



## Situation Room

### **\*\* UKRAINIAN CRISIS \*\***

**Period under review: from 21 November 2022 to 6 December 2022.**

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

#### **Situation analysis recap:**

- Two days of shelling (November 20 and 21) caused widespread damage to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The International Atomic Energy Agency stated on 21 November that there are no immediate nuclear safety and security concerns and that the integrity of all six nuclear reactors and that the spent and fresh fuel storage facilities remain uncompromised.
- Russian news outlet Kommersant reported on 21 November that the Russian State Duma may consider a bill before the end of 2022 that would change the regulations concerning social media networks, online cinemas, search engines, and internet marketplaces. These changes would give Russia greater control over these networks.
- A Ukrainian official acknowledged on 21 November that Ukrainian forces are conducting a military operation on the Kinburn Spit, a location which would allow Ukrainian forces to better conduct potential operations on the left, eastern, bank of the river Dnieper in Kherson Oblast.
- Millions of people in Ukraine face a life-threatening winter this year, the World Health Organization has warned, as Russia continues to pound the country's energy infrastructure while temperatures plummet.
- Russia has accused Ukrainian forces of executing a group of Russian prisoners, an action it has described as a war crime. The accusation follows the emergence of a video from the front line in eastern Ukraine showing the apparent surrender of a number of soldiers in an incident that ends in their deaths.
- Ukrainian Minister of Defence Oleksii Reznikov released figures on 22 November detailing that the Russian military has only 119 Iskanders missiles remaining, or around 13 percent of its initial February 2022 arsenal. The Russian military has significantly depleted its stockpile of high-precision missiles but will likely still be able to launch large and medium scale attacks on Ukrainian critical infrastructure in the near term.
- Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko has travelled to Iran to discuss economic cooperation and a possible deepening of security ties.
- Russian military movements suggest that Russian forces are likely reinforcing positions in eastern Zaporizhzhia and western Donetsk oblasts.
- On 22 November, Ukraine's security services raided a historic monastery in Kyiv in an operation that they claimed was aimed at stopping Russian agents from using the site for sabotage, intelligence or weapons.
- On 23 November the Russian military conducted another set of massive, coordinated missile strikes on Ukrainian critical infrastructure.
- On 23 November, Moscow City Duma Deputy and journalist Andrey Medvedev posted on his Telegram channel that he denies the existence of the Ukrainian nation, relegating Ukrainian identity to a "political orientation."
- On 23 November, UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace announce that Britain was sending helicopters to Ukraine. This will mark the first instance of a piloted aircraft being supplied to Ukraine by the UK. So far, the UK was only providing unmanned aircraft.
- Russia and Ukraine carried out the latest in a series of prisoner of war exchanges, with both sides handing over 50 people.

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- A Ukrainian official confirmed that Ukrainian forces killed Iranian advisors in Russian-occupied Crimea in October and stressed that Ukraine would target any Iranian military presence on Ukrainian territory.
- On 25 November Russian president, Vladimir Putin, met a handpicked group of mothers of soldiers fighting in Ukraine to calm public anger over mobilisation.
- On 27 November, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hosted a summit in Kyiv with allied nations to launch a plan to export \$150m worth of grain to countries which are the most vulnerable to famine and drought.
- Russian forces made marginal gains around Bakhmut on 29 November.
- The G7 group has agreed on 29 November to set up a network to coordinate investigations into war crimes, as part of a push to prosecute suspected atrocities in Ukraine.
- China's president, Xi Jinping, has said Beijing is ready to "forge a closer partnership" with Moscow to "maintain international energy security".
- On 29 November, during the ministerial summit in Bucharest, NATO pledged to give more weapons to Ukraine and help fix critical energy infrastructure badly damaged by massive Russian missile and drone strikes.
- A security officer at Ukraine's embassy in Madrid was injured when he opened a letter bomb addressed to the ambassador on 30 November.
- The head of the Russian nuclear energy agency Rosatom, Alexei Likhachev stated on 2 December that negotiations continue on the demilitarization of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in return for a Ukrainian guarantee of the continued flow of gas to Europe through the Druzhba pipeline.
- European Union member states have agreed on 2 December to put a \$60 per barrel price cap on imports of Russian oil. They also placed a ban on seaborne imports of Russian oil.
- Ukraine will move to place restrictions on the activities of Russian-linked religious organisations in the country, and security services will begin an investigation into a Moscow-linked branch of the Orthodox Church after the monastery raid that took place on 22 November.
- On 2 December, reports emerged regarding parcels containing animal eyes that have been sent to eight Ukrainian embassies in Europe. "Blood-soaked" packages were found in Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Croatia, Austria, Spain, and the Czech Republic.
- Ukrainian forces reportedly reached the east (left) bank of the Dnipro River across from Kherson City on 3 December.
- On 5 December Russian air defences claimed they intercepted Ukrainian drones over two military airfields in Russia, hundreds of kilometres from the border between the two countries. Falling debris from the unmanned vehicles was reported as lightly damaging two aircraft. Three Russian servicemen were reported killed and four injured in the incidents in the Ryazan and Saratov regions.

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