31, 2025, Ukraine extradited a high-ranking Russian naval officer to Lithuania to stand trial for war crimes, marking the first such transfer since Russia's full-scale invasion. Ukrainian Prosecutor General Rouslan Kravtchenko announced the move, calling it "historic for justice." The officer is accused of "illegal detention, torture, and inhumane treatment of civilians and prisoners of war," including a Lithuanian citizen, in a camp set up in Melitopol, occupied by Russia since early 2022.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL HIT

On October 29, 2025, Ukrainian authorities accused Russia of carrying out a "deliberate attack" on a children's hospital in Kherson, southern Ukraine, injuring nine people, including four children. Ukrainian human rights ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets confirmed the same casualty count.

RUSSIA CAPTURES THREE VILLAGES

On October 27, 2025, Russia's Defense Ministry announced the capture of Novomykolaïvka and Pryvilné in Zaporizhzhia region, and Egorivka in Dnipropetrovsk region. Independent verification of these claims is not available. Russian forces, though better equipped and more numerous, continue to make only incremental gains, employing small infantry groups to infiltrate Ukrainian defenses and avoid drone strikes.

JOURNALISTS KILLED IN DRONE STRIKES

On October 23, 2025, two Ukrainian journalists from Freedom TV, Aliona Gramova and Evguen Karmazine, were killed by a Russian drone in Kramatorsk, eastern Ukraine, while in a car at a gas station, with a third journalist, Alexandre Kolichev, injured and hospitalized.

IRAQI MERCENARIES KIA FOR RUSSIA

On May 12, 2025, Mohammed Imad, a 24-year-old Iraqi, was killed by a Ukrainian drone strike near Bakhmut, Ukraine, after joining the Russian army. His mother, Zeinab Jabbar, and sister Faten learned of his death from Abbas Hamadullah (aka Abbas al-Munaser), a recruiter and fellow Iraqi fighter. Mohammed, lured by promises of \$20,000 signing bonus and \$2,800 monthly salaries, had posted TikTok videos from Russia and Ukraine.

STRIKE ON KYIV KILLS THREE

In the night of October 25–26, 2025, a Russian drone attack on Kyiv killed three people and wounded 31 others, including seven children, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The strike also caused significant material damage, with fires breaking out in several apartments of a nine-story building in northeastern Kyiv and drone debris hitting a 16-story residential building in the north.

RUSSIAN STRIKES CAUSE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN UKRAINE

On 21 October 2025, Russian drone strikes targeted Novgorod-Siverskii in Ukraine's northern Chernihiv region, killing four people and injuring ten others, including a ten-year-old child, according to the state emergency services, which reported the incident on Telegram.

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Russian missile and drone strikes overnight caused widespread power outages across Ukraine, including in Kyiv and nine other regions (Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Kharkiv, Sumy, Poltava, Odessa). The Energy Ministry reported a “significant number” of consumers left without electricity. In Zaporizhzhia, a 7-year-old child died from injuries sustained in a Russian strike, and three others were wounded, according to regional governor Ivan Fedorov.