



## Situation Room

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

**Period under review: from 19 October 2024 to 18 November 2024.**

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

### **Situation analysis recap:**

**(19 October)** According to Russian official Dmitry Rogozin Russia's Black Sea Fleet was forced to relocate many of its warships from Sevastopol in Crimea to the port of Novorossiysk, due to Ukrainian attacks. This is the first confirmation of the fleet's relocation. Rogozin emphasized that Russia needs to accelerate the development of drones, electronic warfare, and satellite systems. He highlighted the fact that drones and electronic warfare are transforming military tactics and called for faster innovations to counter Ukraine's advancements. Rogozin also emphasised the importance of overcoming electronic warfare to improve targeting accuracy.

**(24 October)** South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said South Korea will consider the possibility of providing direct military assistance to Ukraine., His comment came amid growing speculation about the potential deployment of 10,000 North Korean soldiers to support Russia in its war with Ukraine. Yoon, along with Polish President Andrzej Duda, agreed that this would escalate the conflict and pose a threat to global security. According to South Korean intelligence, there are currently 3,000 North Korean soldiers in Russia, with the full contingent of 10,000 expected to be deployed to the Ukrainian front by December. The Russian State Duma ratified an agreement deepening military cooperation between Moscow and Pyongyang.

**(28 October)** NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte, spoke to journalists at a press conference following a meeting of the North Atlantic Council and its Indo-Pacific partners (Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea) about a report from the South Korean delegation regarding North Korea's increasing involvement in Russia's illegal aggression against Ukraine. According to South Korean intelligence, North Korean units were sent to Russia and deployed to the border region of Kursk. According to the Secretary General, the deployment of North Korean soldiers represents: "First, a significant escalation of the DPRK's ongoing involvement in Russia's illegal war. Second, another violation of UN Security Council resolutions. And third, a dangerous spread of Russia's war."

**(29 October)** Vladimir Putin announced a new military exercise involving nuclear weapons, including the launching of ballistic and manoeuvrable missiles, during a videoconference with military leaders. Putin described the use of nuclear forces as a last resort and emphasised that Russia would not participate in an arms race but must keep its forces ready. Since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war and the deterioration of relations with the West, Russia has frequently made mention its extensive nuclear arsenal.

**(31 October)** Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN, Vasily Nebenzya, raised a question during a session of the Security Council as to why Moscow's allies, such as North Korea, cannot support the war against Ukraine, at a time when Western countries assist Kiev. This comment came after the US, UK, South Korea, and Ukraine accused Russia of violating UN resolutions by sending North Korean soldiers to assist in the conflict. Nebenzya denied any

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violation of international law, while the Ukrainian ambassador pointed out that countries supporting Ukraine are not under UN Security Council sanctions. North Korea, which has been under UN sanctions since 2006, did not confirm the deployment of troops but stated that its actions would be according to international law. The US warned North Korea of serious consequences if its troops enter Ukraine.

**(4 November)** During her visit to Kiev, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced an additional 200 million euros in "winter" aid to Ukraine as the third winter since Russia's invasion in February 2022 begins. The funds will assist civilians near the front lines, where energy supplies are disrupted due to damaged infrastructure. The aid will include basic supplies, such as warm clothing, blankets, and fuel, to help protect people from the cold temperatures. During a meeting with his German counterpart, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha stated that they discussed the need for decisive action in response to North Korea's involvement in the war in Ukraine.

**(6 November)** Sources from Kiev have indicated, that Ukrainian forces have clashed with North Korean soldiers for the first time. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky stated that this opens a new dimension to the conflict on a global scale. Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed a minor engagement with North Korean soldiers. Andriy Kovalenko, head of the Ukrainian National Security Council's Department for Combating Disinformation, confirmed that the first North Korean units had been involved in an artillery exchange, but no further details on the events were provided. In a video address, President Zelensky thanked allies worldwide for their support and condemnation of the deployment and stated that measures are being prepared to assist Ukrainian forces.

**(9 November)** Former advisor to the US President-elect Donald Trump, Bryan Lanza, stated that the upcoming administration should prioritise achieving peace in Ukraine over regaining territory lost to Russia. Lanza told, in an interview for the BBC, that the incoming Trump administration would ask Ukrainian President Zelensky for a realistic version of peace. Lanza went further to describe the process as: "And if President Zelensky comes to the table and says, well, peace can only be achieved if we get Crimea back, that shows he's not serious. Crimea is gone." A spokesperson for President-elect Trump distanced the future president from Lanza's statement, saying that Lanza does not speak on his behalf. Trump has consistently emphasised that his priority is to end the war and, to stop the draining of American resources through military aid to Ukraine.

**(9 November)** Russia has expressed its willingness to listen to a proposal from US President-elect Donald Trump regarding the end of the Russia-Ukraine war. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov stated that communication between Russia and the US is ongoing, although he did not specify whether the communication is taking place with the current or the incoming administration.

**(11 November)** Lieutenant General Andreas Marlow, commander of the EU training mission for Ukrainian troops in Germany, explained in an interview, that the command has borrowed old Soviet-era tanks from museums, due to the Russian use of these resources for "booby-trap" tactics, said. The command is part of the European Union's military mission, established in 2022 to train Ukrainian units to fight against the Russian invasion. Instructors from

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17 countries have trained 18,000 Ukrainian soldiers in various combat skills, including tank operations, air defence, sniping, and drone warfare. Given the largely static and positional fighting along the front lines, the training also includes the study and re-creation of Russian trench systems and the use of museum tanks to demonstrate the dangers of booby traps. In addition, modern simulators and drones are used in training to teach Ukrainian soldiers combat techniques and surveillance skills. The EU extended the mission in November 2024 for another two years as Ukrainian units continue to face Russian forces that, despite heavy losses, are making advances on many parts of the battlefield.

**(16 November)** Ukrainian President Zelensky stated in his address that the Russia-Ukraine war would end sooner after Donald Trump won the US elections. He mentioned having had a constructive exchange with the President-elect during a phone call following Trump's victory. Zelensky also added that Ukraine must do everything possible to ensure the war ends within the following year.

**(16 November)** Russia will halt the supply of natural gas to Austria as the Russian gas export route to Europe through Ukraine is expected to close by the end of this year. Ukraine has announced that it will not extend its agreement with the Russian company Gazprom due to the conflict, with the aim of depriving Russia of the profits which, Ukraine claims, help fund the war effort. Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer stated that Gazprom's notice of the supply cut was long anticipated, and Austria had prepared for it. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said that Russia's actions demonstrates that it is again using energy as a weapon.

**(18 November)** US President Joe Biden has greenlit the use of long-range missiles on Russian territory. Ukraine has been lobbying the US to remove the restrictions for months and the discussions apparently divided the administration over fears of escalation. Ukraine had used similar negotiating tactics in the past, over the use and deployment of HIMARS, Abrams tanks, and F-16 fighter jets. As with previous cases, Ukraine's request was initially rejected and only approved later when the situation on the battlefield worsened, or the need became urgent.

**(18 November)** Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that US President Joe Biden is further escalating the situation by allowing Ukraine to use US-supplied weapons on Russian territory. He described the decision as an effort by the out-going administration in Washington to continue fuelling the fire and provoke further escalation of tensions.

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