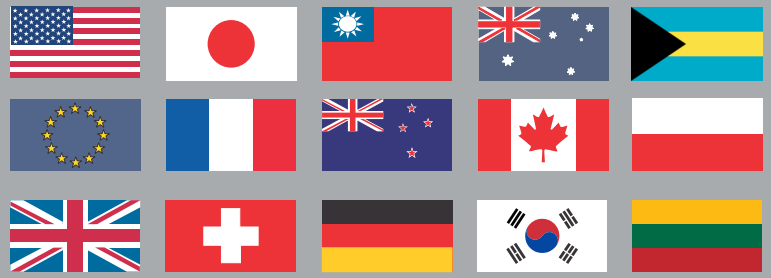
The countries that have imposed sanctions



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Feb. 24, 2022
Russia's Putin authorizes 'special militaryoperation' against Ukraine

Feb. 25, 2022
Kyiv is rocked with explosions from cruise and ballistic missiles

Feb. 26, 2022
Elon Musk activates Starlink Satellites in response to Ukraine plea

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Russian missles strike broadcasting infrastructure taking Ukrainian TV and radio channels off the air

Mar. 2, 2022
Russia's Foreign Minister says a third world war would be nuclear

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Germany to ship anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine

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Ukraine's biggest nuclear power plant catches fire after hit by Russian projectile

Mar. 5, 2022
The United Nations is committed to scaled-up humanitarian efforts

Mar. 6, 2022
Russian airstrike destroys Vinnytsia Airport in Ukraine

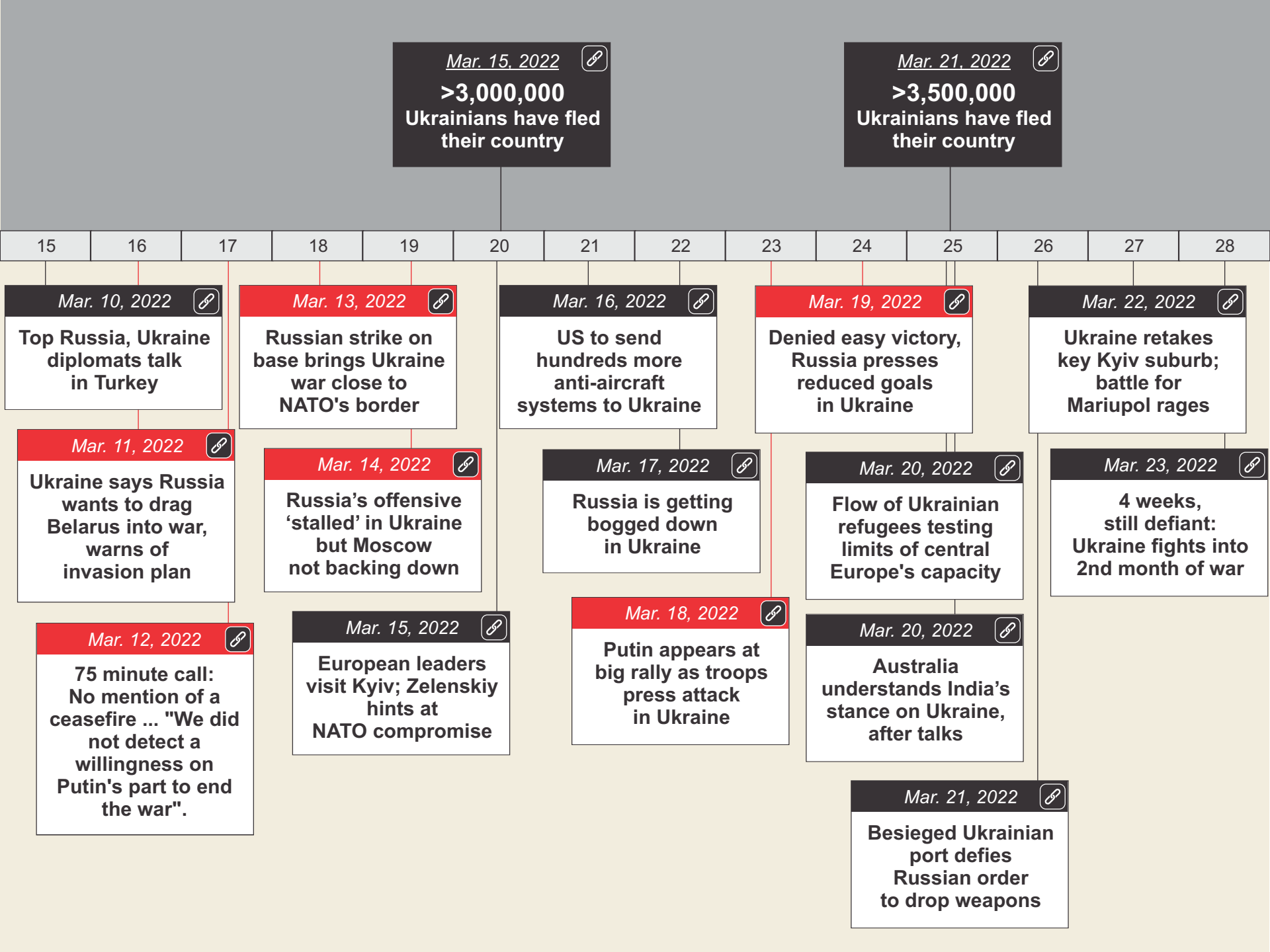
Mar. 7, 2022
'Humanitarian corridors' leading to Russia or Belarus rejected by Kyiv

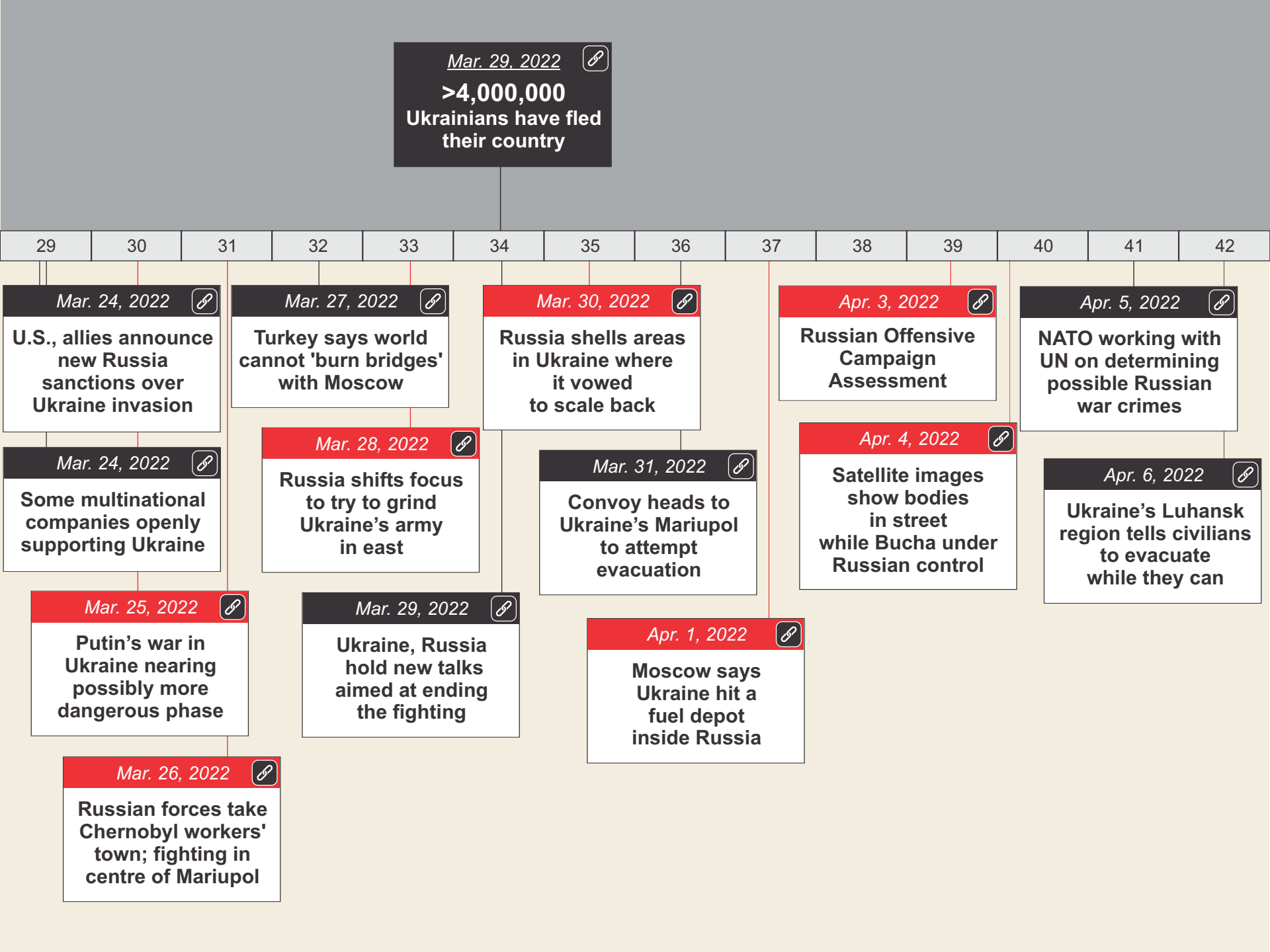
Mar. 8, 2022
US bans imports of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal

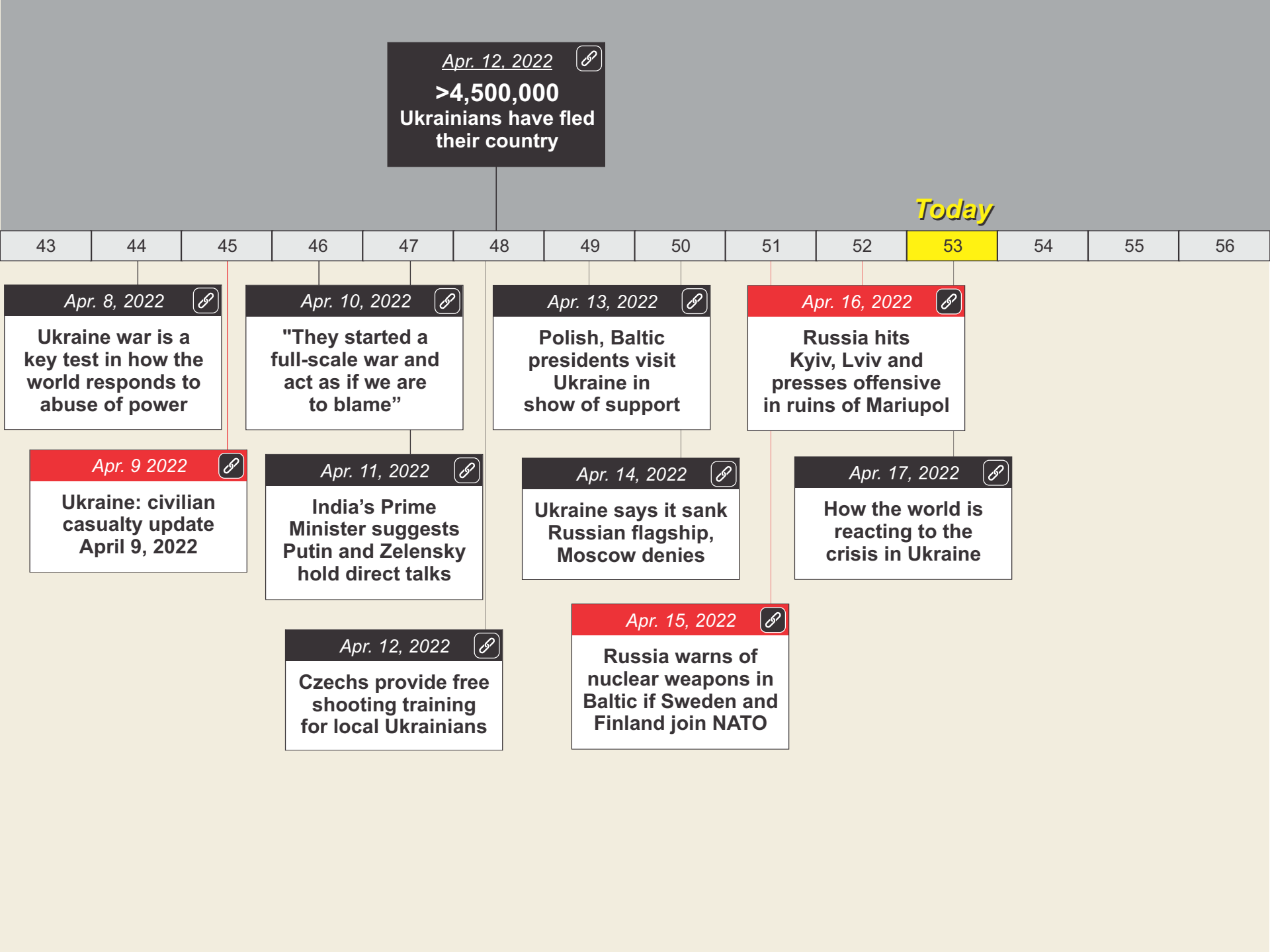
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Mar. 9, 2022
Poland offers its MIG-29 fighter jets to US in plan to provide aircraft Ukraine

Mar. 9, 2022
Pentagon says plan for Poles to give Soviet-era jets to US 'not tenable'


Mar. 15, 2022
>3,000,000
Ukrainians have fled their country
Mar. 21, 2022
>3,500,000
Ukrainians have fled their country
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75 minute call: No mention of a ceasefire ... "We did not detect a willingness on Putin's part to end the war".
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US to send hundreds more anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine
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Russia is getting bogged down in Ukraine
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Putin appears at big rally as troops press attack in Ukraine
Mar. 19, 2022
Denied easy victory, Russia presses reduced goals in Ukraine
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Flow of Ukrainian refugees testing limits of central Europe's capacity
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Australia understands India's stance on Ukraine, after talks
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Ukraine retakes key Kyiv suburb; battle for Mariupol rages
Mar. 23, 2022
4 weeks, still defiant: Ukraine fights into 2nd month of war


Mar. 29, 2022
>4,000,000
Ukrainians have fled their country
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U.S., allies announce new Russia sanctions over Ukraine invasion
Mar. 24, 2022
Some multinational companies openly supporting Ukraine
Mar. 25, 2022
Putin’s war in Ukraine nearing possibly more dangerous phase
Mar. 26, 2022
Russian forces take Chernobyl workers' town; fighting in centre of Mariupol
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Turkey says world cannot 'burn bridges' with Moscow
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Russia shifts focus to try to grind Ukraine’s army in east
Mar. 29, 2022
Ukraine, Russia hold new talks aimed at ending the fighting
Mar. 30, 2022
Russia shells areas in Ukraine where it vowed to scale back
Mar. 31, 2022
Convoy heads to Ukraine’s Mariupol to attempt evacuation
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Moscow says Ukraine hit a fuel depot inside Russia
Apr. 3, 2022
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NATO working with UN on determining possible Russian war crimes
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Apr. 12, 2022
>4,500,000
Ukrainians have fled their country
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Ukraine war is a key test in how the world responds to abuse of power
Apr. 9 2022
Ukraine: civilian casualty update April 9, 2022
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"They started a full-scale war and act as if we are to blame"
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India's Prime Minister suggests Putin and Zelensky hold direct talks
Apr. 12, 2022
Czechs provide free shooting training for local Ukrainians
Apr. 13, 2022
Polish, Baltic presidents visit Ukraine in show of support
Apr. 14, 2022
Ukraine says it sank Russian flagship, Moscow denies
Apr. 15, 2022
Russia warns of nuclear weapons in Baltic if Sweden and Finland join NATO
Apr. 16, 2022
Russia hits Kyiv, Lviv and presses offensive in ruins of Mariupol
Apr. 17, 2022
How the world is reacting to the crisis in Ukraine

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russias-putin-authorises-military-operations-donbass-domestic-media-2022-02-24/

Feb. 24, 2022

Russia's Putin authorizes 'special military operation' against Ukraine

MOSCOW, Feb 24 (Reuters) - President Vladimir Putin authorised "a special military operation" against Ukraine on Thursday morning to eliminate what he called a serious threat, saying his aim was to demilitarise Russia's southern neighbour.

In an early morning address on state television, Putin said he had been left with no choice but to launch the operation, the scope of which was not immediately clear but appeared to go well beyond helping Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine.

"I have decided to conduct a special military operation," said Putin, seated at a desk in the Kremlin next to a battery of telephones, with the Russian flag behind him.

"Its goal is to protect people who have been subjected to bullying and genocide... for the last eight years. And for this we will strive for the demilitarisation and denazification of Ukraine.

"And to bring to court those who committed numerous bloody crimes against civilians, including against citizens of the Russian Federation."

Ukraine dismisses as invented Russian accusations of genocide against people living in parts of its east seized by Russian-backed separatists in 2014. Kyiv has said Putin was looking for an artificial pretext to attack it. read more

The Kremlin chief's announcement followed an appeal from the Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine for military help against what they said was growing Ukrainian aggression.

Kyiv has denied any such aggression.

Putin told the Ukrainian military to lay down its weapons and go home.

"I urge you to immediately lay down your weapons and go home. All servicemen of the Ukrainian army who fulfil this demand will be able to freely leave the combat zone and return to their families," said Putin who spoke with anger in his voice at times.

A Reuters reporter in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, heard explosions that sounded like artillery shelling in the distance minutes after Putin finished speaking.

"Russia cannot feel safe, develop, and exist with a constant threat emanating from the territory of modern Ukraine," Putin said.

Russia would respond instantly if any external force tried to interfere with its actions, he added.

"Whoever tries to hinder us, and even more so, to create threats to our country, to our people, should know that Russia's response will be immediate. And it will lead you to such consequences that you have never encountered in your history."

"We are ready for any development of events. All the necessary decisions have been made in this regard. I hope that I will be heard."

Putin's comments come after the United States said Russia had stationed nearly 150,000 troops near Ukraine's borders.

Putin repeated past complaints about the failure of NATO and the United States to satisfy Russia's security demands.

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https://www.forbes.com/sites/siladityaray/2022/02/25/photos-show-devastating-impact-of-rocket-strikes-and-shelling-on-kyiv/?sh=14eaf36d6b94

Select live link for more photos

Feb. 25, 2022

Photos show devastating impact of rocket strikes and shelling on Kyiv

Ukraine's capital city, Kyiv, witnessed multiple explosions and what government officials called "horrific rocket strikes" early on Friday as Russian forces continued to press deeper into the country in an attempt to capture the city, home to nearly 3 million people.



Natali Sevriukova reacts next to her house following a rocket attack the city of Kyiv, Ukraine, ... [+] ASSOCIATED PRESS



Firefighters work at a damaged residential building at Koshytsa Street, a suburb of the Ukrainian ... [+] AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A car drives past the remains of a rocket in a residential area in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. AFP VIA GETTY

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https://nypost.com/2022/02/27/elon-musk-activates-starlink-in-ukraine/

Feb. 26, 2022

Elon Musk activates Starlink in Ukraine after vice prime minister's plea

Starlink is now active in Ukraine, Elon Musk announced after Ukraine's vice prime minister on Saturday requested the SpaceX billionaire help the embattled country with communication satellites.

"Starlink service is now active in Ukraine," Musk tweeted about 10 hours after the call for help. "More terminals en route."

The response came after Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Mykhailo Fedorov asked for the controversial business magnate for Starlink stations.

"@elonmusk, while you try to colonize Mars — Russia try to occupy Ukraine! While your rockets successfully land from space — Russian rockets attack Ukrainian civil people!" Fedorov, also the country's Ministry of Digital Transformation, tweeted "We ask you to provide Ukraine with Starlink stations and to address sane Russians to stand."

Musk's response also came as Ukraine faced a third day of assaults from Russia and troops continued their assault on Kyiv.

Musk has via SpaceX launched thousands of Starlink satellites into Earth's orbit, increasing broadband service in parts of the world. The satellites help carry large amounts of information rapidly to any point on Earth, avoiding the need for fiber-optic cables.

