



Situation Room

**** UKRAINE CRISIS ****

Period under review: from 10 April 2022 to 17 April 2022.

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

Situation analysis recap:

- On 10 April, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Mikhail Podolyak, said on Ukrainian state television that Ukraine must defeat Russia in the Donetsk Basin, where Moscow controls the separatist provinces of Donetsk and Lugansk, before a meeting between President Zelensky and Russian President Vladimir Putin could take place. The authorities in Kyiv have said that Ukraine is preparing for "major fighting" in the east of the country. On the same day, a new mass grave site was discovered in the village of Buzova, near Kyiv, after the withdrawal of Russian troops.
- On 11 April, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the outskirts of Moscow. Nehammer described the meeting as frank, direct and tough, but said he was not optimistic about an end to the Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine and warned that Russian forces were preparing for a "brutal and large-scale attack".
- On 12 April, the mayor of the Ukrainian city of Bucha, Anatoliy Fedoruk, announced that the bodies of 403 people believed to have been killed by Russian forces had been found in the city. On the same day, President Putin said that the pictures and videos were faked and compared the event to what happened in Syria, where he said the West staged a chemical weapons attack to smear President Bashar al-Assad.
- On 13 April, according to the Russian defence ministry, more than a thousand Ukrainian soldiers were expected to surrender in Mariupol, eastern Ukraine. Ukrainian sources have not confirmed the information about the handover of Ukrainian soldiers. There have also been reports that Russia has attacked the steelworks site with chemical weapons. President Zelensky said that it is not yet clear what substance the Russian side is believed to have used on the city, adding that it is not possible to carry out a full investigation. On the same day, the Council of the European Union approved an additional €500 million for military aid in Ukraine, and the US announced \$800 million for the same purpose.
- On 14 April, the Russian defence ministry confirmed that the Russian missile cruiser *Moskva* had sunk in the Black Sea, allegedly hit by Ukrainian missiles, according to Kyiv. The Ukrainian Parliament has labelled Russia a terrorist state and the actions of the Russian army as genocide. The statements were also joined by the US President, Joe Biden, the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and the British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. On the same day, Moscow warned that if Finland and Sweden joined NATO, it would reinforce its defence by deploying nuclear weapons on their borders.
- On 15 April, according to the Ukrainian government, for the first time since the start of the invasion, Russia used supersonic bombers in an attack on the city of Mariupol. On the same day, Russia also announced more frequent attacks in and around the capital Kyiv in response to attacks by Ukrainian forces on Russian territory near the border with Ukraine. On the same day, Moscow called on Washington to stop arming Ukraine.
- On 16 April, according to the Russian Ministry of Defence, Russian forces reportedly cleared the city of Mariupol of Ukrainian soldiers. Only about 2500 Ukrainian soldiers are expected to remain in the town, in the vicinity of the Azovstal steelworks. President Zelenski said that the elimination of Ukrainian troops defending Mariupol would mean the end of peace negotiations between Kiev and

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Moscow. On the same day, Russia warned the US and NATO members that the arms supply was adding fuel to the conflict in Ukraine, with "unimaginable consequences".

- On 17 April, the Russian army's ultimatum to the 2,500 Ukrainian fighters in Mariupol to surrender expired, but they have shown no intention of surrendering. On the same day, President Zelensky said that President Biden and the French President, Emmanuel Macron, should come to Ukraine to see for themselves that Russian forces are committing genocide in Ukraine. At the same time, Zelensky reiterated the call for more military aid for its army and reminded of the possibility that Russia could use nuclear weapons.

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