



Situation Room

**** UKRAINIAN CRISIS ****

Period under review: from 1 July 2022 to 5 November 2022.

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

Situation analysis recap:

1. Developments on the ground

- On 4 July, Russia took control of Lysychansk, the last city in the eastern Luhansk region that had been under Ukrainian control.
- Throughout July and early August, Russia carried out multiple airstrikes in central, north-east, east, and southern parts of Ukraine, killing more than 50 people and damaging civilian buildings and Ukraine's critical infrastructure.
- On 13 August, Ukrainian forces destroyed a bridge on a hydroelectric power dam in Russian-controlled territory in Kherson region, aiming to disrupt Russia's ability to resupply its military. Three days later explosions rocked Crimea, hitting an ammunition depot, an airfield, and a power station. Ukraine didn't take credit, but military analysts said the incidents are likely part of a Ukrainian counteroffensive. The latter was launched on August 29 in southern areas of Ukraine that were captured by Russian forces early in the war.
- By 12 September Ukrainian military forces managed to retake control of key areas in the north-eastern Kharkiv region, including Izium. On 1 October, Russian forces retreated as Ukraine recaptured the city of Lyman, located in one of the eastern regions the Kremlin claimed to annex.
- The Russian offensive continued on 10 October as a barrage of attacks hit Kyiv and cities across Ukraine. Russia managed to cause serious damage to Ukraine's power grid by deploying "kamikaze" drones to destroy critical infrastructure.
- On 27 October, Russian President Vladimir Putin also claimed, without evidence, that Ukraine is preparing to set off a dirty bomb. The US and allies dismissed this allegation as a false pretext for Russia's own possible future actions.

2. Russia-Iran relations

- On 19 July, after a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian leaders, and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tehran, Iran expressed support for Russia in the Ukraine war.
- On 17 September, The Wall Street Journal reported Russia has been using Iranian-made drones to cause serious damage in Ukraine. The White House also said Iranian military personnel are directly engaged in Crimea helping Russia conduct drone attacks on Ukraine. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said Russia has purchased dozens of drones from Iran and that Iranian forces are helping hit infrastructure, civilians, and military targets across Ukraine.
- On 5 November, Iran acknowledged it did provide some drones to Russia months before the war in Ukraine but denied continuing to supply them.

3. US military aid package to Ukraine

- On 8 July, the White House announced a further \$400 million military aid package for Ukraine, including High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) which can reach targets up to 290 kilometres away.
- Overall, US President Joe Biden announced nearly \$3 billion in US military aid, including ammunition for HIMARS and howitzers, Phoenix Ghost and other drones, anti-mine vehicles, anti-tank missiles, refurbished T-42 tanks, and other vehicles, technology and training. The latest military aid package was announced on 4 November.

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4. Grain exports

- Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began, exports of grain from Ukraine, as well as food and fertilizers from Russia, have been significantly hit. On 13 July, officials from Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, and the United Nations met in Istanbul in order to come to an agreement to resume Ukrainian grain exports across the Black Sea. The agreement was finalised on 22 July. The United Nations said the agreement would also help Russian grain and fertilizer to reach global markets.
- Nevertheless, Russia suspended its role in the deal on 29 October, saying Ukraine had launched a drone attack against its Black Sea fleet in Crimea. Four days later, on 4 November and at the negotiation table with Ukraine, Turkey and the UN, Moscow re-joined the agreement, saying it had received sufficient guarantees from Kyiv it would not use the maritime corridor for military operations against Russia.

5. Gas and energy

- After pausing gas shipments due to the stated maintenance work, Russia restarted natural gas flows to Europe via the Nord Stream pipeline on 21 July.
- Later in July, Gazprom cut off gas shipments to Latvia due to the country's refusal to meet Russia's demands for gas payments in roubles rather than other currencies. Gazprom also reduced the amount of gas it sent through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 20%.
- Further issues with gas shipments arose on 27 September when multiple explosions damaged Nord Stream 1 and Nord Stream 2 pipelines. It is still unclear how the attacks were carried out and who was behind them.
- In order to secure energy supplies, the German government took over local subsidiaries of Russian oil company Rosneft, which provide 12% of the country's oil refining capacity.

6. Sanctions against Russia

- In the time period from 1 August to 15 September, the US imposed new sanctions on Russian figures and defence- and technology-related entities, as well as on key Russia-installed authority figures in Ukrainian territories currently controlled by the Russian military, in order to further constrain Russia's defence industrial base.
- Furthermore, EU countries agreed on 31 August to suspend visas for Russians but came short of an outright ban.

7. Annexation referendums

- On 20 September, leaders of four separatist and partially Russian-occupied regions declared they would hold referendums on whether to formally join Russia. The voting in referendums began on 23 September and four days later Russia claimed the referendums showed the people chose to join the Russian Federation.
- United Nations called the process a sham and a violation of international law. On 13 October the United Nations General Assembly roundly condemned Russia's move to illegally annex four regions of Ukraine.

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Analysis by: **Luka Zalokar**

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