The satellites could provide data links to areas of Ukraine that have lost internet access during the war. Russia's assaults on cities across Ukraine have left parts of the country with internet outages.



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https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-02-26/card/putin-puts-nuclear-forces-in-a-special-mode-of-combat-duty--WKMRkTauWFNnWy26hZar

Feb. 27, 2022

Putin puts nuclear forces in a ‘Special Mode of Combat Duty’

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his defense minister and chief of the general staff **“to transfer the Russian army’s deterrence forces to a special mode of combat duty.”**

Mr. Putin cited the threat of Western sanctions and what he described as aggressive statements from North Atlantic Treaty Organization officials.

The move would place Russia’s network of nuclear missiles, which is usually disconnected, into a state where it can be used if necessary—one step away from an actual missile launch, said Pavel Podvig, a Geneva-based expert on Russia’s nuclear forces.

“This is not necessarily preparation for a strike,” Mr. Podvig said. “The whole system is built to be able to respond. This prepares it to act quickly if needed.”

He added, **“I’ve not seen anything to suggest this has been done before.”**



An intercontinental ballistic missile lifts off from a silo somewhere in Russia in an undated photo./ASSOCIATED PRESS

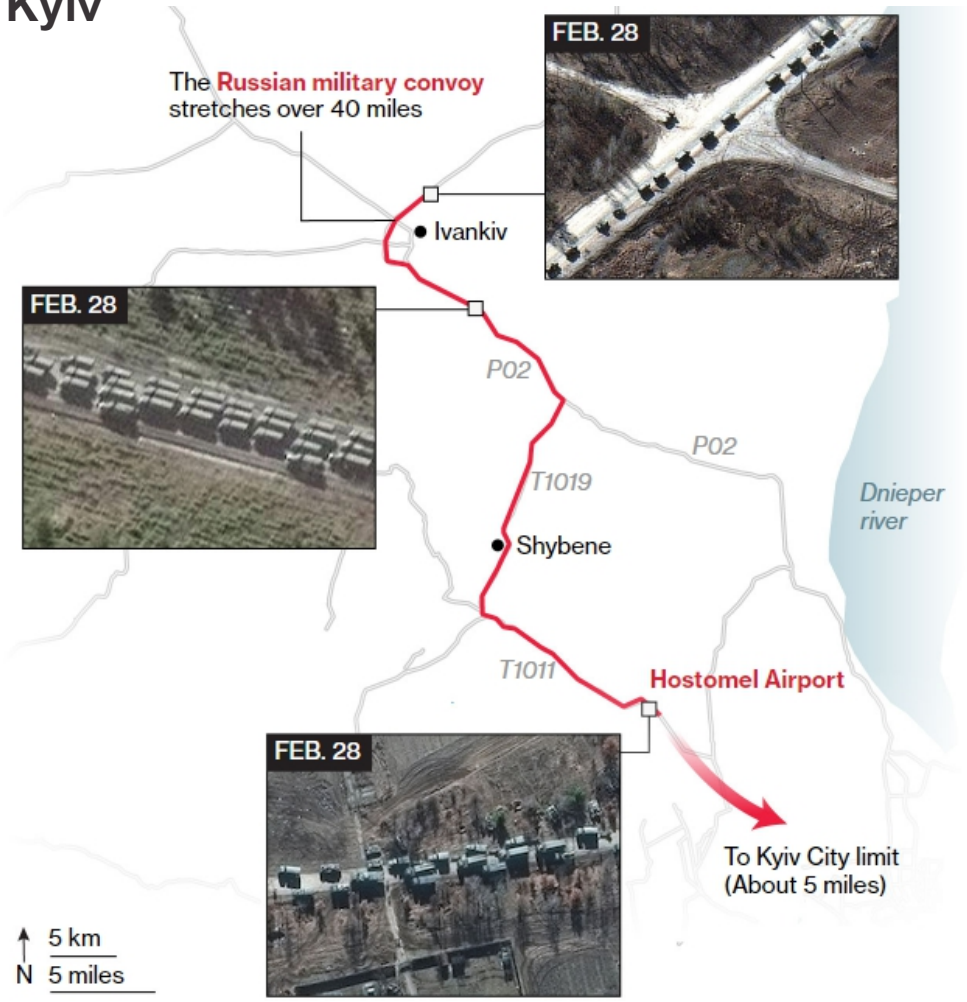
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https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2022-ukraine-russia-us-nato-conflict/

Feb. 28, 2022

Satellite images show a 40 mile Russian column travelling toward Kyiv

In northern Ukraine, satellite imagery shows a Russian military convoy as long as 40 miles (67 km) still making its way toward the capital. The sheer quantity of vehicles sent down Ukraine's relatively narrow highways has caused traffic jams that make it difficult for fuel trucks, bridging equipment to traverse blown up bridges and even anti-aircraft systems to get through.



Source: Satellite images ©2022 Maxar Technologies

https://www.dw.com/en/ukraine-and-russia-hold-third-round-of-talks/a-61039008

Feb. 28, 2022

Ukraine and Russia hold third round of talks

Negotiators from Ukraine and Russia convened for a third round of talks on Monday, with the Ukrainian delegation saying there was **potential progress on ensuring humanitarian corridors.**

Although an overall deal has not been reached, Ukraine's lead negotiator, Mykhailo Podolyak, said on Twitter after the talks that "there were some small positive shifts regarding logistics of humanitarian corridors."

Podolyak did not elaborate on any details, but Russia's lead negotiator, Vladimir Medinsky, said he expects the humanitarian corridors will start functioning Tuesday.

On the potential for a political settlement on securing a cease-fire, Medinsky said that Russia's "expectations from the talks have failed." He added that he expects more talks to take place.

"We hope that we will be able to make a more significant step forward next time," he told Russian media.

Both Russian and Ukrainian delegations arrived on Monday at the meeting place close to the border with Poland, the same site as the previous round of talks.

The previous meetings failed to end the conflict, with each side blaming the other for the failure to find a suitable agreement. Russia has blamed Kyiv for the previous failures to implement the cease-fire.

What happened in previous Ukraine-Russia talks?

The second round of talks, which took place last Thursday, ended with the two sides agreeing to set up humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians in cities under siege.

But attempts on both Saturday and Sunday to maintain a cease-fire in several cities lasted only hours and left thousands still trapped without access to food, water or electricity.

Ukraine rejected a third attempt on Monday, ahead of the talks, after Moscow offered safe passage from several cities that would take the civilians into Russia.

The first round of talks took place inside Ukraine, close to the border with Belarus. Ukrainian negotiators had rejected Moscow's proposal to meet in Belarus, a close Russian ally that has allowed Russian troops to use its territory as a launchpad for invading Ukraine. Subsequent negotiations have taken place in Belarus, close to the Polish border.

What are Russia's demands?

Over the course of the discussions, Kyiv has expressed a willingness to accept one of Moscow's demands, namely to guarantee its status as a neutral country and rule out the option of joining NATO.

But Russian President Vladimir Putin has vowed to continue the conflict until all his demands are met.

These include Ukraine ceasing military action, changing its constitution to enshrine neutrality, acknowledging Crimea as Russian territory and recognizing the separatist republics of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent territories, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the Reuters news agency.

Russia began its invasion of Ukraine on February 24, setting off the worst refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/1/several-dead-injured-in-russian-strike-on-ukraine-tv

Mar. 1, 2022

Deadly blast at Kyiv TV tower as Russia warns Ukrainian capital

At least five people have been killed after Russian forces fired at the main television tower in Kyiv and the city's main Holocaust memorial, Ukrainian officials said, after Russia warned it would launch "high-precision" strikes on the Ukrainian capital.

Ukrainian authorities said five people were killed and five others wounded in the attack on the TV tower, located a couple of miles from central Kyiv and a short walk from numerous apartment buildings.

A TV control room and a power substation were hit, and at least some Ukrainian channels briefly stopped broadcasting, officials said.

Later, the head of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office, Andriy Yermak, said on Facebook that a "powerful missile attack on the territory where the (Babi) Yar memorial complex is located" was under way.

"To the world: what is the point of saying 'never again' for 80 years, if the world stays silent when a bomb drops on the same site of Babi Yar," Zelenskyy wrote in a tweet.

There was no immediate comment on the allegations from Russia. **The country's defence ministry said earlier that Russian troops would carry out an attack on what they said was the infrastructure of Ukraine's intelligence services in Kyiv and urged residents living nearby to leave.**

"In order to suppress information attacks on Russia, the technological infrastructure of the SBU [Ukraine's Security Service] and the 72nd main PSO [Psychological Operations Unit] centre in Kyiv will be hit with high-precision weapons," defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said.

"We call on … Kyiv residents living near relay nodes to leave their homes," Konashenkov added.



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https://nationalpost.com/news/world/russias-lavrov-says-a-third-world-war-would-be-nuclear-and-destructive-ria

Mar. 2, 2022

Russia's Sergei Lavrov says a third world war would be nuclear

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday that if a third World War were to take place, it would involve nuclear weapons and be destructive, the RIA news agency reported.

Russia will not allow Ukraine to obtain nuclear weapons, TASS news agency quoted Lavrov as saying on Wednesday.

The UN human rights chief has warned of a “massive impact” on the rights of millions in Ukraine and cautioned that heightened nuclear threat levels showed all of humanity was at risk.

Speaking before the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Michelle Bachelet warned that Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, launched a week ago, “is generating massive impact on the human rights of millions of people across Ukraine.”

“Elevated threat levels for nuclear weapons underline the gravity of the risks to all of humanity,” she added.

Her comments, during an urgent council debate on the Ukraine conflict, came after Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday ordered Russia’s nuclear forces be put on high alert.

...



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON - POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/FILE

https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-ship-anti-aircraft-missiles-to-ukraine-reports/a-60995325

Mar. 3, 2022

Germany to ship anti-aircraft missiles to Ukraine

Berlin has approved a shipment of 2,700 Soviet-era, shoulder-fired Strela missiles to Ukraine, according to government sources cited by news agencies.

The weapons would come out of the depots once overseen by Soviet-controlled East Germany, which reunited with West Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Over the weekend, the German government decided to supply Ukraine with 500 US-made surface-to-air Stinger missiles and 1,000 anti-tank weapons.

A source told the Reuters news agency that the missiles were "ready to be transported" but that the Federal Security Council has yet to approve the move.

'Historical shift'

Germany had refused to send weapons to Ukraine before the Russian government launched its offensive last Thursday. But the move marked "a historical shift," according to Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

"In this situation it is our duty to support Ukraine's defense against the invading army of Vladimir Putin to the best of our ability," he said after the attack.

Richard Walker, DW's chief international editor, said Germany could quickly send the shoulder-fired Strela missiles to Ukraine because they were readily available.
“These are not complicated weapons: they are a type of weapons that many people in the Ukrainian military would have been familiar with over the years," he said.

Walker added the weapons would be easy to deploy because they are small enough to be carried by people.

He said despite the weapon deliveries, Germany doesn't want to "become part of this conflict."

A German lawmaker told DW he was surprised the weapons were still in the country's arsenal.

"We are heavily searching now what we can afford to give away, and somebody found them, I was also surprised I did not even know that we have those Strela weapons still in our compartment," said Alexander Müller of the Free Democrats.



The Strela missiles were part of the arsenal controlled by East Germany during the Cold War

https://www.nola.com/news/article_58ca9baa-9bbc-11ec-bbcb-9f6623774571.html

Mar. 4, 2022

Ukraine's biggest nuclear power plant catches fire after hit by Russian projectile

KYIV, Ukraine — **No radiation was released** from a Russian attack at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant in Ukraine **and firefighters have extinguished a blaze at the facility**, U.N. and Ukrainian officials said Friday, as Russian forces pressed their campaign to cripple the country despite global condemnation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's director-general, Rafael Mariano Grossi, said Friday **the building hit by a Russian "projectile" at the Zaporizhzhia plant was "not part of the reactor"** but instead a training center at the plant.

Nuclear officials from Sweden to China said no radiation spikes had been reported, as did Grossi. Ukrainian officials have said Russian troops took control of the overall site, but the plant's staff were continuing to ensure its operations. Grossi said the Ukrainians were in control of the reactor.

In the frenzied initial aftermath when the risk of a radiation release was not clear, the attack caused worldwide concern — and evoked memories of the world's worst nuclear disaster, at Ukraine's Chernobyl.

Facing worldwide indignation over the attack, Russia sought to deflect blame. Without producing evidence, Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov blamed arson rather than artillery fire. He claimed a Ukrainian "sabotage group" had occupied the training building at the plant, fired on a Russian patrol and set fire to the building as they left.

There had been conflicting reports earlier over which part of the Zaporizhzhia facility had been affected in the attack, with an official saying at one point that shells fell directly on the facility and set fire to a reactor not in operation as well as a training building. Grossi later said that the fire was in the training center.

The confusion itself underscored the dangers of active fighting near a nuclear power plant. It was the second time since the invasion began just over a week ago that concerns about a nuclear accident or a release of radiation materialized, following a battle at Chernobyl.

Grossi said only one reactor of six at Zaporizhzhia is currently operating, at about 60% capacity, and that two people at the site were injured in the fire. Ukraine's state nuclear plant operator Enerhoatom said three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and two wounded. ...



This image made from a video released by Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant shows bright flaring object landing in grounds of the nuclear plant in Enerhodar, Ukraine Friday, March 4, 2022. via AP

https://wpde.com/news/nation-world/united-nations-committed-to-scaled-up-humanitarian-efforts-ukraine-refugees-russian-invasion-un-security-council-antonio-guterres

Mar. 5, 2022

UN committed to scaled-up humanitarian efforts

NEW YORK (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres says the United Nations is committed to scaling up its humanitarian operations to help both those who have stayed in Ukraine and the millions who have fled.

Guterres relayed the promise to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in a phone call on Saturday, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

Dujarric said the two also discussed the conditions for safely evacuating civilians, including foreigners, from combat zones.

The U.N. estimates that the 12 million people who have stayed in Ukraine and the 4 million who have fled to neighboring countries will need humanitarian aid in the coming months.



People rest at a reception center for people displaced from Ukraine at the Ukrainian-Polish border crossing in Korczowa, Poland, Saturday, March 5, 2022. (Olivier Douliery, Pool Photo via AP)

https://www.aerotime.aero/articles/30394-vinnytsia-airport-destroyed-russian-missiles

Mar. 6, 2022

Russian airstrike destroys Vinnytsia Airport in Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on March 6, 2022 that eight Russian missiles have "completely destroyed" Havryshivka Vinnytsia International Airport (VIN) located in central Ukraine.

Zelensky confirmed details via a video uploaded to the Twitter account of Eastern European media channel Nexta TV.

“Eight missiles against our city, against our peaceful Vinnytsia which has never posed a threat to Russia in any way. A brutal, cynical missile strike has completely destroyed the airport," Zelensky revealed in the video message.

Zelensky appealed once more to Western countries to enforce a no-fly zone over Ukraine to prevent more attacks from Russia.

“We repeat every day: close the sky over Ukraine. Close for all Russian missiles, for Russian combat aircraft, for all their terrorists.”

On March 5, 2022, a day before the missile attack on Vinnytsia Airport, Russian president Vladimir **Putin warned that any country that sought to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine would be considered to have entered into the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.**

Putin also added that imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine would have “colossal and catastrophic consequences not only for Europe but also the whole world”.

The Biden administration has pointed out that imposing a no-fly zone over Ukraine is something the U.S. government is trying to avoid.

“It would require, essentially, the U.S. military shooting down Russian planes and prompting a potential direct war with Russia, the exact step that we want to avoid,” White House press secretary Jen Ptsaki told US reporters on March 4, 2022.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/07/russia-humanitarian-corridors-ukraine-war-mariupol-kyiv

Mar. 7, 2022

‘Humanitarian corridors’ leading to Russia or Belarus rejected by Kyiv

Kyiv has rejected an offer from Moscow to create “humanitarian corridors” allowing civilians to flee six heavily bombed Ukrainian cities after it emerged that most of the supposedly safe routes led directly to Russia or its ally, Belarus.

The Russian offer came before a third round of peace talks. The Kremlin spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, said in advance of the discussions that Moscow was ready to halt operations “in a moment” if Kyiv met a list of conditions. These included ceasing military action, changing its constitution to ensure neutrality, acknowledging Crimea as Russian territory and recognising the self-proclaimed republics in Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states.

As Russian forces continued their brutal bombardment on the 12th day of the conflict, shelling of the six cities – which include Kyiv, Kharkiv and the southern port city of Mariupol – continued to prevent civilians from leaving.

Posting a video online on Monday night the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said he would be staying in Kyiv “as long as it takes to win this war”.

“I’m not hiding,” he added. “I’m not hiding and I’m not afraid of anyone.”

Accusing Moscow of “cynicism”, Zelenskiy also said Russian troops destroyed buses that were due to evacuate civilians from the combat zones. The Ukrainian leader said Russian forces mined the road chosen to bring food and medicine to the besieged city of Mariupol in southern Ukraine.

But he added that Kyiv would continue to negotiate with Russia to reach a peace deal.

Multiple attempts to evacuate over the weekend were swiftly abandoned when civilians trying to reach safety came under fire.

Under the Russian offer, only two of the proposed corridors would end up in Ukrainian territory. The French president, Emmanuel Macron, accused his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, of “moral and political cynicism” and hypocrisy for making promises to protect civilians so they could flee only to Russia. “I do not know many Ukrainians who want to go to Russia,” he said, adding that full ceasefires to protect civilians were needed, not corridors.

Russia has made significant advances in southern Ukraine as it seeks to block access to the Sea of Azov and establish a land corridor to Crimea. But elsewhere progress has become stalled, including an immense military convoy that has been almost motionless for days north of Kyiv.

The Pentagon on Monday said in its latest assessment of the war it believed Russia had now committed almost 100% of the forces it had amassed for the Ukraine invasion and launched more than 625 missiles, but still deemed Ukrainian airspace contested the country had most of its fixed wing aircraft and air defences intact. “We’re not seeing a lot of ...

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/08/fact-sheet-united-states-bans-imports-of-russian-oil-liquefied-natural-gas-and-coal/

Mar. 8, 2022

US bans imports of Russian oil, liquefied natural gas, and coal

... **Russian oil will no longer be acceptable at U.S. ports, and the American people will deal another powerful blow to Putin's war machine.**

...

Americans have rallied support — have rallied to support the Ukrainian people and made it clear we will not be part of subsidizing Putin's war.

This made — we made this decision in close consultation with our Allies and our partners around the world, particularly in Europe, because a united response to Putin's aggression has been my overriding focus, to keep all NATO and all of the EU and our allies totally united.

We're moving forward on this ban, understanding that many of our European Allies and partners may not be in a position to join us.

The United States produces far more oil domestically than all of European — all the European countries combined. In fact, we're a net exporter of energy. So we can take this step when others cannot.

But we're working closely with Europe and our partners to develop a long-term strategy to reduce their dependence on Russian energy as well.

...

This is a step that we're taking to inflict further pain on Putin. But there will be costs as well here in the United States. I said I would level with the American people from the beginning. And when I first spoke to this, I said defending freedom is going to cost — it's going to cost us as well, in the United States.

Republicans and Democrats understand — alike understand that. Republicans and Democrats alike have been clear that we must do this.

Over the last week, I've spoken with President Zelenskyy several times to hear from him about the situation on the ground and to consult and continuing to consult with our European allies and — about U.S. support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Thus far, we've provided more than $1 billion in security assistance to Ukraine. Shipments of defensive weapons are arriving in Ukraine every day from the United States. And we, the United States, are the ones coordinating the delivery of our Allies and partners of similar weapons, from Germany to Finland to the Netherlands. We're accom- — we're — we're working that out.

We're also providing humanitarian support for the Ukrainian people, both those still in Ukraine and those who have fled safely to a neighboring country.

We're working with humanitarian organizations to surge tens of thousands of tons of food, water, and medical supplies into Ukraine, and with more on the way.

Over the weekend, I sent Secretary Blinken to visit our border between — the border Poland and Ukraine and to Moldova to see what the situation was firsthand and report back.

General Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of our Defense Department, is also — was also in Europe, meeting with his counterparts and Allies on NATO's eastern flank to reassure them — those countries bordering Russia, NATO countries — that we will keep our NATO commitment — a sacred commitment to Article — of Article 5.

The Vice President Harris is going to be traveling to meet with our allies in Poland and Romania later this week as well.

I've made it clear that **the United States will share in the responsibility of caring for the refugees so the costs do not fall entirely on the European countries bordering Ukraine.**

...

https://www.npr.org/2022/03/08/1085179372/mcdonalds-russia-companies-ukraine

Mar. 8, 2022

McDonald's, Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Starbucks join a corporate exodus from Russia

... In a letter to its partners on Tuesday, **Starbucks** CEO Kevin Johnson announced that the coffee giant would **suspend all business in Russia**. Johnson said the store's licensed partner has agreed to pause **operations at its 130 stores** there.

And **Coca-Cola** announced that it is **suspending its business in Russia**. "Our hearts are with the people who are enduring unconscionable effects from these tragic events in Ukraine," the soft drink giant said in a brief statement.

PepsiCo, which has been operating in Russia for more than 60 years, said that, "given the horrific events occurring in Ukraine," it was **suspending sales of Pepsi-Cola and its other global beverage brands there**. **It will also suspend capital investments and advertising in Russia.** The company said it will continue to sell milk, baby formula and baby food in the country.

Meanwhile, **McDonald's is temporarily closing its 850 locations in Russia**, in one of the most symbolic exits by a global corporation from the country in protest over Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
...
Hundreds of companies have announced their exits from Russia in recent days. Among the most recent additions to the list are cosmetics company L'Oreal and car maker Ferrari. Russian users are also losing access to Netflix, Ikea stores and Apple products. Visa and Mastercard have restricted use by Russian holders.

Earlier Tuesday, Yum Brands, which runs KFC and Pizza Hut locations in Russia, paused investment in the country. Universal Music group, the world's largest record label, announced the closure of its Russian office and suspension of operations in the country. And on Monday, giant conglomerate Procter & Gamble cut back on its products and advertising in Russia.

A Yale professor tracks which companies are still doing business in Russia
...
Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, senior associate dean for leadership studies, tells NPR that the list — which contains more than 200 companies — is a way to encourage corporations "to do the right thing" and to hold them accountable for continuing to engage with Russia.
...
Sonnenfeld and his team have been tracking company withdrawals since the outbreak of war, he said. **Companies such as Dell, Apple, Nike, General Motors, IBM and H&M were among the first to curtail operations in Russia**, he said.

Some companies released ambiguous statements, which drove Sonnenfeld and his team to catalog the companies.

“We're shocked about what a catalytic effect an objective list has had in terms of either catalyzing some to move or clarifying positions," Sonnenfeld said. "We're very close to 300 now that have curtailed operations."

Click here for latest list

https://news.sky.com/story/ukraine-war-poland-offers-all-of-its-mig-29-fighter-jets-to-us-in-plan-to-provide-aircraft-to-ukrainians-12561039

Mar. 9, 2022

Poland offers all its MIG-29 fighter jets to US in plan to provide aircraft to Kyiv

Poland has agreed to hand over all of its MIG-29 fighter jets to a US airbase "immediately and free of charge" as part of a plan to provide aircraft to the Ukrainians.

Washington has been looking at a proposal under which **Poland would** supply Ukraine with Soviet-era fighters and **in turn receive American F-16s to make up for their loss.**

Ukrainian pilots are trained to fly Soviet-era fighter jets.

In a statement, Poland's foreign ministry said: "The authorities of the Republic of Poland, after consultations between the president and the government, are ready to deploy - immediately and free of charge - all their MIG-29 jets to the Rammstein Air Base and place them at the disposal of the government of the United States of America.

"At the same time, Poland requests the United States to provide us with used aircraft with corresponding operational capabilities.

"Poland is ready to immediately establish the conditions of purchase of the planes.

"The Polish government also requests other NATO Allies - owners of MIG-29 jets - to act in the same vein."

However, State Department Undersecretary Victoria Nuland said: "To my knowledge, it wasn't pre-consulted with us that they planned to give these planes to us."

Speaking at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she added: "I look forward when this hearing is over to getting back to my desk and seeing how we will respond to this proposal of theirs to give the planes to us."

Security and defence analyst Michael Clarke, former director general of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), told Sky News: "The main thing as far as NATO is concerned is to get some aircraft into Ukraine that they can use.

"The MIG-29 is not the best aircraft around at the moment but it's better than nothing.

"NATO has been giving arms openly to Ukraine - this is just another type of weapon."

He said that with **Poland handing the jets to the US at their German base, it is like Poland saying to Russia "if you want an argument about this, have it with Washington, don't have it with us".**

And he added: **"The main thing is for Ukrainian pilots to find a safe way to take the aircraft into Ukraine."**

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/08/poland-mig-29-jets-us-ukraine

Mar. 9, 2022

Pentagon says plan for Poles to give Soviet-era jets to US 'not tenable'

The Pentagon has dismissed Poland's plan to hand the US its MiG-29 fighter jets to boost Ukraine's fight against Russia, as Moscow officials said they were ready to provide humanitarian corridors on Wednesday morning for people fleeing Kyiv and four other cities.

Washington appeared surprised by the announcement by Polish foreign minister, Zbigniew Rau, who said on Tuesday that his government was "ready to deploy – immediately and free of charge – all their MiG-29 jets to the Ramstein airbase and place them at the disposal of the government of the United States of America."

The Pentagon appeared to reject the proposal, saying it was not "tenable".

In a statement, the US Department of Defense said **the prospect of the jets departing from the base in Germany "to fly into airspace that is contested with Russia over Ukraine raises serious concerns for the entire Nato alliance".**

"We will continue to consult with Poland and our other Nato allies about this issue and the difficult logistical challenges it presents, but we do not believe Poland's proposal is a tenable one," John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said.

The dispute came as Mikhail Mizintsev, the head of Russia's National Defence Control Centre, said Russian forces would "observe a regime of silence" from 7am GMT to ensure safe passage for civilians wishing to leave Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Mariupol. It was unclear if the proposed routes would pass through Russia or Belarus, conditions previously opposed by the Ukrainian government.

Authorities in Kyiv have previously accused Moscow of shelling a similar refugee corridor meant to allow residents to escape the devastated port of Mariupol.

"The enemy has launched an attack heading exactly at the humanitarian corridor," the Ukrainian defence ministry said on Facebook on Tuesday, adding that the Russian army "did not let children, women and elderly people leave the city". The International Committee of the Red Cross said many Mariupol residents face an "apocalyptic" situation, with no water, power or heating.

Ukraine's deputy prime minister said 5,000 civilians were successfully evacuated from the Sumy region on Tuesday, where 21 people had been killed in air strikes on Tuesday.

The Polish incident has exposed cracks in the Nato alliance which the Biden administration has struggled to keep in lockstep in the face of the Russian invasion. Vice President Kamala Harris is due to hold talks with the Polish government in Warsaw on Thursday where she will attempt to repair some of the diplomatic damage.The US said ...

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/10/top-russia-ukraine-diplomats-arrive-in-turkey-for-talks

Mar. 10, 2022

Top Russia, Ukraine diplomats talk in Turkey

...The foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine met for face-to-face talks in Turkey on Thursday in the first high-level contact between the two sides since Moscow invaded its ex-Soviet neighbour last month.

Ukraine's Dmytro Kuleba said he secured no promise from Russia's Sergey Lavrov to halt firing so aid could reach civilians, including the main humanitarian priority – evacuating hundreds of thousands of people trapped in the besieged port city of Mariupol.
...
Lavrov, meanwhile, said Russia wants to continue negotiations with Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin would not refuse a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss "specific" issues.

Lavrov said Russia would not have started the conflict in Ukraine if the West had not rejected "our proposal on security guarantees".

"Until the end, we wanted to resolve the situation in Ukraine through diplomatic means," he said.
...
The Russian foreign minister said he did not believe the standoff with the West over Ukraine would lead to nuclear war.
...
The meeting between Lavrov and Kuleba took place on the sidelines of a diplomacy forum near Antalya on Thursday. Turkish foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also participated.

Cavusoglu has said t**he aim of the meeting was to pave the way for a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, which would be facilitated by Turkey's president.**

Kuleba said earlier his team will be "pressing for the maximum".

"I will demand a ceasefire to liberate our territories, and of course to resolve the humanitarian issues, or rather catastrophes created by the Russian military," he said.

Moscow has said Ukraine must meet all of its demands – including that Kyiv takes a neutral position and drops aspirations of joining the NATO alliance – before an end of its assault.

It was the first trip abroad for Lavrov since Russia was isolated by the Western world with biting sanctions that have also targeted Putin's long-serving top diplomat.

Bringing Lavrov and Kuleba together marks "a step forward" and could escalate diplomacy at higher levels in Moscow, said Mustafa Aydin, professor at Kadir Has University in Istanbul.

"Russia is not yet close to entertaining peace, though it is slowly changing its stance," Aydin said. "Its initially uncompromising posture is slowly giving way to a negotiation stance though not yet enough for a concrete outcome."

Soner Cagaptay, from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, echoed the comments.

"I think this is really not a moment for Putin to accept humility and step down," he said.

"But I think this is still a significant achievement for Turkish diplomats, the fact that they can get the foreign ministers of these two parties in brutal conflict to sit together around a table in a neutral location, it's a very significant achievement."

https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ukraine-crisis-belarus-attacks-idAFKCN2L81M3

Mar. 11, 2022

Ukraine says Russia wants to drag Belarus into war, warns of invasion plan

LVIV, Ukraine (Reuters) -Ukraine said Belarus could be planning to invade its territory on Friday and accused Russia of trying to drag its ally into the war by staging air attacks on Belarus from Ukrainian air space.

Belarus has served as a staging post for Russian troops, missiles and aircraft, both before and after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, but it has not deployed its own forces in active battle.

Ukraine's military accused Russian aircraft of firing at Belarusian border villages from Ukrainian air space on Friday to provide an excuse for an offensive.

"This is a PROVOCATION! The goal is to involve the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus in the war with Ukraine!" Ukraine's Air Force Command said in an online statement.

The Kremlin did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Air Force Command's statement.

The alleged attacks took place as Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko was meeting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow, according to Ukraine's State Centre for Strategic Communications.

The result of this meeting could be an attack by Belarus across Ukraine's northern border, the centre said in statement.

"According to preliminary data, Belarusian troops may be drawn into an invasion on March 11 at 21:00 (1900 GMT)," it said.

Last week, Lukashenko, a close Kremlin ally, said Belarusian armed forces were not taking part and would not take part in what Russia calls its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Ukrainian senior officials said Russia was doing everything possible to draw Belarus into the conflict, after failing in what Western countries say was an initial plan for a lightning assault on the capital.

"We also understand that the Belarusian government has been doing everything possible to avoid joining this war," Ukrainian deputy interior minister Yevheniy Yenin said on national television on Friday.

There was no immediate comment on the allegations from Belarus.

Ukraine's top security official Oleksiy Danilov said Ukraine had so far shown restraint towards Belarus, despite Russia using it as a launchpad for attacks on Ukraine. But he warned on Friday if "one fighter crosses our border, we will fight back."

Meanwhile Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy struck a more conciliatory note in a speech to the government of neighbouring Poland, which also shares a border with Belarus.

"I really want these words to be heard by our common neighbors - Belarusians. Peace between relatives, peace between neighbors, peace between brothers, we must achieve this with them too. And we definitely will," Zelenskiy said.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/russia-says-no-positive-developments-yet-ukraine-talks-2022-03-07/

Mar. 12, 2022

Ukraine says Russian forces kill seven civilians in evacuation convoy

LVIV, Ukraine, March 12 (Reuters) - Ukraine accused Russian forces on Saturday of killing seven civilians in an attack on women and children trying to flee fighting near Kyiv, and France said Russian President Vladimir Putin had shown he was not ready to make peace.

With Russia's invasion in its third week, the Ukrainian intelligence service said the seven, including one child, were killed as they fled the village of Peremoha and that "the occupiers forced the remnants of the column to turn back."

Ukrainian officials later said the convoy was not traveling along a "green corridor" agreed with Russia when it was struck on Friday, correcting their earlier assertion that it was on such a designated route.

Reuters was unable immediately to verify the report and Russia offered no immediate comment.

Moscow denies targeting civilians since invading Ukraine on Feb. 24. It blames Ukraine for failed attempts to evacuate civilians from encircled cities, an accusation Ukraine and its Western allies strongly reject.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said Moscow was sending in new troops after Ukrainian forces put 31 of Russia's battalion tactical groups out of action in what he called Russia's largest army losses in decades. It was not possible to verify his statements.

"We still need to hold on. We still have to fight," Zelenskiy said in a video address late on Saturday, his second of the day.

He said earlier that about 1,300 Ukrainian troops had been killed so far and urged the West to get more involved in peace negotiations. The president suggested Russian forces would face a fight to the death if they sought to enter the capital.

"If they decide to carpet bomb (Kyiv), and simply erase the history of this region ... and destroy all of us, then they will enter Kyiv. If that's their goal, let them come in, but they will have to live on this land by themselves," he said.

Zelenskiy discussed the war with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Emmanuel Macron, and the German and French leaders then spoke to Putin by phone and urged him to order an immediate ceasefire.

A Kremlin statement on the 75-minute call made no mention of a ceasefire and a French presidency official said: "We did not detect a willingness on Putin's part to end the war".

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov accused the United States of escalating tensions and said the situation had been complicated by convoys of Western arms shipments to Ukraine that Russian forces considered "legitimate targets". ...

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraines-zelenskiy-warns-desolation-if-russia-tries-take-kyiv-2022-03-13/

Mar. 13, 2022

Russian strike on base brings Ukraine war close to NATO's border

LVIV, Ukraine, March 13 (Reuters) - **Russian missiles hit a large Ukrainian base near the border with NATO member Poland on Sunday, killing 35 people and wounding 134**, a local official said, in an escalation of the war to the west of the country as intense fighting was reported elsewhere.

Russia's defence ministry said the air strike had destroyed a large amount of weapons supplied by foreign nations that were being stored at the sprawling training facility, and that it had killed "up to 180 foreign mercenaries".

Reuters could not independently verify the casualties reported by either side.

The attack on the Yavoriv International Centre for Peacekeeping and Security, a training base just 15 miles (25 km) from the Polish border that has previously hosted NATO military instructors, brought the conflict to the doorstep of the Western defence alliance.

Russia's deputy foreign minister had warned on Saturday that convoys of Western arms shipments to Ukraine could be considered legitimate targets.

Britain said the incident marked a "significant escalation" of the conflict. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan, speaking on CBS's "Face the Nation", said any attack on NATO territory would trigger a full response by the alliance.

Regional governor Maksym Kozytskyy said Russian planes fired around 30 rockets at the Yavoriv facility, adding that some were intercepted before they hit. At least 35 people were killed and 134 wounded, he said.

Russian defence ministry spokesperson Igor Konashenkov said Russia had used high precision long range weapons to strike Yavoriv and a separate facility in the village of Starichi.

"As a result of the strike, up to 180 foreign mercenaries and a large amount of foreign weapons were destroyed," he told a briefing.

The 360-square km (140-square mile) facility is one of Ukraine's biggest and is the largest in the western part of the country, which has so far been spared the worst of the fighting.

Ukraine, whose aspirations to join NATO are a major irritant to Russian President Vladimir Putin, held most of its drills with Western countries at the base before the invasion. The last major exercises were in September.

In the weeks before Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, the Ukrainian military trained there, but according to Ukrainian media all foreign instructors left in mid-February, leaving behind equipment.

While Western nations have sought to isolate Putin by imposing harsh economic sanctions and have been supplying Ukraine with weapons, the United States and its allies are concerned to avoid NATO being drawn into the conflict.

"There are no NATO personnel in Ukraine," the NATO official said, when asked if any NATO personnel were at the base.

https://www.thenationalnews.com/world/us-news/2022/03/14/russias-offensive-stalled-in-ukraine-but-moscow-not-backing-down-pentagon/

Mar. 14, 2022

Russia's offensive 'stalled' in Ukraine but Moscow not backing down: Pentagon

... **"Almost all of Russia's advances remain stalled**," the official said, with the Russian military facing mounting challenges on the battlefront.

But despite those challenges, the Pentagon saw no sign of Russia slowing its battlefield tempo.

"We want to see a ceasefire … but what we are seeing is still a very concerted Russian efforts to continue with ever more violence."

The official estimated that Russian forces continue to be stalled about 15 kilometres from Kyiv's city centre while the bombardments of Mariupol and Kharkiv continue, though Moscow has been unable to prevail on either front.

The Pentagon added that **Russia has now fired more than 900 missiles in Ukraine but has yet to achieve air superiority.**

"The Russians, for all their inventory and for all the munitions that they have available to them … they have still not achieved air superiority over all of Ukraine," the official said.

Asked about the Russian strike on the Yavoriv military base close to the Polish border on Sunday, the US official said it involved "several dozen" missiles fired from bombers flying inside Russian airspace.

But he added that the strike, which occurred alarmingly close to a Nato country, will not affect the US military posture in Poland or assistance flowing to Ukraine.

"I would just tell you that the that the strike on Yavoriv has not changed our posture and it certainly hasn't precipitated any specific decision to move or reposition anybody else [out] of Poland."

He added that part of the $350 million security package authorised by President Joe Biden for Ukraine last month will soon be delivered.

"We are fast at work on filling that out," he said.

Russia warned the West on Saturday against sending further weapons to Kyiv, saying that convoys carrying weaponry to Ukraine could be considered "legitimate targets".

The official also noted that **Ukraine is using drones sent by Turkey "effectively" and that it still has "a significant majority of their inventory left".**

Ukraine has received **Turkish-made Bayraktar TB2 drones that have been reportedly used to attack Russian tanks and missile launchers over the past three weeks.**

The US official said Washington is holding talks with allies and partners on boosting Ukraine's weapons capabilities.

Mr Biden spoke with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday and the two leaders "reaffirmed their strong support for the government and people of Ukraine", the White House said.

Return to Timeline

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location?secret=unhcrrestricted

Select live link for latest counts

Mar. 15, 2022

3,000,381 refugees have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022



Location name	Source	Data date	Population
Poland	*Government*	15 Mar 2022	1,830,711
Romania	*Government*	15 Mar 2022	459,485
Republic of Moldova	*Government*	14 Mar 2022	337,215
Hungary	*Government*	15 Mar 2022	267,570
Slovakia	*Government*	14 Mar 2022	213,000
Russian Federation	*Government*	14 Mar 2022	142,994
Belarus	*Government*	14 Mar 2022	1,475

... As the situation continues to unfold, an estimated 4 million people may flee Ukraine. In light of the emergency and paramount humanitarian needs of refugees from Ukraine, an inter-agency regional refugee response is being carried out, in support of refugee-hosting countries' efforts. The regional refugee response plan brings together UN, NGO and other relevant partners and primarily focuses on supporting the host country governments to ensure safe access to territory for refugees and third-country nationals fleeing from Ukraine, in line with international standards. It also focuses on the provision of critical protection services and humanitarian assistance, while displacement dynamics and needs continue to grow exponentially.

https://financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/european-leaders-visit-kyiv-zelenskiy-hints-at-compromise-outside-nato

Mar. 15, 2022

European leaders visit Kyiv; Zelenskiy hints at NATO compromise

LVIV, Ukraine/KYIV, March 15 (Reuters) - Three European prime ministers headed to Kyiv by train on Tuesday for the first visit of its kind since war began, even as buildings there were ablaze and rescue workers were trying to pull survivors from the rubble of fresh Russian bombardment.

That foreign leaders could attempt to visit the Ukrainian capital was a striking symbol of Ukraine's success so far in fending off an assault that Western countries believe was aimed at seizing Kyiv weeks ago.

"It is our duty to be where history is forged. Because it's not about us, but about the future of our children who deserve to live in a world free from tyranny," said **Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who crossed the border with Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and Janez Jansa of Slovenia.**

Fiala said the aim was **"to confirm the unequivocal support of the entire European Union for the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine."**

The visit comes at a time when Ukrainian officials are playing up the hope the war could end sooner than expected, saying Moscow may be coming to terms with its failure to impose a new government on Kyiv by force.

