



Situation Room

**** UKRAINE CRISIS ****

Period under review: from **24 April 2022** to **03 May 2022**.

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

Situation analysis recap:

- On 25 April, Russian attacks continued in eastern Ukraine, again resulting in civilian casualties. The Russian Ministry of Defence has announced a ceasefire in the area of the Azovstal steelworks to allow the evacuation of civilians from the complex. On the same day, Russia expelled 40 German diplomats from the country.
- On 26 April, several explosions occurred on the territory of Moldova, raising fears that the war could spread beyond Ukrainian borders. The incident took place in the Transnistria region of Moldova, which has been controlled by Russian separatists since 1992. The attack is believed to have hit a military facility, radio towers and the Ministry of State Security.
- On April 27, Russia stopped gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said that this was a new attempt by Moscow to use gas as a blackmail tool. She added that paying for Russian gas in roubles is a violation of EU sanctions against Russia. On the same day, Russian President, Vladimir Putin, said that if anyone interfered in the situation in Ukraine and posed a threat of a strategic nature, Russian would react with a lightning blow. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres arrived in Ukraine, where he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.
- On 28 April, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, visited the most affected suburbs of Kyiv, such as Borodyanka and Bucha. He was visibly shaken. He and President Zelensky discussed Russian human rights violations and the evacuations of civilians from Mariupol.
- On 28 April, according to the General Staff of the Ukrainian army, Russian forces significantly stepped up their attacks in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's Defence Minister, Oleksiy Reznikoff, said that the Ukrainian army faces extremely difficult weeks ahead, while warning of the Russian army's massive destruction in the upcoming offensive in the east of the country. NATO has assured that it is ready to support Ukraine for several years, while the Kremlin has said that arms supplies to Ukraine threaten European security.
- On 29 April, Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister, Yulia Sviridenko, said that the country was facing a severe fuel shortage due to Russian attacks on refineries and storage facilities. The Kyiv authorities have therefore urged residents not to use private vehicles to drive, as the army urgently needs fuel.
- On 30 April, the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence published photos of 10 Russian soldiers accused of war crimes in Bucha. The authorities accused them of torturing, raping, and killing civilians. They captioned the published photos the "Disgusting Ten". On the same day, Russian bombs destroyed the runway of Odessa airport in southern Ukraine.
- On 1 May, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, accompanied by a delegation, made an unannounced visit to Kyiv, where she met with President Zelensky and expressed her strong support for Ukraine. Meanwhile, the Russian authorities have announced that they could seize the assets of "hostile" countries, which they consider to be in breach of international law. The measure is intended to retaliate against the US proposal to sell confiscated Russian assets and pay the proceeds to Ukraine. On the same day, the first 100 people, including several children, managed to leave the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol.
- On 2 May, the Russian Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, compared President Zelensky to Hitler, who he said also had Jewish roots. This has angered Israel, which is demanding an apology from Lavrov.

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President Zelensky again accused Russia, which has now started destroying food warehouses and agricultural businesses, of wanting to exterminate the Ukrainian nation.

- On 3 May, in a night-time speech, President Zelensky responded to the statement by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, accusing him of blaming the Jews for the crimes of the Nazis. He also said that Russia had forgotten all the lessons of the Second World War. There are also many speculations about what President Putin will do on 9 May, when Russia commemorates VE-day.

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