



## Situation Room

### **\*\* UKRAINE CRISIS \*\***

**Period under review:** from **02 March 2022** to **05 March 2022**.

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

### **Situation analysis recap:**

- On 2 April, Russian forces continued their withdrawal from the Kyiv area to concentrate the fighting in the eastern and southern parts of Ukraine, according to British intelligence reports. After heavy fighting, the Ukrainian army has also advanced in Kharkiv. On the same day, Russian forces carried out air strikes on the cities of Mariupol and Kharkiv, and Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser to the Ukrainian President, warned of Russian attacks on Chernigov, saying that the enemy was trying to turn it into another Mariupol. The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces has announced that Russian forces are also withdrawing from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant site and adjacent areas in Belarus. Also on that day, in the town of Bucha, north-west of Kyiv, Ukrainian soldiers found the bodies of at least 20 men in civilian clothes in a street while around 300 people have had to be buried so far.
- On 2 April, Carla Del Ponte, former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the United Nations war crimes tribunal, said in an interview that Putin is a war criminal and stressed that the arrest of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, is necessary because he, like other Russian leaders, must be held accountable for the crimes committed in Ukraine. On the same day, Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, said in a video address that he expected violent Russian attacks in the east of the country.
- On 3 April, the Deputy Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Hana Malyar, announced that Ukrainian forces had fully liberated the Kyiv region. The Russian defence ministry has claimed that Russian forces did not kill civilians in the town of Bucha, and even said that the Russian army was assisting the local population. President Zelensky was also appalled by the events in Bucha, describing the Russian atrocities as genocide. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg described the killings of civilians as "horrific" and said that Europe had not witnessed anything like it for decades.
- On 3 April, Ukraine's chief negotiator, David Arakhamya, assessed that the latest talks with Russia had brought significant progress, which could now lead to a personal meeting between President Zelenski and President Putin. He also revealed that Russia had agreed to Ukraine's demands on all issues, with the exception of the Crimea peninsula.
- On 4 April, President Zelensky visited Bucha to see the devastation left behind by Russian forces. New satellite imagery has revealed a mass grave site and trenches containing civilian bodies. On the same day, the EU announced new sanctions against Russia and will assist Ukraine in its war crimes investigation. US President, Joe Biden, called for the Russian President to be tried for war crimes. The US will also seek Russia's expulsion from the UN Human Rights Council, and is working with more than 40 countries to gather evidence of war crimes and other violations. On the same day, President Putin signed a decree introducing retaliatory visa measures in connection with "unfriendly acts" by foreign countries.
- On 5 April, President Zelenski addresses the UN Security Council. He described the "extraordinary actions" of the Russian forces in Bucha, revealed by the withdrawal of the army from the town. He accused Russia of the worst war crimes since the Second World War. In the coming days, the President of the European Commission, Ursula Von der Leyen, and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, will travel to Kyiv to meet with President Zelensky. The purpose of the visit is to discuss how sanctions are implemented and their consequences. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg told a meeting of foreign ministers that Russia will try to seize the entire Donetsk Basin in

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the coming days. According to the UN, some 4.2 million people have left Ukraine since the invasion began.

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