In the latest hint at compromise, President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Tuesday Kyiv was prepared to accept security guarantees that stop short of its long-term objective of the NATO alliance membership, which Moscow opposes.

Ukraine understands it does not have an open door to join NATO yet, Zelenskiy said in a video message: **"If we cannot enter through open doors, then we must cooperate with the associations with which we can, which will help us, protect us ... and have separate guarantees."**

Peace talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations via a video link restarted on Tuesday after a pause on Monday, the first time a round of talks ran to a second day.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said it was too early to predict progress: "The work is difficult, and in the current situation the very fact that (the talks) are continuing is probably positive."
...
One of Zelenskiy's top aides said the war would be over by May, or even end within weeks, as Russia had run out of fresh troops.

"We are at a fork in the road now," Oleksiy Arestovich said in a video. He said he expected either a peace deal within one or two weeks or another Russian attempt with new reinforcements, which could prolong the conflict for another month.

"I think that no later than in May, early May, we should have a peace agreement, maybe much earlier: we will see," Arestovich said.

In Rivne in western Ukraine, officials said 19 people had been killed in a Russian air strike on a TV tower. If confirmed it would be the worst attack on a civilian target so far in the northwest where Russian ground troops have yet to tread.

Peace talks have focused so far on local ceasefires to let civilians evacuate and bring aid to surrounded cities.

https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-announce-new-security-assistance-ukraine-after-signing-massive-spending-2022-03-16/

Mar. 16, 2022

U.S. to send hundreds more anti-aircraft systems to Ukraine

WASHINGTON, March 16 (Reuters) - President Joe Biden **announced an additional $800 million in security assistance to Ukraine on Wednesday, even as his position on a no-fly zone did not change after** Ukrainian President Volodymyr **Zelenskiy's urgent appeal to the U.S. Congress** for military help to fend off a Russian invasion.

Addressing Zelenskiy's remarks in his speech, Biden said the **United States has offered Ukraine $1 billion in security aid, adding America will continue to give Ukraine weapons to fight and defend themselves, offer humanitarian relief and support Ukraine's economy with additional financial assistance.**

"This new package on its own is going to provide unprecedented assistance to Ukraine, and **includes 800 anti-aircraft systems," Biden said, to stop Russian planes and helicopters** attacking Ukrainians.

At Zelenskiy's request, **Washington will help Ukraine acquire additional long-range missile anti-aircraft systems, Biden said. It will also supply 9,000 anti-armor systems, drones and 7,000 small arms such as machine guns, shotguns and grenade launchers** that will help civilians fighting to defend their country.

"More will be coming as we source additional stocks of equipment that ... we are ready to transfer," he said.

The new funds will come from a spending bill Biden signed into law that includes $13.6 billion in new aid to Ukraine.

In his address to Congress, Zelenskiy compared the attacks in Ukraine to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that pulled the United States into World War Two, and begged lawmakers, and Biden directly, for more help.

"This is a terror that Europe has not seen for 80 years, and we are asking for our life, for an answer to this terror from the whole world. Is this a lot to ask for? To create a no-fly zone over Ukraine to save people?" Zelenskiy asked through an interpreter.

"If this is too much to ask, we offer an alternative," he said. "You know what kind of defense systems we need," adding that he knows the United States has them.

Biden has referred to the creation of a no-fly zone over Ukraine as "World War Three," and the Pentagon has refused requests to send fighter jets to Ukraine. read more

Earlier on Wednesday, **Russia and Ukraine both emphasized newfound scope for compromise as peace talks were set to resume three weeks into a Russian assault** that has so far failed to topple the Ukrainian government.

On Tuesday, the White House said Biden will travel to Brussels for a March 24 NATO summit on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which Moscow terms a "special military operation" to disarm and "denazify" its neighbor.

Biden has ratcheted up sanctions imposed on Russia in recent days. He has called for a suspension of Russia's trading status that affords its exported products lower tariffs in the international arena and announced a ban on Russian oil and other energy imports.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/shells-hit-theatre-sheltering-ukraine-civilians-biden-calls-putin-war-criminal-2022-03-17/

Mar. 17, 2022

Russia getting bogged down in Ukraine, Western nations say

KYIV/LVIV, Ukraine, March 17 (Reuters) - Russian forces in Ukraine are blasting cities and killing civilians but no longer making progress on the ground, Western countries said on Thursday, as a war Moscow was thought to have hoped to win within days entered its fourth week.

...

Mariupol has suffered the worst humanitarian catastrophe of the war, with hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in basements with no food, water or power for weeks. Russian forces have begun letting some people out in private cars this week but have blocked aid convoys from reaching the city.

...

Although both sides have pointed to limited progress in peace talks this week, President Vladimir Putin, who ordered Russia's invasion on Feb. 24, showed little sign of relenting.

In a vituperative televised speech, he inveighed against "traitors and scum" at home who helped the West, and said the Russian people would spit them out like gnats.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Putin's security council, said the United States had stoked "disgusting" Russophobia in an attempt to force Russia to its knees: "It will not work - Russia has the might to put all of our brash enemies in their place."

...

Heavily outnumbered Ukrainian forces have prevented Moscow from capturing any of Ukraine's biggest cities so far despite the largest assault on a European state since World War Two. More than 3 million Ukrainians have fled and thousands of civilians and combatants have died.

‘STALLED ON ALL FRONTS’

British military intelligence said in an update on Thursday that the invasion had "largely stalled on all fronts", and Russian forces were suffering heavy losses from a staunch and well-coordinated Ukrainian resistance.

...

Russia has assaulted Ukraine from four directions, sending two massive columns towards Kyiv from the northwest and northeast, pushing in from the east near the second biggest city Kharkiv, and spreading in the south from Crimea.

Northeastern and northwestern suburbs of Kyiv have been reduced to rubble by heavy fighting, but the capital itself has held firm, under a curfew and subjected to deadly nightly rocket attacks.

Amid the unrelenting fighting, both sides have spoken of progress at talks. **Ukrainian officials have said they think Russia is running out of troops to keep fighting and could soon come to terms with its failure to topple the Ukrainian government.** Moscow has said it is close to agreeing a formula that would keep Ukraine neutral, long one of its demands.

Moscow said peace talks resumed on Thursday by videolink for a fourth straight day, discussing military, political and humanitarian issues. A top aide to Zelenskiy said Ukraine still maintained its core demand, that it retain sovereignty over areas occupied since 2014 by Russian and pro-Russian forces.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-united-nations-europe-antony-blinken-c3310a12490a0cf2e06f5f389e22e3a6

Mar. 18, 2022

Putin appears at big rally as troops press attack in Ukraine

Vladimir Putin appeared at a huge flag-waving rally at a Moscow stadium Friday and lavished praise on his troops fighting in Ukraine, three weeks into the invasion that has led to heavier-than-expected Russian losses on the battlefield and increasingly authoritarian rule at home.
...
The Moscow rally came as Russian troops continued to rain lethal fire on Ukrainian cities, including the capital, Kyiv, and pounded an aircraft repair installation on the outskirts of Lviv, close to the Polish border.

“Shoulder to shoulder, they help and support each other,” the Russian president said of the Kremlin’s forces in a rare public appearance since the start of the war. “We have not had unity like this for a long time,” he added to cheers from the crowd.

The show of support amid a burst of antiwar protests inside Russia led to allegations in some quarters that **the rally — held officially to mark the eighth anniversary of Russia’s annexation of Crimea, which was seized from Ukraine — was a manufactured display of patriotism.**

Several Telegram channels critical of the Kremlin reported that students and employees of state institutions in a number of regions were ordered by their superiors to attend rallies and concerts marking the anniversary. Those reports could not be independently verified.

Moscow police said more than 200,000 people were in and around the Luzhniki stadium. The event included patriotic songs, including a performance of “Made in the U.S.S.R.,” with the opening lines “Ukraine and Crimea, Belarus and Moldova, it’s all my country.”

Seeking to portray the war as just, Putin paraphrased the Bible to say of Russia’s troops: “There is no greater love than giving up one’s soul for one’s friends.”

Taking to the stage where a sign read “For a world without Nazism,” he railed against his foes in Ukraine as “neo-Nazis” and continued to insist his actions were necessary to prevent “genocide” — a claim flatly denied by leaders around the globe.
...
Putin’s appearance marked a change from his relative isolation of recent weeks, when he has been shown meeting with world leaders and his staff either at extraordinarily long tables or via videoconference.
...
Putin’s quoting of the Bible and an 18th-century Russian admiral reflected his increasing focus in recent years on history and religion as binding forces in Russia’s post-Soviet society. His branding of his enemies as Nazis evoked what many Russians consider their country’s finest hour, the defense of the motherland from Germany during World War II.

The rally came as Vladimir Medinsky, who led Russian negotiators in several rounds of talks with Ukraine, said that the sides have moved closer to agreement on the issue of Ukraine dropping its bid to join NATO and adopting a neutral status.

“The issue of neutral status and no NATO membership for Ukraine is one of the key issues in talks, and that is the issue where the parties have made their positions maximally close,” Medinsky said in remarks carried by Russian media.

He added that the sides are now “halfway” on issues regarding the demilitarization of Ukraine.

In other developments, U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping spoke for nearly two hours in a bid by the U.S. to deter Beijing from providing military or economic assistance for Russia’s invasion.

Earlier Friday, one person was reported killed in the missile attack near Lviv. Satellite photos showed the strike destroyed a repair hangar and appeared to damage two other buildings. Ukraine said it had shot down two of six missiles in the volley, which came from the Black Sea. ...

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-europe-nato-49abe49e9b35833a385fe10db802dc5a

Mar. 19, 2022

Denied easy victory, Russia presses reduced goals in Ukraine

... **Putin's forces in Ukraine are waging Russia's largest, most complex combined military campaign since taking Berlin in 1945. His initial objective, which he announced in a television address on Feb. 24 as the invasion began, was to "demilitarize" Ukraine and save its people from "neo-Nazis," a false description of Ukraine's government, which is led by a Jewish president.**

Fatefully, Putin underestimated the national pride and battlefield skills that Ukrainians have built up over the past eight years of battling Russian-backed separatists in the country's east.

At the start, Russians thought "they would install, you know, some pro-Russian government and call it a day and declare victory," said Dmitry Gorenburg, a researcher on Russia's security at the Virginia-based CNA think tank. "That was sort of Plan A, and as near as we can tell, they didn't really have a Plan B."

Russia's first apparent plan — attack key Ukrainian military targets, and make a quick run to Kyiv — failed immediately. It was foiled by Ukraine's defenses along with the countless mistakes and organizational failures by a Russian force that had been told it was only mobilized for military drills.

...

Putin's forces are in position to capture the besieged port city of Mariupol. Overall, Russians appear to be fighting with three objectives now: to surround Kyiv, to encircle spread-out Ukrainian fighters in the east, and to break through to the major port city of Odessa in the west, said **Michael Kofman**, **an expert on the Russian military and program director at CNA.**

... cautions that much of the information on the war is coming from Ukrainians, or their American or other allies. That makes the partial picture skewed, and a full picture impossible.

...

Estimates of Russian deaths vary widely. Yet even conservative figures are in the low thousands. That's a much faster pace than in previous Russian offensives, threatening support for the war among ordinary Russians. Russia had 64 deaths in five days of fighting during its 2008 war with Georgia. It lost about 15,000 in Afghanistan over 10 years, and more than 11,000 over years of fighting in Chechnya.

Russia's number of dead and wounded in Ukraine is nearing the 10% benchmark of diminished combat effectiveness, Gorenburg said. The reported battlefield deaths of four Russian generals — out of an estimated 20 in the fight — signal impaired command, he said.

Researchers tracking only those Russian equipment losses that were photographed or recorded on video say **Russia has lost more than 1,500 tanks, trucks, mounted equipment and other heavy gear. Two out of three of those were captured or abandoned**, signaling the failings of the Russian troops that let them go.

Meanwhile, Russia needs to limit its use of smart, long-range missiles in case they're needed in any larger war with NATO, military analysts say.

When it comes to the grinding job of capturing and holding cities, conventional military metrics suggest Russia needs a 5-to-1 advantage in urban fighting, analysts say. Meanwhile, the formula for ruling a restive territory in the face of armed opposition is 20 fighters for every 1,000 people — or 800,000 Russian troops for Ukraine's more than 40 million people, Clarke notes. That's almost as many as Russia's entire active-duty military of 900,000.

On the ground, that means **controlling any substantial chunk of Ukrainian territory long-term would take more resources than Russia could foreseeably commit.**

Other Russian options remain possible, including a negotiated settlement. Moscow is demanding that Ukraine formally embrace neutrality, thus swearing off any alliance with NATO, and recognize the...

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/flow-ukrainian-refugees-testing-limits-central-europes-capacity-2022-03-20/

Mar. 20, 2022

Flow of Ukrainian refugees testing limits of central Europe's capacity

PRAGUE/WARSAW, March 20 (Reuters) - Officials in Central Europe voiced concern on Sunday that they were **reaching capacity to comfortably house some of the nearly 3.5 million refugees who have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion and are now camped in temporary accommodation.**

Most of the Ukrainians have arrived at border points in Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Hungary, data compiled by the U.N. refugee agency shows, putting pressure on the European Union countries now attempting to shelter them.

Czech Interior Minister Vit Rakusan said the government would seek to extend a state of emergency to deal with the influx, with officials trying to relocate new arrivals to cities outside the capital Prague to ease the pressure.

"The Czech Republic is balancing on the edge of capacities where we are able to provide comfortable living conditions," Rakusan said during a television debate. "Living in gyms, sleeping bags, or campsites is not good for life."

The Czech parliament also approved three laws this week making it easier for Ukrainian refugees to access to work, health insurance, and allow schools to raise class capacities.

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said seven humanitarian corridors would open on Sunday to enable civilians to leave frontline areas.
In Poland, whose Ukrainian community of around 1.5 million is the region's largest, refugees waited in line for a third day in front of the National Stadium temporarily turned into an administration office to register new arrivals.

More than 2 million Ukrainians have crossed into Poland ... Warsaw officials say this has increased the Polish capital's population of 1.8 million by 17%.

"We never know how many refugees will arrive," Warsaw city council spokeswoman Monika Beuth-Lutyk said. "We have done everything we can and **the next move is up to the government to implement a system and to build refugee towns."**
...
At the Medyka crossing, Poland's busiest along the country's some 500-km (310-mile) border with Ukraine, **aid groups were preparing for a surge of refugees if humanitarian corridors allowed Ukrainians in areas under siege to escape.**
...
With men of conscription age obliged to stay and help defend Ukraine, mostly women and children have entered the EU.

Newly arriving refugees described panic during their escapes that included shelling and shooting overhead by Russian forces as they fled their cities and began long journeys to safety.

"Rockets started to fly," said Natalia Strelcova, who entered Poland with her cat after fleeing the Dnipro region.

"It becomes scary, panic starts, and you want to run away somewhere," Strelcova added.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-australia-europe-global-trade-e2f629ea9049cdb2884c9f247d8e6f47

Mar. 20, 2022

Australia understands India's stance on Ukraine, after talks

Australia said it understands New Delhi's position on the ongoing Ukraine crisis, as the two countries aim to focus on stability in the Indo-Pacific region and pushing through a major trade deal, India's foreign secretary said on Monday.

The comments from Harsh Vardhan Shringla came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, concluded a virtual summit.

Shringla told reporters Morrison "expressed understanding of India's position on the issue of Ukraine, which he felt directly reflected our own situation, our own considerations".

In his opening remarks earlier, Morrison referenced the situation in Ukraine, calling it a "very distressing backdrop" to the meeting.

"While we are obviously very distressed by the situation in Europe, our focus is always very much on what is occurring in the Indo-Pacific and ensuring that those events never occur here," he said.

Modi, however, did not mention Ukraine. Instead, he emphasized India's commitment to a "free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific".

Both leaders stressed the progress of the Quad, an alliance of Australia, India, Japan and the United States that aims to counter China's rising influence in Asia. "The success of the Quad is critical to regional and global stability," Modi said.

India is the only Quad member that has not condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine. It has refrained from taking sides and abstained from voting against Russia at the U.N. or criticizing President Vladimir Putin. Analysts say India's position stems from New Delhi's reliance on Russia, which was a Cold War ally for energy, weapons and support in conflicts with its neighbors.

Modi and Morrison said they would also prioritize building economic relations and the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement for which negotiations first began in 2011. Talks on an interim trade deal were ongoing with the hope of reaching an outcome "at the earliest," Shringla said at a press briefing after the virtual summit.

A joint statement including more details on investments into various areas like defense, maritime cooperation, renewable energy, space and critical minerals will be released later on Monday. Bilateral trade between the two countries has grown over the years, reaching around $20 billion annually in 2020, according to government data.

Monday's summit was the second one after the first was held in 2020, where Modi and Morrison upgraded the India-Australia relationship with a raft of agreements, focused on strengthening defense ties and cooperation on Indo-Pacific maritime issues.

Return to Timeline

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location?secret=unhcrrestricted

Select live link for latest counts

Mar. 21, 2022

3,557,245 refugees have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022

Total Refugee influx from Ukraine in neighboring countries*

Location name	
Poland	2,113,554
Romania	543,308
Republic of Moldova	367,913
Hungary	317,863
Slovakia	253,592
Russian Federation	252,376
Belarus	4,308

*The accumulated data in this table is higher than the total number of refugees fleeing Ukraine presented above since it also takes into account people crossing the border between Romania and Moldova.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-refuses-surrender-mariupol-russia-warns-humanitarian-catastrophe-2022-03-21/

Mar. 21, 2022

Besieged Ukrainian port defies Russian order to drop weapons

MARIUPOL/LVIV/KYIV, Ukraine, March 21 (Reuters) - Ukraine defied Moscow's demand for its soldiers to lay down arms before dawn on Monday in besieged Mariupol where hundreds of thousands of civilians are cowering from Russian bombardments laying waste to their city.

Russia's military had ordered residents of the southeastern port to surrender by 5 a.m., saying those who did so could leave, while those who stayed would be handed to tribunals run by Moscow-backed separatists.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's government responded that it would never bow to ultimatums and cities such as the capital Kyiv, Mariupol and Kharkhiv would always defy occupation.

"There can be no question of any surrender" in Mariupol, responded Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk.

Russia's invasion, now in its fourth week, has largely stalled. It has failed to seize any major city much less capture Kyiv or swiftly topple Zelenskiy.

But Russia has caused massive destruction to residential areas, particularly in Mariupol on the Sea of Azov which was home to 400,000 people. It has run short of food, medicine, power and water since the first days of the war.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov praised the city's "heroic defenders", saying their holdout had helped thwart Russia elsewhere.

"By virtue of their dedication and superhuman courage, tens of thousands of lives throughout Ukraine were saved. Today Mariupol is saving Kyiv, Dnipro and Odesa."

A part of Mariupol now held by Russian forces, reached by Reuters on Sunday, was an eerie wasteland. Several bodies lay by the road, wrapped in blankets. Windows were blasted out and walls were charred black. People who came out of basements sat on benches amid the debris, bundled up in coats. read more

A group of men dug graves by the roadside.

In one dark cellar packed with families, Irina Chernenko, a university librarian, said she had been there for 11 days.

"Everything is destroyed. Where can we go?" she said. "We're cooking over a fire - for now we still have a bit of food and some firewood."

'IT'S HARD FOR ME TO SPEAK'

Russia calls the war, the biggest attack on a European state since World War Two, a "special military operation" to disarm Ukraine and protect it from "Nazis".

The West calls this a false pretext for an unprovoked war of aggression by President Vladimir Putin.

Nearly a quarter of Ukraine's 44 million people have been driven from their homes, including 3.4 million fleeing abroad, according to the United Nations, in one of the fastest exoduses ever recorded.

A U.N. tally includes more than 900 civilian deaths but the true total is unknown.

Thousands of Russian and Ukrainian troops have also died, and Russia's artillery-heavy army has suffered large losses in tanks and armour. Five Russian generals have been killed, a loss of senior commanders in such a short period almost unheard of in modern warfare.

