Situation Room

** UKRAINIAN CRISIS **

Period under review: from 29 March 2022 to 01 April 2022.

[This report is based on publicly available sources to describe a changing situation. Information subject to change.]

Situation analysis recap:

- According to the OHCHR (latest data from 31 March), 3,167 civilian casualties have been reported since the start of the war. Out of this, 1,232 have been killed (250 men, 176 women, 18 girls, 36 boys, 58 children and 694 adults whose identity is yet unknown) and 1,935 injured (225 men, 167 women, 36 girls, 32 boys, 81 children and 1,394 adults whose identity is yet unknown). OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher.
- According to the UNHCR, there are 4,102,876 refugees that have fled Ukraine since 24 February. In Poland, there are 2,362,044 refugees. While the remaining are located in Romania (616,592), Moldova (388,837), Hungary (368,807), Russia (350,632), Slovakia (283,824) and Belarus (11,821).
- Michelle Bachelet, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has said Russia may have committed war crimes by killing civilians and destroying hospitals. Her office has also received credible information that Russian forces have used cluster munitions in populated areas at least 24 times. She is also investigating the alleged use of cluster munitions by Ukraine.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed that its building, with a Red Cross symbol on the roof, in Mariupol came under bombardment.
- Russia has threatened to cut off European gas supply. Gas is still flowing to Europe despite a 1 April deadline for gas payments to be made in roubles. Germany insists paying in euros or dollars.
- Germany and Austria have triggered the first stage of their natural gas emergency plans. Germany called on people and businesses to conserve the resource in preparation for a possible shortage.
- Poland's government has decided to block imports of coal from Russia. It would impose financial penalties on any private entities importing Russian coal into Poland.
- The Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic and Ireland have expelled additional Russian diplomats.
- Britain's Defence Minister has said western nations have agreed at a special donor conference attended by more than 35 countries to send armoured vehicles and long-range artillery to Ukraine.
- Russian troops began leaving the Chernobyl nuclear power plant after soldiers got significant doses of radiation from digging trenches at the highly contaminated site.
- Hungary's foreign minister has accused Ukraine's leadership of attempting to interfere in the upcoming Hungarian election.
- UK defence ministry has stated on 29 March that Ukrainian forces are conducting localised counterattacks in northwest Kyiv. It added Russia's forces have been pushed back from a number of positions but still pose a threat to the city.
- On Tuesday, 29 March, Russian and Ukrainian negotiators held peace talks in Istanbul.
- On 30 March, the Russian military continued shelling areas around Kyiv and the northern city of Chernihiv, despite a Russian promise at peace talks a day before to reduce military activities in those areas.
- The UN refugee agency said on Wednesday that more than 4 million Ukrainians have left the country as refugees, while another 6.5 million are displaced inside the country and 13 million are stranded in war-affected areas.

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us. Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at www.euroatlantic.org or contact us at info@euroatlantic.org.

- On 31 March, Russian president Vladimir Putin signed a decree ordering 134,500 new conscripts into the army as part of Russia's annual spring draft. The defence ministry said the call-up had nothing to do with the war in Ukraine.
- U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced on 31 March that the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control is imposing new sanctions on operators in the Russian technology sector. Britain announced sanctions on 14 more Russian entities and people.
- After Russian troops were reported to have largely withdrawn from the decommissioned nuclear power station in Chernobyl, the head of the UN atomic watchdog has said on 1 April that he aims to lead a mission to the powerplant as soon as possible.
- On 1 April, in a Russian city Belgorod an oil storage depot caught on fire. Local governor has said the fire was caused because of an attack by two Ukrainian helicopters. The governor's claim has not been confirmed by Ukrainian officials yet. Putin's spokesman also blamed Ukraine for the fire.

Sources/Further Reading:

Conerly, B. (30. March 2022). Long-Term Economic Effects Of The Ukraine War. Forbes. Available at https://www.forbes.com/sites/billconerly/2022/03/30/long-term-economic-effects-of-the-ukraine-war/

Henley, J. (1. April 2022). UN nuclear watchdog to head mission to Chernobyl as Russians withdraw from site. The Guardian. Available at https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/01/russians-fled-chernobyl-with-radiation-sickness-says-ukraine-as-iaea-investigates

Iwanek, K. (29. March 2022). The Great Debate Over India's Neutrality in the Ukraine War. The Diplomat. Available at https://thediplomat.com/2022/03/the-great-debate-over-indias-neutrality-in-the-ukraine-war/

Latest Developments in Ukraine: March 29. (29. March 2022). VOA. Available at https://www.voanews.com/a/latest-developments-in-ukraine-march-29-/6505835.html

Latest Developments in Ukraine: March 30. (30. March 2022). VOA. Available at https://www.voanews.com/a/latest-developments-in-ukraine-march-30/6507406.html

Latest Developments in Ukraine: March 31. (31. March 2022). VOA. Available at https://www.voanews.com/a/latest-developments-in-ukraine-march-31/6509005.html

Lavrov on first China visit since Russian invasion of Ukraine. (30. March 2022). Aljazeera. Available at https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/30/lavrov-in-first-china-visit-since-russian-invasion-of-ukraine

Russia may have committed war crimes in Ukraine: UN rights chief. (30. March 2022). Aljazeera. Available at https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/30/russia-may-have-committed-war-crimes-in-ukraine-un-rights-head Russia threatens to cut off European gas supply. (1. April 2022). DW. Available at https://www.dw.com/en/russia-threatens-to-cut-off-european-gas-supply/a-61324564

Sabbagh, D. (31. March 2022). West to send 'more lethal aid' to Ukraine, UK defence secretary says. The Guardian. Available at https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/mar/31/west-to-send-more-lethal-aid-to-ukraine-uk-defence-minister-says

Spike, J. (30. March 2022). Hungary accuses Ukraine of interfering in upcoming election. AP News. Available at https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-zelenskyy-business-europe-peter-szijjarto-3fb4684dc028688c3cd544ee661d7e43

Ukraine Refugee Situation. (31. March 2022). UNHCR. Available at https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine
Ukraine: civilian casualty update 31 March 2022. (31. March 2022). OHCHR. Available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/03/ukraine-civilian-casualty-update-31-march-2022

War in Ukraine: Russia accuses Ukraine of attacking oil depot. (1. April 2022). BBC. Available at https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-60952125

Analysis by: Matjaž J. Leben

Would you like to know more? Are you interested in international security? Join us.

Find more about Euro-Atlantic Council of Slovenia at www.euroatlantic.org or contact us at info@euroatlantic.org.