In Kyiv, six bodies were laid on the pavement by a shopping mall struck overnight by Russian shelling. Emergency services combed wreckage to the sound of distant artillery fire. ...

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-kyiv-business-europe-58eb1948eae037b72218abca32131498

Mar. 22, 2022

Ukraine retakes key Kyiv suburb; battle for Mariupol rages

... Ukrainian troops forced Russian forces out of the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to **retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest.**

Still, the Defense Ministry said Russian forces were able to partially take other northwest suburbs, Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin, some of which had been under attack almost since Russia's military invaded almost a month ago.
...
Facing unexpectedly stiff resistance, Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces are increasingly concentrating their air power and artillery on Ukraine's cities and the civilians living there.

U.S. and British officials say Kyiv remains Russia's primary objective. The bulk of Moscow's forces remain miles from the center, but missiles and artillery have destroyed apartment buildings and a large shopping mall, which was left a smoking ruin after being hit late Sunday by strikes that killed eight people, according to emergency officials.

A senior U.S. defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the military's assessment, said Russia had increased air sorties over the past two days, carrying out as many as 300 over a 24-hour period, and has fired more than 1,100 missiles into Ukraine since the invasion began.
...
As Russian forces try to squeeze Kyiv, talks to end the fighting have continued by video but failed to bridge the chasm between the two sides. Ukrainian President Volodymyr **Zelenskyy told Ukrainian television late Monday that he would be prepared to consider waiving any bid by Ukraine to join NATO — a key Russian demand — in exchange for a cease-fire, the withdrawal of Russian troops and a guarantee of Ukraine's security.**
...
more than 1,100 people who had escaped the besieged city [of Mariupol] ...But the Red Cross said a humanitarian aid convoy trying to reach the embattled city with desperately needed supplies still had not been able to enter.

Perched on the Sea of Azov, **Mariupol is a crucial port for Ukraine and lies along a stretch of territory between Russia and Crimea. As such, it is a key target that has been besieged for more than three weeks and has seen some of the worst suffering of the war.**

It is not clear how close its capture might be. Ukraine's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that their forces were still defending the city and had destroyed a Russian patrol boat and electronic warfare complex. Britain's Defense Ministry said its intelligence showed that "Ukrainian forces continue to repulse Russian attempts to occupy" the city.

Those who have made it out of Mariupol told of a devastated city.
...
In all, more than 8,000 people escaped to safer areas Monday through humanitarian corridors, including about 3,000 from Mariupol, Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said.

Overall, more than 3.5 million people have fled Ukraine, while another 6.5 million have been displaced inside the country.

Matthew Saltmarsh, a spokesperson for the U.N. refugee agency, called the speed and scale of people fleeing danger in Ukraine "unprecedented in recent memory."

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/23/ukraine-says-russia-seized-relief-workers-mariupol-convoy.html

Mar. 23, 2022

4 weeks, still defiant: Ukraine fights into 2nd month of war

... [Today] marking four full weeks of fighting, Russia is instead bogged down in an increasingly costly, uncertain and grinding military campaign, with untold numbers of dead, **no immediate end in sight**, and encircled by western sanctions biting hard on its economy and currency. **U.S. President Joe Biden and key allies meeting in Brussels and Warsaw this week will discuss possible new sanctions and additional military assistance for Ukraine.**

... Addressing Japan's parliament on Wednesday, Zelenskyy said **four weeks of war have killed thousands of people and 121 of Ukraine's children.**

"Our people cannot even adequately bury their murdered relatives, friends and neighbors, they have to be buried right in the yards of destroyed buildings, next to the roads," he said.

Repeatedly pushed back by hit-and-run Ukrainian units armed with Western-supplied weapons, Russian troops are shelling targets from afar, falling back on tactics they previously used in reducing cities to ruins in Syria and Chechnya. Major Russian strategic objectives remain unfulfilled: The capital Kyiv has been repeatedly hit but not taken or even encircled.

More shelling and gunfire shook the city again Wednesday, with plumes of black smoke rising from the western outskirts, where the two sides battled for control of multiple suburbs. A shopping mall and buildings were hit, injuring four people, the city administration reported.

In the south, **the port city of Mariupol has seen the worst devastation of the war, under weeks of siege and bombardment. So far, the Ukrainian forces' defense has prevented its fall. That is thwarting the Russian aim of opening up another permanent and secured land link from the Crimean peninsula, seized from Ukraine in 2014, to Russia.**
...
Perched on the Sea of Azov, **Mariupol is a crucial port for Ukraine and lies along a stretch of territory between Russia and Crimea.** It's not clear how much of the city Russia holds, with fleeing residents saying fighting continues street by street. **In their last update on March 15, Mariupol officials said at least 2,300 people had died in the siege. Accounts from the city suggest the true toll is much higher**, with bodies lying uncollected. Airstrikes the past week destroyed a theater and an art school where many civilians were taking shelter.
...
Western officials say Ukrainian resistance has brought much of Russia's advance to a halt and that Russian forces are facing serious shortages of food, fuel and cold weather gear, leaving some soldiers suffering from frostbite. Britain's defense ministry said Wednesday the war in northern Ukraine is largely "static," with Russian forces trying to reorganize.

"We have seen indications that the Ukrainians are going a bit more on the offensive now," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby told reporters separately in Washington. He said that was particularly true in southern Ukraine, including near Kherson, where "they have tried to regain territory."

Russia's far stronger, bigger military has many Western military experts warning against overconfidence in Ukraine's long-term odds. Russia's practice in past wars in Chechnya and Syria has been to grind down resistance with strikes that flattened cities, killing countless civilians and sending millions fleeing.

But Russian forces appeared unprepared and have often performed badly.

The U.S. estimates Russia has lost a bit more than 10% of the overall combat capability it had at the start of the fight, including troops, tanks and other materiel.

The invasion has driven more than 10 million people from their homes, almost a quarter of Ukraine's population, according to the United Nations.
...

https://www.aol.com/news/1-u-imposes-fresh-sanctions-140253453-151012503.html

Mar. 24, 2022

U.S., allies announce new Russia sanctions over Ukraine invasion

BRUSSELS/WASHINGTON, March 24 (Reuters) - The United States and its allies on Thursday imposed fresh sanctions on Russia, **targeting dozens of Russian defense companies, hundreds of members of its parliament and the chief executive of the country's largest bank** as Washington ramps up pressure on Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine.

The U.S. Treasury Department also issued guidance on its website warning that gold-related transactions involving Russia may be sanctionable by U.S. authorities, a move aimed at stopping Russia from evading existing sanctions.

"Our purpose here is to methodically remove the benefits and privileges Russia once enjoyed as a participant in the international economic order," a senior administration official said.

The United States and its allies have imposed several rounds of sanctions, including targeting the country's largest lenders and President Vladimir Putin, since Russian forces invaded Ukraine a month ago in the biggest assault on a European state since World War Two.

Moscow calls the assault a "special operation" to disarm and "denazify" its neighbor.

Among the new sanctions targets are more than 40 defense companies, including state-owned Tactical Missiles Corp and 28 firms to which it is linked, as well as its general director, the U.S. Treasury Department said in a statement.

The Treasury said **Washington's action aligned with similar measures taken by the EU, the United Kingdom and Canada.**

The Treasury said the conglomerate, which Britain has already hit with sanctions, produces naval systems and weapons that Russia is using against Ukraine, including the Kh-31, a high-speed airborne guided missile that has been employed extensively in Moscow's offensive.

Other firms on the new list include manufacturers of ammunition for the Russian military, civilian and military helicopters, and drones that the Treasury said originally were designed for surveillance but have been "repurposed" and used to attack Ukrainian forces.

The Treasury also slapped **sanctions on 328 members of the Duma, Russia's parliament, and Herman Gref, the head of Russia's largest lender, Sberbank**, who the Treasury said was a close Putin associate.

The White House in a statement said Thursday's action **also targeted 17 board members of Sovcombank and Gennady Timchenko, a longtime ally of Putin, his companies and family members.**

The official said the United States warned Putin that it would face swift and severe consequences if he invaded Ukraine and they have delivered on that threat. The official noted that the country is facing punishing inflation and economic pain that will push it out of the world's top 20 economies.

"Russia will soon face an acute shortage of ideas, talent and technology to compete in the 21st century, and Putin will be left with a strategic failure of his own making," the official said. (Reporting by Jarrett Renshaw, Daphne Psaledakis, Jeff Mason and Jonathan Landay Editing by Chizu Nomiyama, Heather Timmons and Jonathan Oatis)

https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/other/microsoft-and-its-ceo-stick-to-their-choice-between-russia-and-ukraine/ar-AAVqmfw?li=BBnb7Kz

Mar. 24, 2022

Some multinational companies and their CEOs who openly support Ukraine

There will be a before and an after Russian war in Ukraine for multinationals.

Before this conflict, companies had always taken refuge behind the sacrosanct principle of neutrality in order not to speak out in the conduct of world affairs, often to the chagrin of some of their client base.

The arrival and the rise of social networks had not managed to change this principle of neutrality which was often accompanied by platitudes.

We have to believe that the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia has changed things and it is difficult to see today how to go back.

The first to blow up the levee was **Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla , SpaceX, Neuralink and The Boring Company.** The billionaire in the early days of this dispute, which began on Feb. 24, made known his support for Ukraine, to which he **sent terminals of SpaceX's satellite internet service Starlink to maintain Ukrainian access to internet as Russia destroyed and attacked the country's communications infrastructure.**

Musk also sent clear words of support to Ukrainians. The entrepreneur even went so far as to propose a duel with Russian President Vladimir Putin to put an end to this Russian war.

Musk was followed by **Jack Dorsey, the founder and ex-boss of Twitter** , who **donated millions of dollars to nonprofits helping the Ukrainian people.**
...
Microsoft, the software giant, has just proved it again.

"Our support for Ukraine is steadfast," Brad Smith, president and vice chair of the company co-founded by Gates, wrote Wednesday on Twitter. **"We've increased our humanitarian aid, continue to detect and defend against cyber threats, provide disaster response, and connect millions through free Skype service."**

CEO Satya Nadella retweeted the post, a clear way of saying where his sympathies lay for those who might wonder why he wasn't the one who wrote the post.

Beyond words, Microsoft has taken a panoply of anti-Russian actions to align words with deeds.

Microsoft has now committed over $35 million to support humanitarian assistance and relief efforts for Ukraine. This includes more than $18 million worth of Microsoft technology to help organizations such as the Polish Humanitarian Action respond to critical needs and others providing services on the ground, the company said.

Microsoft has also completed 67 projects in less than four weeks to assist groups that are in or helping Ukraine. The firm said it has received over 130 mission requests from government, nonprofit, and commercial organizations assisting those in need and will continue to work through additional requests.

Skype, its communication app, has extended its free calling into and out of Ukraine by another two weeks to help Ukrainians stay in touch with the world.

In addition, Microsoft is **matching employee donations to Ukraine by 2:1, resulting in more than $13.5 million raised to date in support of organizations working both within Ukraine and supporting refugees who have fled to neighboring countries**, the company said. These funds are provided to key NGOs with the mission of helping Ukrainians.

"We are continuing with the **suspension of all new sales of products and services in Russia**," the company said in a blog post. ...

As cyberattacks escalate and President Biden has warned companies to prepare for attacks from Russian hackers, Microsoft is **deploying its resources to help entities that are seen as prime targets.** ...

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/25/putins-war-ukraine-nearing-possibly-more-dangerous-phase.html

Mar. 25, 2022

Putin's war in Ukraine nearing possibly more dangerous phase

... after a month of fighting has left Russian forces stalled by an outnumbered foe, [Putin] is left with stark choices — how and where to replenish his spent ground forces, whether to attack the flow of Western arms to Ukrainian defenders, and at what cost he might escalate or widen the war.

Despite failing to score a quick victory, Putin is not relenting in the face of mounting international pressure, including sanctions that have battered his economy. **The Western world is aligned largely against Putin, but there have been no indications he is losing support from the majority of the Russian public** that relies predominantly on state-controlled TV for information.

Ukrainian defenders, outgunned but benefitting from years of American and NATO training and an accelerating influx of foreign arms and moral support, are showing new signs of confidence as the invading force struggles to regroup.

Russian shortcomings in Ukraine might be the biggest shock of the war so far. After two decades of modernization and professionalization, Putin's forces have proved to be ill-prepared, poorly coordinated and surprisingly stoppable. **The extent of Russian troop losses is not known in detail, although NATO estimates that between 7,000 and 15,000 have died in the first four weeks** — potentially as many as Russia lost in a decade of war in Afghanistan.

...

Ukraine's navy said Thursday it sank a large Russian landing ship near the port city of Berdyansk.

Faced with stout Ukrainian resistance, Russian forces have resorted to bombardment of urban areas but made little progress capturing the main prize — Kyiv. **The Pentagon said Wednesday that some Russian troops were digging in at defensive positions outside of Kyiv rather than attempting to advance on the capital, and that in some cases the Russians have lost ground in recent days.**

...

Philip Breedlove, a retired Air Force general who served as the top NATO commander in Europe from 2013 to 2016 and is now a Europe specialist with the Middle East Institute, said Ukraine may not win the war outright, but the outcome will be determined by what Zelenskyy is willing to accept in a negotiated settlement.

"I think it's highly unlikely that Russia is going to be defeated in detail on the battlefield," Breedlove said, because Russia has a large reserve of forces it could call on. But Ukraine might see winning as forcing Russia to pay such a high price that it is willing to strike a deal and withdraw.

"I think there is a chance of that," Breedlove said.

With the war's outcome in doubt, so too is Putin's wider goal of overturning the security order that has existed in Europe since the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Putin demands that NATO refuse membership to Ukraine and other former Soviet states like Georgia, and that the alliance roll back its military presence to positions held prior to expanding into Eastern Europe.

NATO leaders have rejected Putin's demands, and with uncharacteristic speed are bolstering the allied force presence in Romania, Slovakia and Hungary, which border Ukraine, and in Bulgaria, which like Ukraine sits on the Black Sea.

...

The human tragedy unfolding in Ukraine has overshadowed **a worry across Europe that Putin could, by miscalculation if not by intent, escalate the conflict by using chemical or nuclear weapons in Ukraine or attempt to punish neighboring NATO nations for their support for Ukraine by attacking them militarily.**

...

With that threat in mind, the United States and other allied countries have begun assembling combat forces in Bulgaria and other Eastern European NATO countries — not to enter the war directly but to send Putin the message that if he were to widen his war he would face allied resistance. ...

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-forces-counter-near-kyiv-russia-scales-back-goals-2022-03-26/

Mar. 26, 2022

Russian forces take Chernobyl workers' town; fighting in centre of Mariupol

MARIUPOL/LVIV, Ukraine, March 26 (Reuters) - Russian forces have taken control of a town where workers at the defunct Chernobyl nuclear plant live, the governor of Kyiv region said on Saturday, and fighting was reported in the streets of the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

After more than four weeks of conflict, Russia has failed to seize any major Ukrainian city and on Friday Moscow signalled it was scaling back its military ambitions to focus on territory claimed by Russian-backed separatists in the east.

However, intense fighting was reported in a number of places on Saturday, suggesting there would be no swift let-up in the conflict, **which has killed thousands of people, sent some 3.7 million abroad and driven more than half of Ukraine's children from their homes**, according to the United Nations.

Russian troops seized the town of Slavutych, which is close to the border with Belarus and is where workers at the nearby Chernobyl plant live, said Oleksandr Pavlyuk, the governor of Kyiv region.

He said the Russians had opened fire into the air and thrown stun grenades to disperse some residents who unfurled a large Ukrainian flag and shouted "Glory to Ukraine" in protest. Reuters could not independently verify the reports.

Slavutych sits just outside the so-called exclusion zone around Chernobyl - which in 1986 was the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster - where Ukrainian staff have continued to work even after the plant itself was seized by Russian forces soon after the start of the Feb. 24 invasion.

On the other side of the country, in Mariupol, Mayor Vadym Boichenko said the situation in the encircled city remained critical, with street fighting taking place in the centre.

The city has been devastated by weeks of Russian fire.

In an address on Saturday to Qatar's Doha Forum, **Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy compared the destruction of Mariupol to the destruction inflicted on the Syrian city of Aleppo by combined Syrian and Russian forces in the civil war.**

"They are destroying our ports," Zelenskiy said, warning of dire consequence if his country - one of the world's major grains producers - could not export its foodstuffs. "The absence of exports from Ukraine will deal a blow to countries worldwide."

Speaking via video link, **he also called on energy producing countries to increase their output so that Russia cannot use its massive oil and gas wealth to "blackmail" other nations.**

https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/turkey-says-world-cannot-burn-bridges-with-moscow-2022-03-27/

Mar. 27, 2022

Turkey says world cannot 'burn bridges' with Moscow

DOHA, March 27 (Reuters) - Turkey and other nations must still talk to Russia to help end the war in Ukraine, Turkey's presidential spokesman said on Sunday, adding that Kyiv needed more support to defend itself.

NATO member Turkey has good relations with both Russia and Ukraine and has sought to mediate in the month-long conflict.

"If everybody burns bridges with Russia then who is going to talk to them at the end of the day," Ibrahim Kalin told the Doha international forum.

"Ukrainians need to be supported by every means possible so they can defend themselves ... but the Russian case must be heard, one way or the other," so that its grievances could be understood if not justified, Kalin added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has urged the West to give his country tanks, planes and missiles to fend off Russian forces. The West has responded to Russia's invasion by slapping sweeping economic sanctions on Moscow.

Ankara (the capital of Turkey) **says Russia's invasion is unacceptable but opposes the Western sanctions on principle and has not joined them.**

Turkey's economy, already strained by a December currency crisis, **relies heavily on Russian energy, trade and tourism**, and since the war began on Feb. 24 **thousands of Russians have arrived in Turkey, seeing it as a safe haven from the sanctions.**

Ahmet Burak Daglioglu, head of Turkey's investment office, told the forum separately that some Russian companies were relocating operations to Turkey.

Asked on a panel about Turkey doing business with any people which could be of benefit to President Vladimir Putin, he said: "We are not targeting, we are not chasing, we are not pursuing any investment or capital that has a question mark on it."

Two superyachts linked to Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich have docked in Turkish resorts.

Western governments have targeted Abramovich and several other Russian oligarchs with sanctions as they seek to isolate Putin and his allies over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-kyiv-business-europe-7386a5893a3b43bad7e438cfe45468c2

Mar. 28, 2022

Russia shifts focus to try to grind Ukraine's army in east

... forcing Kyiv into surrendering part of the country's territory to possibly end the war.

The bulk of the Ukrainian army is concentrated in eastern Ukraine, where it has been locked up in fighting with Moscow-backed separatists in a nearly eight-year conflict. If Russia succeeds in encircling and destroying the Ukrainian forces in the country's industrial heartland called Donbas, it could try to dictate its terms to Kyiv and, possibly, attempt to split the country in two.

The Russian military declared Friday that the "first stage of the operation" had been largely accomplished, allowing Russian troops to concentrate on their "top goal — the liberation of Donbas."

Many observers say the shift in strategy could reflect President Vladimir Putin's acknowledgment that his plan for a blitz in Ukraine has failed, forcing him to narrow his goals and change tactics amid a disastrous war that has turned Russia into a pariah and decimated its economy.

U.S. and British officials also have noted that Moscow has increasingly focused on fighting the Ukrainian forces in the east while digging in around Kyiv and other big cities and pummeling them with rockets and artillery.

The chief of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, said Sunday **the change of focus could reflect Putin's hope to break Ukraine in two, like North and South Korea**, and enforce "a line of separation between the occupied and unoccupied regions."

"He can't swallow the entire country," Budanov said, adding that Russia appears to be trying "to pull the occupied territories into a single quasi-state structure and pit it against independent Ukraine."
...

But the Russian attempts to swiftly capture the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv, and other big cities in the northeast have been thwarted by well-organized Ukrainian defenses and logistical challenges that stalled the Russian offensive.
...
An analysis published Saturday by the Institute for the Study of War in Washington said the degree to which the Russians can push an accelerated move to cut off Donbas will depend in part on how soon their forces can gain full control of Mariupol and how badly damaged they emerge from that fight. It also noted that a **halt in the Russian offensive on Kyiv could reflect "the incapacity of Russian forces rather than any shift in Russian objectives or efforts at this time."**
...
Philips P. Obrien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, described **Saturday's cruise missile strikes on Lviv near the border with Poland as part of the Russian strategy to cut off supplies to the Ukrainian forces fighting in the east.**
...
If the Russian forces succeed in encircling Mykolaiv, Odesa and several other Black Sea ports, it will have completely cut Ukraine's access to its coast in a devastating blow to its economy. The seizure of Odesa will also allow Moscow to establish a link to the separatist Trans-Dniester region of Moldova that hosts a Russian military base.
...
The big losses and slow pace of the Russian offensive could be a factor that forced Putin to lower his ambitions and take a more realistic approach.

Volodymyr Fesenko, the head of the independent Kyiv-based Penta Center, said Russia's declared shift to the east could be an attempt to put a good face on its failed blitz and regroup before the next stage of fighting. ...

Return to Timeline

https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location?secret=unhcrrestricted

Select live link for latest counts

Mar. 29, 2022

4,019,287 refugees have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022

Total Refugee influx from Ukraine in neighboring countries*

Location name	Population
Poland	2,336,799
Romania	608,936
Republic of Moldova	387,151
Hungary	364,804
Russian Federation	350,632
Slovakia	281,172
Belarus	10,902

*The accumulated data in this table is higher than the total number of refugees fleeing Ukraine presented above since it also takes into account people crossing the border between Romania and Moldova.

https://www.military.com/daily-news/2022/03/29/ukraine-russia-hold-new-talks-aimed-ending-fighting.html

Mar. 29, 2022

Ukraine, Russia Hold New Talks Aimed at Ending the Fighting

KYIV, Ukraine — The **first face-to-face talks in two weeks** between Russia and Ukraine began Tuesday in Turkey, raising flickering hopes of progress to end to a war that has ground into a bloody campaign of attrition.

Ahead of the talks in Istanbul, the Ukrainian president said his country is prepared to declare its neutrality, as Moscow has demanded, and is open to compromise over the contested eastern region of Donbas — comments that might lend momentum to negotiations. But he warned the "ruthless war" continued and that Ukrainians were paying with their lives for the West's hesitancy on imposing tougher sanctions on Moscow.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told the two sides gathered for talks that they had a "historic responsibility" to stop the fighting.

"We believe that there will be no losers in a just peace. Prolonging the conflict is not in anyone's interest," Erdogan said, as he greeted the two delegations seated on opposite sides of a long table. Also in the room was Roman Abramovich, owner of Chelsea Football Club and a longtime ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin who has been playing an unspecified mediating role.

Putin's aim of a quick military victory has been thwarted by stiff Ukrainian resistance — but still hopes were not high for a breakthrough. British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, reflecting skepticism among Ukraine's Western allies, said she thought the Russian president was "not serious about talks."

In fighting that has devolved into a back-and-forth stalemate, Ukrainian forces retook Irpin, a key suburb northwest of the capital, Kyiv, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Monday. But he warned that Russian troops were regrouping to take the area back.

"We still have to fight, we have to endure," Zelenskyy said in his nighttime video address to the nation. "This is a ruthless war against our nation, against our people, against our children."

...

As well as Irpin, Ukrainian forces also seized back control of Trostyanets, south of Sumy in the northeast, after weeks of Russian occupation that has left a landscape devastated by war.

Arriving in the town Monday shortly afterward, The Associated Press saw the bodies of two Russian soldiers lay abandoned in the woods and Russian tanks lay burned and twisted. A red "Z" marked a Russian truck, its windshield fractured, near stacked boxes of ammunition. Ukrainian forces piled atop a tank flashed victory signs. Dazed residents lined up amid charred buildings seeking aid.

It was unclear where the Russian troops went, under what circumstances they fled and whether the town will remain free of them. In his overnight address, Zelenskyy emphasized the situation remains tense in Ukraine's northeast around Kharkiv, the nearest large city, and other areas, as he pressed Western countries to do more to support Ukraine, including levying harsher sanctions on Russia and providing more weapons.

"If someone is afraid of Russia, if he or she is afraid to make the necessary decisions that are important to us, in particular for us to get planes, tanks, necessary artillery, shells, it makes these people responsible for the catastrophe created by Russian troops in our cities, too," he said. "Fear always makes you an accomplice."

But the returned presence of Ukrainian forces in Trostyanets was a relief for a country hoping that Russian forces are pulling back as they encounter fierce resistance.

Putin's ground forces have become bogged down because of the stronger-than-expected Ukrainian resistance, combined with what Western officials say are Russian tactical missteps, poor morale, shortages of food, fuel and cold weather gear, and other problems.

In response, Russia appeared to be concentrating more on the Donbas the predominantly Russian-speaking region where Moscow-backed ...

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-zelenskyy-roman-abramovich-kyiv-europe-ef9c28c44f94b34262fe6b7c296d58a6

Mar. 30, 2022

Russia shells areas in Ukraine where it vowed to scale back

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian forces pounded **areas around Ukraine's capital and another city** overnight, regional leaders said Wednesday, **just hours after Moscow pledged to scale back military operations in those places. The shelling further tempered o**ptimism about any progress in talks aimed at ending the punishing war.

Russia did not spell out what exactly it planned to do differently, and while the promise initially raised hopes that a path toward peace was coming into view, Ukraine's president and others cautioned that the remarks could merely be bluster and the Kremlin's spokesman said he saw no breakthrough in the talks.

Ukrainian officials said **Russian shelling hit homes, shops, libraries and other "civilian infrastructure" in the northern city of Chernihiv and on the outskirts of the capital, Kyiv.**

The barrages came as Britain's Defense Ministry warned that while heavy losses have forced some Russian units to return to Belarus and Russia, Moscow would likely compensate for any reduction in ground maneuvers by using mass artillery and missile strikes. The Ukrainian military, meanwhile, said Russian troops were intensifying their attacks around the eastern city of Izyum and the eastern Donetsk region, after redeploying some units from other areas.

As the war unleashed five weeks ago by Moscow ground on, so, too, did the fallout beyond Ukraine's borders. The United Nations said the number of refugees fleeing the country has now surpassed a staggering 4 million, while European industrial powerhouse Germany issued a warning over its natural gas supplies amid concerns that Russia could cut off deliveries unless it is paid in rubles. Poland announced steps to end all Russian oil imports by the end of 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reacted with skepticism to Russia's announcement amid talks in Istanbul on Tuesday that it would reduce military activity near the capital and Chernihiv.

"We can call those signals that we hear at the negotiations positive," he said in his nightly video address to the Ukrainian people. "But those signals don't silence the explosions of Russian shells."

That skepticism only gained ground Wednesday morning.

"The so-called reduction of activity in the Chernihiv region, was demonstrated by the enemy strikes including air strikes on Nizhyn, and all night long they were shelling Chernihiv," said the regional governor, Viacheslav Chaus. "Civilian infrastructure facilities, libraries, shopping centers, many houses were destroyed in Chernihiv."

Oleksandr Pavliuk, the head of the Kyiv region military administration, said Wednesday that Russian shells targeted residential areas and civilian infrastructure in the Bucha, Brovary and Vyshhorod regions around the capital.

They weren't the only attacks by Russian President Vladimir Putin's forces.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said Wednesday that the military targeted fuel depots in two towns in central Ukraine with air-launched long-range cruise missiles. Russian forces also hit a Ukrainian special forces headquarters in the southern Mykolaiv region, he said, and two ammunition depots in the eastern Donetsk region.

The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces noted intensified shelling and attacks in the Donetsk area, where it say Russian forces were focused on trying to win control over the besieged city of Mariupol and other cities.

Donetsk is in the eastern industrial heartland of Donbas, where the Russian military says it has shifted its attention. Top Russian military officials have said twice in recent days that their main goal now is the "liberation" of Donbas, where Moscow-backed rebels have been battling

https://www.ocregister.com/2022/03/31/convoy-heads-to-ukraines-mariupol-to-attempt-evacuation/

Mar. 31, 2022

Convoy heads to Ukraine's Mariupol to attempt evacuation

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — A convoy of buses headed to Mariupol on Thursday in another attempt to evacuate people from the besieged port city, while Russia pressed its attacks in several parts of Ukraine ahead of a planned new round of talks aimed at ending the fighting.

After the Russian military agreed to a limited cease-fire in the area, the **Red Cross said its teams were traveling to Mariupol with relief and medical supplies and hoped to help pull civilians out of the beleaguered city** on Friday. Previous attempts at establishing a similar humanitarian corridor have fallen apart.

Russian forces, meanwhile, shelled suburbs of the capital that Ukraine recently retook control of, a regional official said. **New attacks in the area where Moscow had promised to de-escalate further undermined hopes of a resolution to end the war on the eve of a new round of talks**. A day earlier, Ukrainian officials reported that Russian shelling on the outskirts of Kyiv and around another city where it had vowed to ease up.

Russia's Defense Ministry also reported new strikes on Ukrainian fuel stores late Wednesday, and Ukrainian officials said there were artillery barrages in and around the northeastern city of Kharkiv over the past day.

Despite the fighting raging in those areas, the **Russian military said it committed to a cease-fire along the route from Mariupol to the Ukraine-held city of Zaporizhzhia** from Thursday morning.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk said **45 buses would be sent to collect civilians who have suffered some of the worst deprivations of the war.** Food, water and medical supplies have all run low during a weekslong blockade and bombardment of the city. Civilians who have managed to leave have typically done so using private cars, but the number of drivable vehicles left in the city has also dwindled and fuel stocks are low.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which is helping run the evacuation, said its teams have already left for Mariupol.

"It's desperately important that this operation takes place," the Red Cross said in a statement. "The lives of tens of thousands of people in Mariupol depend on it."

As the new evacuation attempt was announced, evidence emerged that a Red Cross warehouse in the city had been struck earlier this month amid intense Russian shelling of the area.

In satellite pictures from Planet Labs PBC, holes can be seen in the warehouse's roof, along with a painted red cross on a white background. The aid organization said no staff have been at the site since March 15.

Talks between Ukraine and Russia were set to resume Friday by video, according to the head of the Ukrainian delegation, David Arakhamia, six weeks into a bloody war that has seen thousands die and a staggering 4 million Ukrainians flee the country.

But there seemed little faith that the two sides would resolve the conflict soon, particularly after the Russian military's about-face and its most recent attacks.

Russia had promised during talks in Istanbul this week that it would de-escalate operations near Kyiv and Chernihiv to "increase mutual trust and create conditions for further negotiations." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the West were skeptical. Soon after, Ukrainian officials reported that Russian shelling was hitting homes, stores, libraries and other civilian sites in or near those areas.

Britain's Defense Ministry also confirmed "significant Russian shelling and missile strikes" around Chernihiv.

On Thursday, the area's governor, Viacheslav Chaus, said Russian troops were on the move but may not be withdrawing. ...

https://www.reuters.com/world/ukraine-strikes-fuel-depot-russias-belgorod-regional-official-says-2022-04-01/

Apr. 1, 2022

Moscow says Ukraine hit a fuel depot inside Russia

April 1 (Reuters) - **Russia accused Ukraine of carrying out an air strike against a fuel depot in the Russian city of Belgorod** on Friday, an incident **the Kremlin said set an unfavourable tone for peace talks with Kyiv.**

Ukraine's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, said he could not confirm or deny reports of Ukrainian involvement in the strike as he did not have military information. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry and the general staff did not respond to requests for comment.

Video footage of the purported attack -- **the first accusation of a Ukrainian air strike on Russian soil since Moscow launched its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24** -- showed what looked like several missiles being fired from low altitude, followed by an explosion. Reuters could not immediately verify the footage.

Regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on messaging app Telegram that two Ukrainian helicopters struck the facility in Belgorod, some 35 kilometres (22 miles) from the border with Ukraine, after entering Russia at low altitude.

The resulting blaze injured two workers, Gladkov added, while some areas of the city were being evacuated.

However, Russian oil firm Rosneft (ROSN.MM), which owns the fuel depot, said in a separate statement that **no one was hurt in the fire.** The company gave no information on the cause of the fire.
A witness told Reuters that another blast was heard in the city at around 1020 GMT. The cause of the blast was not immediately clear.



https://www.understandingwar.org/backgrounder/russian-offensive-campaign-assessment-april-3

Apr. 3, 2022

Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment

Ukraine has won the Battle of Kyiv. Russian forces are completing their withdrawal, but not in good order. Ukrainian forces are continuing to clear Kyiv Oblast of isolated Russian troops left behind in the retreat, which some Ukrainian officials describe as “lost orcs.” Russian forces had attempted to conduct an orderly retreat from their positions around Kyiv with designated covering forces supported by artillery and mines to allow the main body to withdraw. **The main body of Russian troops has withdrawn from the west bank of the Dnipro and is completing its withdrawal from the east bank, but the retrograde has been sufficiently disorderly that some Russian troops were left behind.**

The war is far from over and could still turn Russia’s way if the Russian military can launch a successful operation in eastern Ukraine. The current line of Russian occupation in southern and eastern Ukraine is still a significant gain in Russian-controlled territory since the start of the war. If a ceasefire or peace agreement freezes a line like the current front-line trace, Russia will be able to exert much greater pressure on Ukraine than it did before the invasion and may over time reassemble a more effective invasion force. Ukraine’s victory in the Battle of Kyiv is thus significant but not decisive.

The disorder of the Russian withdrawal suggests that at least some of the units now reconcentrating in Belarus and western Russia will remain combat ineffective for a protracted period. Russian troops attempting to refit after pulling back from around Kyiv will likely have to reconsolidate into their units, identify which soldiers are still present, sort out their equipment and assess its combat readiness, and generally reconstitute before they can even begin to receive replacements and new equipment and prepare for further combat operations.

Russian forces are likely abandoning the east bank of the Dnipro fully as well, withdrawing from around Chernihiv to the north and from Brovary to the east. Russian troops will likely seek to hold a salient around Konotop and Sumy long enough to allow their forces to complete their retrograde from near Kyiv but will then likely withdraw back to Russia from almost all their positions west of Kharkiv. ...



https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-putin-news-04-04-22/index.html

Apr. 4, 2022

Satellite images show bodies laying in street while Bucha was under Russian control

New satellite images from Maxar Technologies show the bodies of dead civilians in Bucha had been laying in the street for weeks, including when the town was under Russian control.

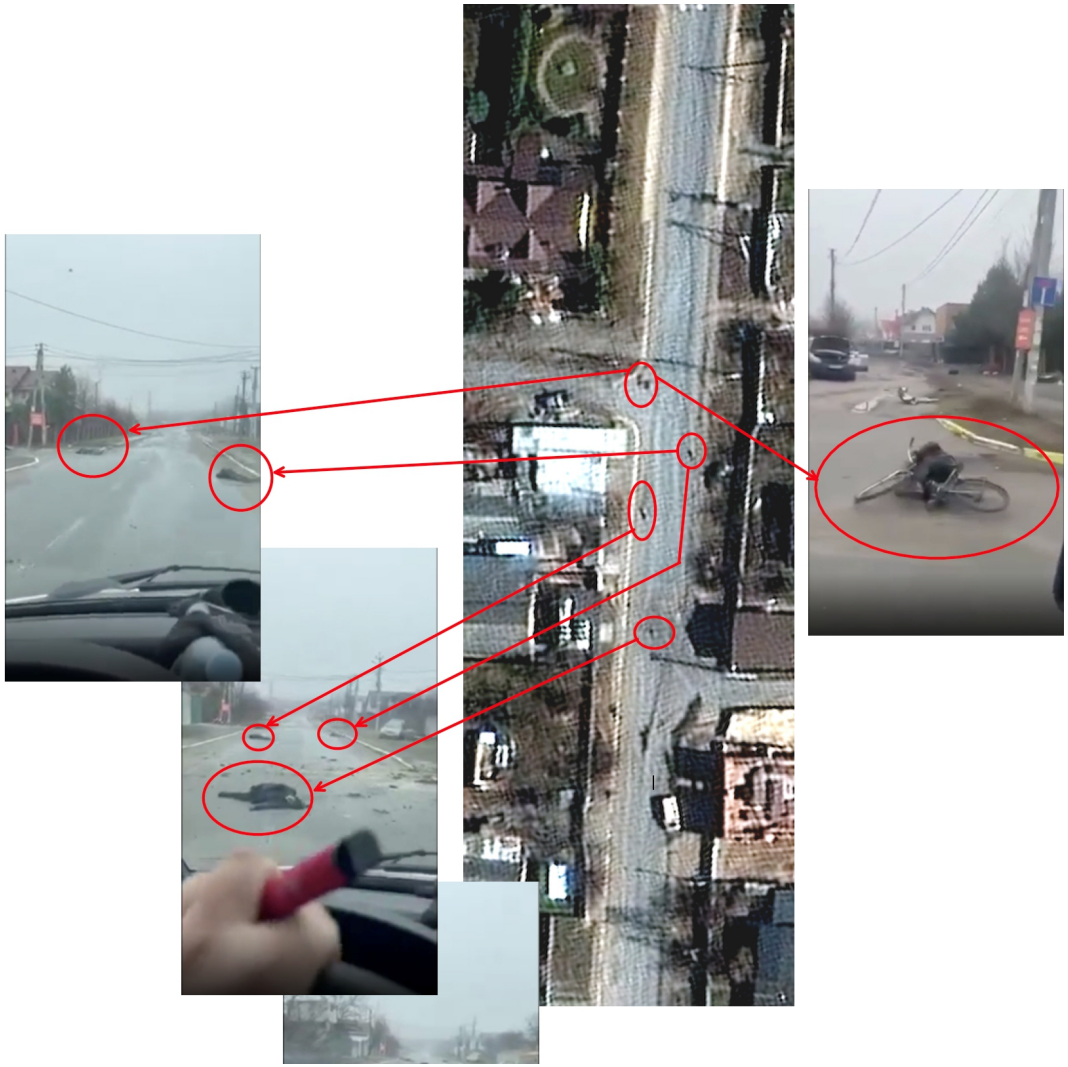
The New York Times first published the images on Monday.

Disturbing video showing the bodies in Bucha was geolocated, authenticated and reported on by CNN on Friday. It came to light the same day Ukraine declared the town liberated from Russian troops.

In response to the footage of Bucha on Saturday, the **Russian Defense Ministry claimed the video was "fake" and "staged." It said the video, photos, and the allegations of war crimes were "another provocation."**

"During the time the settlement was under the control of the Russian armed forces, not a single local resident suffered from any violent actions," the ministry said.

But the satellite images refute that claim from the Russians: Objects seen in Yablunska street on the satellite images match the exact locations that bodies are seen in the street in the video. The **satellite images show the bodies were on the street in southern Bucha since at least March 18, when Russia was in control of the town.** Russia held Bucha until March 31.



https://www.cnbc.com/2022/04/05/russia-ukraine-live-updates.html

Apr. 5, 2022

NATO working with UN on determining possible Russian war crimes

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance is working with the UN's International Criminal Court on investigating Russian war crimes in Ukraine.



Stoltenberg, who briefed reporters from NATO's headquarters ahead of tomorrow's foreign minister's meeting, said **the alliance had mounting evidence of war crimes committed in Bucha as well as other cities in Ukraine.**

"NATO allies are providing support to the UN International Criminal Court to collect evidence, to preserve evidence, to collect relevant information and to enable them to conduct investigations and to have a legal process to make sure that all those responsible for these atrocities are held accountable," Stoltenberg said.

"**Targeting and murdering civilians is a war crime.** All the facts must be established and all those responsible for **these atrocities must be brought to justice," he said.**

Stoltenberg also said that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba will join the NATO ministerial this week.

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https://www.rappler.com/world/europe/ukraine-luhansk-region-tells-civilians-evacuate/

Apr. 6, 2022

Ukraine's Luhansk region tells civilians to evacuate while they can

Authorities in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk hope to evacuate civilians through five "humanitarian corridors" on Wednesday, April 6, and urged residents to get out "while it is safe."

Ukraine has said Russian troops that invaded on February 24 are regrouping and preparing for a new offensive in the Donbas area, which includes Luhansk.

"We will take everyone out if the Russians allow us to get to the meeting places (for evacuation). Because, as you can see, they don't always observe ceasefires," the Luhansk region governor, Serhiy Gaidai, wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

"I appeal to every resident of the Luhansk region – evacuate while it is safe… While there are buses and trains – take this opportunity. "

Gaidai said rail connections in the Donetsk region of Donbas had been damaged this week and took several hours to repair.

"This is another alarm bell," he said.

Gaidai said separately in a video address that Russian forces had not managed to break through Ukrainian defenses in his region but were destroying "everything in their path" and would "stop at nothing."

Russia has said it does not target civilians in its "special military operation" aimed at demilitarizing and "denazifying" Ukraine. The Kremlin's position is rejected by Ukraine and the West as a pretext for an unprovoked invasion.



Families hold bags as they wait to board a train at Kramatorsk central station as they flee the eastern city of Kramatorsk, in the Donbass region on April 5, 2022.
Fadel Senna | AFP | Getty Images

Return to Timeline

https://www.cnbc.com/2022/04/08/ukraine-war-pivotal-in-how-world-responds-to-impunity-david-miliband.html?&qsearchterm=ukraine

Apr. 8, 2022

Ukraine war is a key test in how the world responds to abuse of power, ex-UK foreign minister says

The Russia-Ukraine war will have "pivotal consequence" in how the world responds to the "growth of impunity," said David Miliband, president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian aid agency.

Miliband, who was Britain's foreign secretary from 2007 to 2010, said Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's impassioned speech to the U.N. Security Council on April 5 had called for a "refounding of the United Nations."

"I think that this will be a war that has pivotal consequence. Because either there will be continued looking the other way in the face of this growth of impunity around the world, or there will be a determination to address it," he said.

Miliband has backed previous calls for the five permanent members of the Security Council to give up their veto power on resolutions regarding mass atrocities.

"At the moment, only France supports that position. Neither the U.K. nor the U.S., nor Russia, nor China support that position. So, this is a challenging agenda for all of the so-called great powers, but there's nothing great about some of what they do," he said.

'Failures of diplomacy'

He told CNBC that there are about 275 million people in 20 countries in need of humanitarian support because of the "failures of diplomacy" and "decline of respect for the rule of law in the conduct of war."

"What we're seeing in the international system at the moment, is the rise of impunity, the abuse of power, where those with power do what they will and the rest of us have to put up with what's left, and that's a very dangerous situation. We're seeing that in multiple war zones around the world," he said. ...



David Miliband, president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee who was Britain's foreign secretary from 2007 to 2010

https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2022/04/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-9-avril-2022

Apr. 9, 2022

Ukraine: civilian casualty update 9 April 2022

From 4 a.m. on 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation's armed attack against Ukraine started, to 24:00 midnight on 8 April 2022 (local time), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 4,149 civilian casualties in the country: 1,766 killed and 2,383 injured. This included:

- a total of **1,766 killed** (452 men, 284 women, 27 girls, and 43 boys, as well as 69 children and 891 adults whose sex is yet unknown)
- a total of **2,383 injured** (272 men, 206 women, 45 girls, and 44 boys, as well as 126 children and 1,690 adults whose sex is yet unknown)
- In Donetsk and Luhansk regions: 1,843 casualties (630 killed and 1,213 injured)
- On Government-controlled territory: 1,504 casualties (560 killed and 944 injured)
- On territory controlled by the self-proclaimed 'republics': 339 casualties (70 killed and 269 injured)

In other regions of Ukraine (the city of Kyiv, and Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk and Zhytomyr regions), which were under Government control when casualties occurred: 2,306 casualties (1,136 killed and 1,170 injured)
Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes.

OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration. This concerns, for example, Mariupol and Volnovakha (Donetsk region), Izium (Kharkiv region), Popasna (Luhansk region), and Borodianka (Kyiv region), where there are allegations of numerous civilian casualties. These figures are being further corroborated and are not included in the above statistics.

OHCHR notes the report of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, according to which as of 8 a.m. 9 April (local time), 176 children had been killed and at least 324 injured.

An increase in figures in this update compared with the previous update (as of 24:00 midnight on 7 April 2022 (local time) should not be attributed to civilian casualties that occurred on 8 April only, as during the day OHCHR also corroborated casualties that occurred on previous days. Similarly, not all civilian casualties that were reported on 8 April have been included into the above figures. Some of them are still pending corroboration and if confirmed, will be reported on in future updates.

https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-putin-news-04-10-22/h_388ab1c6355818fb742beb73d2954500

Apr. 10, 2022

"They started a full-scale war and act as if we are to blame," Zelensky says in Sunday address

Ukraine's President Volodymyr **Zelensky addressed his nation Sunday, calling Ukrainians "the bravest people of the best country in the world."**

"We are coming to an end of another week," Zelensky said in his speech, which he has given regularly during Russia's attack on the country. **"Our fight for freedom, for the state. Another week that Ukraine stayed alive, despite all the efforts of Russia to destroy us. We are fighting. We are defending. We are repelling the attacks."**

Zelensky said the nation is doing all it can to win the war and accused Russian leadership of "lying" in efforts to shift the blame away from them.

"When cowardice grows, everything turns into catastrophe," he continued. "When people don't have the courage to recognize their mistakes and apologize, to conform to reality, and to see that they are turning into monsters."

The Ukrainian president said Russia has lost touch with reality, acting as aggressors yet blaming Ukraine for the actions committed by Russian troops, including the killings in Bucha, the missile strike on the train station in Kramatorsk, and "every destroyed city and burnt village."

"They have destroyed the lives of millions. They started a full-scale war and act as if we are to blame for this," Zelensky continued.

He added Russia, fearing defeat, will launch more full-scale combat actions in Ukraine's east.

"But we are ready," the president said, promising Ukraine will ensure it has enough weapons and demand stronger sanctions against Russia so that justice will be served.

Moments prior to his address, Zelensky said he honored "18 defenders of Ukraine" -- including members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Special Communications Service and police officers -- for their heroism. He also thanked the journalists sharing the truth of what is unfolding in the country.

"The truth will win and Ukraine will win," Zelensky said. "This is for certain. Glory to Ukraine."

https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/ukraine-russia-putin-news-04-11-22/index.html

Apr. 11, 2022

Indian prime minister told Biden he suggested Putin and Zelensky hold direct talks

On Monday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told US President Joe Biden he had suggested the leaders of Russia and Ukraine hold direct talks.

Modi's comments came during his opening remarks ahead of a virtual meeting with Biden. His remarks were streamed on both his official Twitter account and the account of the Prime Minister's Office.

"I have spoken on the phone several times with the presidents of both Ukraine and Russia. Not only did I appeal for peace but I also suggested President Putin to hold direct talks with the President of Ukraine," said Modi.

Modi also spoke on the killing of civilians in the Ukrainian city of Bucha, describing the incident as "very worrying."

""We immediately condemned it and demanded a fair investigation. We hope the ongoing talks between Russia and Ukraine will pave the way for peace," Modi continued, adding that India would continue to support Ukraine through humanitarian aid. "

"We have also placed importance on the safety of the civilian population in Ukraine and the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to them. On our behalf, we have sent medicines and other relief materials to Ukraine and its neighboring countries. And on the request of Ukraine, we are sending another consignment of medicines very soon," he said.



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https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location?secret=unhcrrestricted

Select live link for latest counts

Apr. 12, 2022

4,656,509 refugees have fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022

Total Refugee influx from Ukraine in neighboring countries*

Location name	Population
Russian Federation	433,083
Poland	2,669,637
Romania	709,249
Hungary	434,342
Republic of Moldova	415,850
Slovakia	323,020
Belarus	21,852

*The accumulated data in this table is higher than the total number of refugees fleeing Ukraine presented above since it also takes into account people crossing the border between Romania and Moldova.

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https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-travel-business-lifestyle-czech-republic-6a44ac8bca233c516a21506d3c62f719

Apr. 12, 2022
Czechs provide free shooting training for local Ukrainians

BRNO, Czech Republic (AP) — Of the first four shots Olha Dembitska fired from an AK-47 assault rifle in her life, one hit the target.

“It’s pretty difficult the first time,” the 22-year-old Ukrainian woman acknowledged.

On this occasion, the target was the shape of a human body at a shooting range in the Czech Republic. Next time, it might be for real, in Ukraine, and the target could be one of the Russian troops who have invaded her homeland.

Dembitska is one of at least 130 men and women who have so far undergone **free-of-charge training for Ukrainians living in the Czech Republic who want to learn how to fight the aggressor.**

“I might return to Ukraine if they need me,” she said.

Almost none of the participants had any experience with weapons before war struck their homeland.

Since Russia launched its brutal attack, Ukrainians from all parts of the country and elsewhere have been arriving in the Czech Republic’s second-largest city, Brno, attracted by courses designed to teach them essentials and skills to safely handle lethal rifles while being able to inflict damage on their enemy.

Beside learning to shoot, the courses give them the basics about guns, movement around the battlefield and a lesson in providing first aid, something that can save lives if they‘re mobilized by their embattled country or decide to return home as volunteers to join the Ukrainian army.



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https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-putin-kyiv-business-europe-afc276faff040e7bf0b87b7625adbba8

Apr. 13, 2022
Polish, Baltic presidents visit Ukraine in show of support

... The presidents of **Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia** — all NATO countries that worry they may face Russian attack in the future if Ukraine falls — traveled by train to Kyiv to meet Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
...
The European leaders visiting Ukraine planned to deliver "a strong message of political support and military assistance," Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda said.

Nauseda, Estonian President Alar Karis, Poland's Andrzej Duda and Egils Levits of Latvia **also planned to discuss investigations into alleged Russian war crimes, including the massacre of civilians**. Nauseda said the leaders visited Borodyanka, one of the towns near Kyiv where evidence of atrocities has been found.
...
Putin, however, has denied his troops committed atrocities, and on Tuesday insisted Russia "had no other choice" but to invade, saying the offensive aimed to protect people in parts of eastern Ukraine and to "ensure Russia's own security." He vowed it would "continue until its full completion and the fulfillment of the tasks that have been set."
...
Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said the country is investigating a claim that a drone dropped a poisonous substance on the city. She said it was possible phosphorus munitions had been used in Mariupol.

Phosphorus munitions are not formally classed as chemical weapons, but they cause horrendous burn, and deliberately firing them into an enclosed space could breach the Chemical Weapons Convention, said Marc-Michael Blum, a former laboratory head at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

In Washington, a senior U.S. defense official said the Biden administration was preparing another package of military aid for Ukraine to be announced in the coming days, possibly totaling $750 million.

While Biden used the word "genocide" about Russia's actions, he said it would be up to lawyers to decide if the country's conduct met the international standard for genocide.

French President Emmanuel Macron declined to use the word but said "it has been established that war crimes have been committed by the Russian army."

"We must find those responsible and bring them to justice," he told France-2 television.

An International Criminal Court investigation into war crimes is underway in Ukraine, including into atrocities revealed after Moscow's retreat from the Kyiv area, where Ukrainian authorities say more than 720 people were killed, with 403 bodies found in the town of Bucha alone.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan, who visited Bucha, said in a tweet Wednesday that Ukraine "is a crime scene" and the court must "pierce the fog of war" to determine what has occurred.
...

https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/ukraine/2022/04/14/ukraine-says-it-sank-russian-flagship-moscow-denies/

Apr. 14, 2022
Polish, Baltic presidents visit Ukraine in show of support

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine said Thursday its forces sank the flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet in a missile attack, but Moscow said the vessel was merely damaged, making no mention of an assault.

The loss of the ship would be a major military and symbolic defeat for Russia as its troops regroup for a renewed offensive in eastern Ukraine after retreating from much of the north, including the capital.

Russia said a fire aboard the Moskva, a warship that would typically have 500 sailors on board, forced the entire crew to evacuate the vessel. It later said the fire had been contained and that the ship would be towed to port with its guided missile launchers intact.

The ship carries 16 missiles, according to a military analyst, and its removal from combat would greatly reduce Russia's firepower in the Black Sea. Regardless of the extent of the damage, any attack would represent a major blow to Russian prestige seven weeks into a war that is already widely seen as a historic blunder.

It was not immediately possible to reconcile the vastly different accounts, and cloud cover made it impossible to locate the ship or determine its condition based on satellite photos.

The news of damage to the ship came hours after some of Ukraine's allies sought to rally new support for the embattled country. On a visit with leaders from three other EU countries on Russia's doorstep who fear they could next be in Moscow's sights, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda declared that "the fight for Europe's future is happening here."

...

Maksym Marchenko, the governor of the Odesa region, across the Black Sea to the northwest of Sevastopol, said the Ukrainians struck the ship with two Neptune missiles and caused "serious damage." Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to Ukraine's president, then said the ship sank, calling it an event of "colossal significance."

Russia's Defense Ministry said ammunition on board detonated as a result of a fire, without saying what caused the blaze. It later said the ship was afloat and would be taken in for repairs. It said its "main missile weapons" were not damaged.

The Neptune is an anti-ship missile that was recently developed by Ukraine and based on an earlier Soviet design. The launchers are mounted on trucks stationed near the coast, and, according to the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, the missiles can hit targets up to 280 kilometers (175 miles) away.

The U.S. was not able to confirm Ukraine's claims of striking the warship, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Thursday.

"We don't have the capacity at this point to independently verify that," he told the Economic Club of Washington. Still, he called it "a big blow to Russia."

"They've had to kind of choose between two stories: One story

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/14/russia-says-it-will-reinforce-borders-if-sweden-and-finland-join-nato

Apr. 15, 2022
Russia warns of nuclear weapons in Baltic if Sweden and Finland join NATO

Moscow has said it will be forced to strengthen its defences in the Baltic if Finland and Sweden join Nato, including by deploying nuclear weapons, as the war in Ukraine entered its seventh week and the country braced for a major attack in the east.

However, the **Lithuanian defence minister, Arvydas Anušauskas, claimed on Thursday that Russia already had nuclear weapons stored in its Baltic exclave of Kaliningrad, which borders Lithuania and Poland.** That claim has not been independently verified, but the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) reported in 2018 that nuclear weapon storage bunkers in Kaliningrad had been upgraded.

The Russian former president **Dmitry Medvedev, a senior member of Russia's security council, said on Thursday that all its forces in the region would be bolstered if the two Nordic countries joined the US-led alliance.**

Medvedev's threat is the latest of many instances of nuclear sabre-rattling from the Kremlin aimed at deterring western military intervention on behalf of Ukraine.

"We're obviously very concerned," said the CIA director, William Burns. "Given the potential desperation of President Putin and the Russian leadership, given the setbacks that they've faced so far militarily, none of us can take lightly the threat posed by a potential resort to tactical nuclear weapons or low-yield nuclear weapons."

But Burns added: "While we've seen some rhetorical posturing on the part of the Kremlin, moving to higher nuclear alert levels, so far we haven't seen a lot of practical evidence of the kind of deployments or military dispositions that we would reinforce that concern."

Finland and Sweden are deliberating over whether to abandon decades of military non-alignment and join Nato, with the two Nordic countries' leaders saying Russia's onslaught on Ukraine has changed Europe's "whole security landscape".

Their accession to the alliance would more than double Russia's land border with Nato members, Medvedev said. "Naturally, we will have to reinforce these borders" by bolstering ground, air and naval defences in the region, he said.

Medvedev, a close ally of Vladimir Putin, explicitly raised the nuclear threat, saying Finnish and Swedish Nato membership would mean there could be "no more talk of any nuclear-free status for the Baltic – the balance must be restored".

Russia had "not taken such measures and was not going to", he said. "But if our hand is forced, well … take note it wasn't us who proposed this."

Russia borders the Baltic states of Estonia and Latvia, and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad is sandwiched between Poland and Lithuania.

https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-2500-3000-its-troops-killed-war-no-count-civilian-deaths-2022-04-16/

Apr. 16, 2022
Russia hits Kyiv, Lviv and presses offensive in ruins of Mariupol

KYIV/MARIUPOL, Ukraine, April 16 (Reuters) - Russian air raids and missile strikes hit Ukraine's capital Kyiv and other major cities on Saturday as **Moscow launched more long-range attacks following the sinking of its Black Sea Fleet's flagship.**

In the besieged port of Mariupol, scene of the war's heaviest fighting and worst humanitarian catastrophe, Russian troops pressed their advances, hoping to make up for their failure to capture Kyiv by seizing their first big prize of the war.
...
The Ukrainian military said **Russian warplanes that took off from Belarus had fired missiles at the Lviv region near the Polish border and four cruise missiles were shot down by Ukrainian air defences.**

The western city has been relatively unscathed so far in the conflict and serves as a haven for refugees and international aid agencies.

In **Mariupol**, Reuters journalists in Russian-held districts reached the Ilyich steel works, one of two metals plants where defenders have held out in underground tunnels and bunkers. Moscow claimed to have captured it on Friday

The factory was reduced to a ruin of twisted steel and blasted concrete, with no sign of defenders present. Several bodies of civilians lay scattered on nearby streets, including a woman in a pink parka and white shoes.
...
The attacks followed Russia's announcement on Friday that it would intensify long-range strikes in retaliation for unspecified acts of "sabotage" and "terrorism", hours after it confirmed the sinking of its Black Sea flagship, the Moskva.
...
If Mariupol falls it would be Russia's biggest prize of the war so far. It is the main port of the Donbas, a region of two provinces in the southeast which Moscow demands be fully ceded to separatists.

Ukraine's defence is concentrated around Azovstal, another huge steel works that has yet to yield.

The owner of both of Mariupol's giant steel factories, Ukraine's richest man Rinat Akhmetov, vowed to rebuild the city. "Mariupol has been and will always be a Ukrainian city," Akhmetov told Reuters.

Ukraine says it has so far held off Russian advances elsewhere in the Donbas regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where at least one person was killed in shelling overnight.

But an advisor to Zelenskiy said the country needed a swifter supply of weapons from its European Union partners. **"Ukraine needs weapons. Not in a month. Now,"** Mykhailo Podolyak said in a Twitter post.

Ukraine gained the upper hand in the early phase of a war. It has successfully deployed mobile units armed with anti-tank missiles supplied by the West against Russian armoured convoys confined to roads by muddy terrain.

But Putin appears determined to capture more Donbas territory to claim victory in a war that has left Russia subject to increasingly punitive Western sanctions and with few allies.

Zelenskiy said about 2,500-3,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed so far and up to 20,000 Russian troops.

Moscow has given no updates on its military casualties since March 25, when it said 1,351 had died. Western estimates of Russian losses are many times higher, while there are few independent estimates of Ukraine's losses.

Ukraine says civilian deaths are impossible to count, estimating at least 20,000 killed in Mariupol alone. ...

Overall, around a quarter of Ukrainians have been driven from their homes, including a tenth of the population that has fled abroad. ...

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https://www.thequint.com/news/world/russia-ukraine-war-world-chosen-sides-how-support-stacks-up#read-more#read-more

Select live link for interactive chart

Apr. 17, 2022
How the world is reacting to the Ukraine Crisis

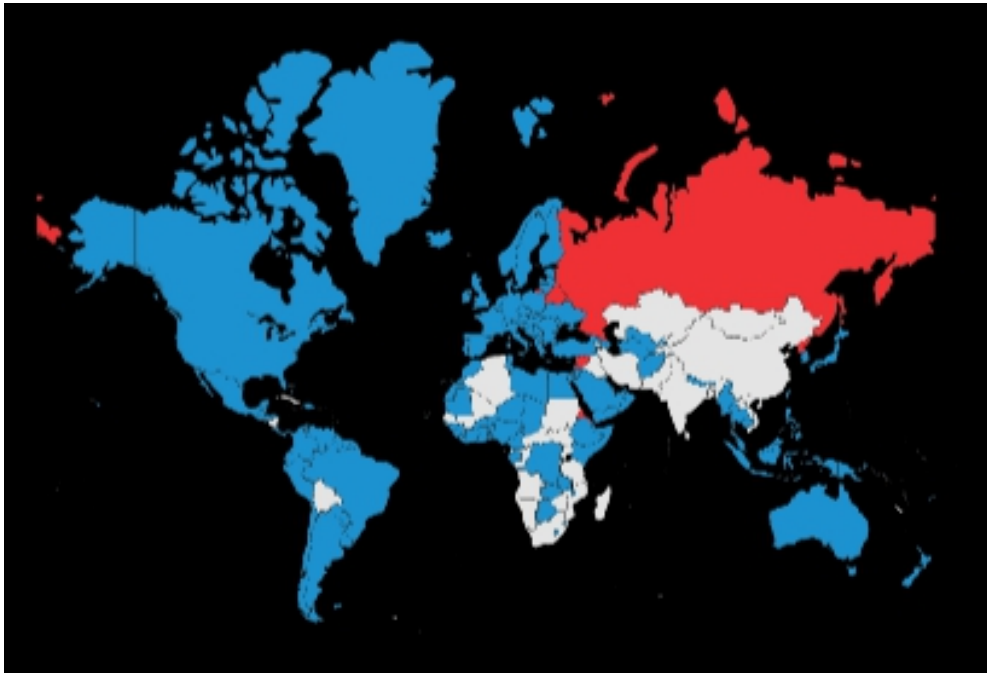
Published: 04 Mar 2022, 9:52 AM IST

The United Nations General Assembly held a vote on Wednesday, 2 March, to "deplore" the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

There were 141 nations that voted in favour, five that voted against, and 35 that abstained from voting.

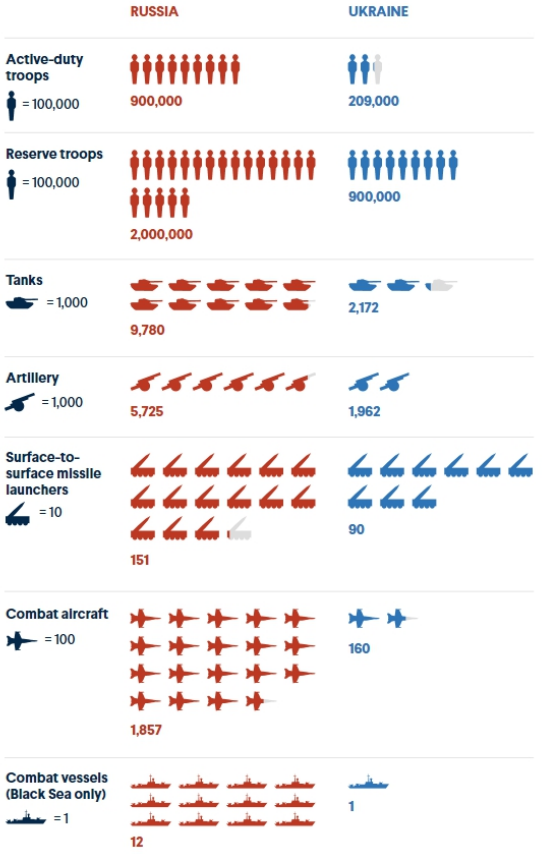
The five nations that voted against the resolution were:
• Russia • Belarus • North Korea • Syria • Eritrea

Some of the important nations that abstained from the vote are:
• India • China • Pakistan • United Arab Emirates • Iran



How did Russia's military compare to Ukraine's (as of Nov. 2020) ?

https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/how-do-militaries-russia-and-ukraine-stack



What weapons has Ukraine received from its Western allies?

https://www.aol.com/news/weapons-ukraine-received-western-allies-173548599.html

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https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/business/list-global-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-intl-hnk/index.html



United States

... **barring Russian financial institutions – such as the Russian Central Bank – from making transactions in American dollars.**

The US **also imposed sanctions on the state-owned Russian Direct Investment Fund, calling it a "known slush fund" for Putin and his inner circle.**

The aggressive moves were taken to prohibit Russia from accessing a "rainy day fund" that officials said Moscow had been expecting to rely upon during the invasion of Ukraine. Instead of using the reserves to buffer a plummeting ruble, **Russia will no longer be able to access the funds it keeps in US dollars.**

US President Joe Biden on Thursday unveiled another set of harsh measures against Russia, saying: "Putin chose this war."

Those sanctions include **export blocks on technology**, a centerpiece of Biden's approach that he said would severely limit Russia's ability to advance its military and aerospace sector.

In a statement, the White House said "**this includes Russia-wide restrictions on semiconductors, telecommunication, encryption security, lasers, sensors, navigation, avionics and maritime technologies."**

Washington also put **sanctions on people it described as "corrupt billionaires" and their families who are close to the Kremlin.**

It said it would **cut off 13 major state-owned companies from raising money in the United States, including energy giant Gazprom and Sberbank, Russia's largest financial institution.**

The White House also vowed to **sanction two dozen Belarusian individuals and companies, which include "two significant Belarusian state-owned banks, nine defense firms, and seven regime-connected officials and elites."**

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https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/business/list-global-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-intl-hnk/index.html



The European Union

... pledged Saturday to r**emove Russia from SWIFT, a global messaging service that connects financial systems**, as part of stricter moves to remove Russia from the international finance system.

The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication **[SWIFT]** is used by over 11,000 financial institutions to send secure messages and payment orders – kicking Russia out of it is considered a “nuclear move.”

... also committed to **imposing “restrictive measures” that would prevent the Russian Central Bank from deploying its international reserves** in ways that undermine the impact of sanctions. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the measures will paralyze Russia’s central bank assets and freeze its transactions, making it impossible to liquidate its assets.
...
The sanctions are aimed to hit Russia’s financial, energy and transport sectors, and include export controls and trade financing bans.

https://www.rferl.org/a/eu-sanctions-russia-invasion/31752636.html

EU members agree new package of Russia sanctions

European Union member states have agreed on a **fourth package of sanctions** against Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, the office of the French EU presidency has announced.

The French presidency said **revoking Russia's "most-favored nation" trade status would be part of the package, a move that could open the door to the bloc banning or imposing punitive tariffs on Russia**n goods and putting Russia on the same level with North Korea or Iran.

Diplomats said sanctions were set to **include an import ban on Russian steel and iron, an export ban on luxury goods including cars worth more than 50,000 euros ($55,000), and a ban on investments in oil companies and the energy sector.**

Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich and 14 other individuals would also be added to the EU list of sanctioned Russian billionaire oligarchs, diplomats said.

Britain already placed sanctions on Abramovich last week, with an asset freeze and travel ban. Abramovich's net worth was recently estimated at $7.2 billion by Forbes magazine.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has also said the package agreed upon by EU leaders at a summit last week also **blocks Russia's access to funds from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.**

The latest sanctions will be formally in place once they have been published in the EU's official journal, which the French presidency said will follow "soon."

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United Kingdom

The United Kingdom imposed fresh sanctions on Russian banks Monday and said it **had a "hit list" of oligarchs to be sanctioned**, according to Foreign Secretary Liz Truss.

The country **will prevent Sberbank, Russia's largest bank, from clearing payments in Sterling. And three more Russian banks – Otkritie, Sovcombank and VEB – will face a full asset freeze.**

Truss said the UK will bring a full asset freeze on all Russian banks "in days" to Parliament on Monday.

The UK **joined other Western countries over the weekend to ice Russian banks out of SWIFT.**

The United Kingdom is **also set to sanction 100 individuals and entities** as part of further sanctions against Russia, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Thursday.

An asset freeze will be imposed on Russian state bank VTB, he added, **following the sanctioning of five Russian banks on Tuesday. Russian state and private companies will also be prevented from fund raising in the United Kingdom.**

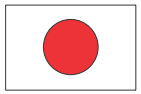
The United Kingdom **will ban Russia's national airline, Aeroflot, and apply sanctions to Belarus "for its role in the assault on Ukraine**," the prime minister added.

Going forward, Britain is also **hoping to bring in legislation this week to ban the export of certain technologies to Russia, particularly "in sectors including electronics, telecommunications, and aerospace**," according to Johnson.

"We will continue on a remorseless mission to squeeze Russia, from the global economy, piece by piece. Day by day, and week by week," Johnson told lawmakers.

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Japan

... will impose more sanctions on Russia, aligning with the G-7. Specifically, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Japan will **limit transactions with Russia's central bank and that it would impose sanctions on Belarus**, Reuters reported. Over the weekend, the country indicated **it will deny certain Russian banks access to SWIFT and that it will freeze Putin's assets.**

Kishida announced a range of measures last week, including **freezing the assets of certain Russian individuals and financial institutions while also banning exports to Russian military organizations.**

"In response to this situation, **we will strengthen our sanction measures in close cooperation with the G7 and the rest of the international community**," Kishida said in a press conference on Friday.

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France

The French finance minister Bruno Le Maire said Monday that the country **will go after luxury goods owned by Russians targeted by sanctions**, following a defense council meeting called by French President Emmanuel Macron.

“We are pursuing the complete census of financial assets, real estate, yachts and luxury vehicles that would belong to Russian personalities under European sanctions,” Le

https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/business/list-global-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-intl-hnk/index.html



Switzerland

Even historically neutral Switzerland is adopting the EU's sanctions against Russia, President Ignazio Cassis announced Monday. The country, which is a major center for wealthy Russian oligarchs, said it's **freezing the assets of certain individuals** "with immediate effect."

The **sanctions and asset freeze will apply to Putin, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.**

Switzerland affirmed its commitment to neutrality and said it will examine further EU sanctions on a "case-by-case basis."

"Russia's unprecedented military attack on a sovereign European country was the deciding factor in the Federal Council's decision to change its previous stance on sanctions," a statement said.

https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/business/list-global-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-intl-hnk/index.html



Taiwan

Taiwan announced Friday that it would **join the economic sanctions against Russia, without specifying which measures were being considered.**

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Friday that it "strongly condemns" Russia's decision to start a war against Ukraine, adding that it has posed a serious threat to the rules-based international order.

The decision to impose sanctions was made "to compel Russia to halt its military aggression against Ukraine, and to restart peaceful dialogue among all parties concerned as soon as possible," the ministry added.

Taiwan is a global leader in the production of semiconductors.

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New Zealand

... **prohibiting the export of goods to the Russian military** and security forces in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced Friday that it **would cut trade with Russia and impose travel bans against Russian officials** as it continued to call for a return to diplomatic dialogue to resolve the crisis.

“Right here and now we need to take immediate action,” Ardern said in a press conference in Wellington.

“This is the blatant use of military might and violence that will take innocent lives and we must stand against it.”

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https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60480734



Germany

Germany has **put a stop to a key Russian gas pipeline** following Vladimir Putin's orders to send troops into Ukraine.

On Monday the Russian president recognised two breakaway Ukrainian regions as independent states and ordered Russian troops to deploy to both.

Western nations largely see the action as a pretext for a wider invasion.

In response, **Germany halted approval of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline** and other Western nations issued sanctions.

Sanctions can take various forms - the term can refer to many actions used by one country to harm another, usually to deter aggressive actions or breaches of international law.

The Nord Stream 2 pipeline has been supported by Germany despite opposition from countries such as the US, UK, Poland and Ukraine. It cost €10bn (£8.4bn), with the funding split between Russian and Western energy companies.

But following Mr Putin's order to send troops to the rebel-held Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, Germany announced it was suspending the process of giving the pipeline between it and Russia an operating licence - effectively stopping the project until further notice.



https://www.cnn.com/2022/02/25/business/list-global-sanctions-russia-ukraine-war-intl-hnk/index.html



Australia

Australia's leader said Friday that it would **"begin imposing further sanctions on oligarchs, whose economic weight is of strategic significance to Moscow and over 300 members of the Russian Duma, their parliament."**

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison added that Canberra was **"also working with the United States to align with their further sanctions overnight on key Belarusian individuals and entities complicit in the aggression, so we are extending those sanctions to Belarus."**

The new round of measures came after Australia **imposed travel bans and targeted financial sanctions on eight members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation** on Thursday.

https://www.foreignminister.gov.au/minister/marise-payne/media-release/australia-joins-uk-and-us-sanctioning-key-russian-oligarchs

Australia joins the UK and US in sanctioning key Russian oligarchs

Media release
14 March 2022

The Australian Government today announces fresh sanctions on **33 Russian oligarchs, prominent businesspeople and their immediate family members.**

The sanctions announced today reinforce Australia's commitment to sanction those people who have amassed vast personal wealth and are of economic and strategic significance to Russia, including as a result of their connections to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

They include Roman Abramovich, Chelsea Football Club owner, Alexey Miller the CEO of Gazprom, Dmitri Lebedev Chairman of Rossiya, Sergey Chemezov Chair of Rostec, Nikolay Tokarev CEO of Transneft, Igor Shuvalov Chairman Vnesheconombank (VEB.RF) and Kirill Dmitriev CEO of Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF).

We strongly support recent announcements by Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of further restrictive measures against key Russian individuals.

Australia has joined with our partners in establishing strong, sequential sanctions, with over **460 sanctions placed on individuals and entities in past weeks. This includes the Central Bank of Russia; their national sovereign wealth fund, Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF); Russia's Armed Forces; political and military figures including President Putin, his Security Council and his strategic drivers of disinformation; and a number of oligarchs.**

We will continue to coordinate closely with our partners to impose a high cost on Russia for its actions.

The Australian Government reiterates our strongest support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and for the people of Ukraine.

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/russia-russie.aspx?lang=eng



Canada

Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations twice. In the first instance, amendments were made in response to the Russian recognition of the independence and sovereignty of Ukraine's Donetsk so called people's Republic (DNR) and Luhansk people's Republic (LNR) regions and added 351 members of the State Duma to Schedule 1, three (3) entities to Schedule 3.1, two (2) entities to Schedule 1, new prohibitions on Russian sovereign debt, and new criteria for listing targets. In the second instance, amendments were made in response to the Russian military attack against Ukraine's territory in the so called DNR and LNR regions and added 31 new individuals and 19 new entities to Schedule 1 of the Regulations. These are subject to a broad dealings ban. In addition, five (5) entities were moved from Schedule 2 to Schedule 1 and three (3) entities were moved from Schedule 3 to Schedule 1, which resulted in broader prohibitions imposed on these entities.

On February 28, 2022, Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations to add eighteen members of the Security Council of the Russian Federation responsible for these actions, including President Vladimir Putin, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Minister of Defence Sergei Shoigu, Minister of Justice Konstantin Chuychenko, and Finance Minister Anton Siluanov. The amendments also moved three entities from Schedule 3.1 to Schedule 1.

On March 4, 2022, Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations to add 10 executives in the energy sector, working for the state-owned or controlled oil entities Rosneft or Gazprom.

On March 6, 2022, Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations to add 10 current or former senior government officials and their close associates, as well as agents of disinformation. Canada also **prohibited any ship that is registered in Russia or used, leased or chartered,** in whole or in part, by or on behalf of or for the benefit of Russia, a person in Russia or a designated person **from docking in Canada or passing through Canadian waters.**

On March 10, 2022, Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations to add 32 defense entities, most of which are owned by the state or have contracts with the Government of Russia; to add five (5) individuals who are current and former senior officials and associates of the regime; as well as to **prohibit any person in Canada and any Canadian outside Canada from importing specific petroleum products** listed in a new Schedule 5.

On March 14, 2022, Canada further amended the Special Economic Measures (Russia) Regulations to add 15 senior officials of the Government of Russia, who are now subject to a broad dealings ban.

https://www.wsj.com/livecoverage/russia-ukraine-latest-news-2022-03-07/card/south-korea-bans-transactions-with-russia-s-central-bank-96B5xib2OW41u03krYrp



South Korea

South Korea has joined the U.S. and the European Union in **banning transactions with Russia's central bank and sovereign wealth funds**, toughening sanctions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

South Korean transactions with the Bank of Russia as well as the National Wealth Fund of the Russian Federation and the Russian Direct Investment Fund should stop beginning Tuesday, the finance ministry said late Monday. The country also plans to join the EU in **blocking Russian banks from the Swift global interbank network** starting at 8 a.m. local time on March 13, the ministry added.

The ministry also said it added Rossiya Bank to the South Korean sanctions list. Seven other Russian banks already had been added to the list since March 1. South Korea last week decided to **ban its public and financial institutions from trading with any sanctioned Russian banks and in new Russian government bonds.**

The country also **pledged to restrict its exports of strategic and nonstrategic items to Russia.**

South Korean banks' exposure to Russia is estimated at $1.47 billion. South Korea has also set aside 2 trillion won ($1.62 billion) in emergency aid for local businesses affected by the Russian-Ukraine conflict.

https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/bahamas-orders-halt-financial-operations-with-sanctioned-russian-entities-2022-03-13/



The Bahamas

NASSAU, March 13 (Reuters) - The Bahamas has **ordered its financial institutions to halt all transactions with Russian entities that have been put under sanction by Western nations**, the country's financial regulators said in a statement.

The government of the Caribbean nation has **vocally condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine**, but appears to remain conflicted over how aggressively it can participate sanctions efforts without damaging its relatively small economy.

Reuters on Monday reported that oil and fuel tankers controlled by Russia's Sovcomflot (FLOT.MM) had been rerouted to the Bahamas after they had been unable to deliver cargoes due to the sanctions. read more

"Regulated entities, that are licensed or authorised to operate from or within the Bahamas, (are directed) not to engage in transactions with sanctioned persons, entities or business linked to Russia and Belarus," reads the late Saturday statement signed by the central bank and four other regulatory agencies.

It was not immediately evident how much Russia-linked money is held in Bahamian financial institutions.

Regulatory agencies, including the central bank, have not responded to requests for details on local banks' exposure to Russian funds.

https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-business-europe-germany-0205525f2107f57e31b41d02e5a91e6c



Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Poland announced steps Wednesday to **end all Russian oil imports by year's end**, while Germany issued a warning about natural gas levels and called on people to conserve, new signs of how Russia's war in Ukraine has escalated tensions about securing energy supplies to power Europe.

Poland, which has taken in millions of Ukrainian refugees, has taken the lead in the European Union on swiftly cutting off Russian fossil fuels. The 27-nation bloc has declined to sanction energy because it depends on Moscow for the fuel needed for cars, electricity, heating and industry, but it has announced proposals to wean itself off those supplies.

"We are presenting the most radical plan in Europe for departing from Russian oil by the end of this year," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said at a news conference.

It comes a day after Poland said it was **banning Russian coal imports, expected by May**. Morawiecki says **Poland will take steps to become "independent" of Russian supplies and is calling on other European Union countries to "walk away" as well.** He argues that money paid for Russia's oil and gas is fueling its war machine.

While some in Europe are calling for an immediate boycott of all Russian oil and natural gas, the EU plans to reduce Russian gas imports by two-thirds by the end of the year and eliminate them before 2030. In the meantime, rattled energy markets have pushed up already high oil and natural gas prices for Europeans and others worldwide.

The EU is turning to investments in renewable energy as a long-term fix but also is scrambling to shore up alternative sources of fossil fuels, including a new agreement with the U.S. to receive more liquefied natural gas, or LNG, that arrives by ship.

Poland is expanding an LNG terminal to receive deliveries from Qatar, the U.S., Norway and other exporters. A new Baltic pipeline bringing gas from Norway is expected to open by the end of the year. It also has been reducing dependence on Russian oil through contracts with Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and Norway and is considering imports from Kazakhstan.
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https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2022/04/03/ukraine-lithuania-refuses-russian-gas-eu-voys-new-sanctions-bucha-executions/7611648996832/



Lithuania

Lithuania refuses Russian gas as EU vows new sanctions over Bucha executions

April 3 (UPI) -- Prime Minister Ingrida Šimonytė said Sunday that Lithuania would become **the first member of the European Union to refuse the import of Russian gas.**

"From now and so on, Lithuania won't be consuming a cubic centimeter of toxic Russian gas," Šimonytė said in a tweet. "Lithuania is the first EU country to refuse Russian gas import."

Her statement came as Charles Michel, president of the European Commission, said that the European Union will issue further sanctions on Russia after Ukraine's Defense Ministry accused Russian forces of executing civilians in the Ukrainian city of Bucha.

"Shocked by haunting images of atrocities committed by Russian army in Kyiv liberated region," Michel said in a tweet with the hashtag #BuchaMassacre.