



Situation Room

**** UKRAINIAN CRISIS ****

Period under review: from 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2025.

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(1 June)** German General Casten Breuer, the Chief of Defence, made a statement to the BBC about the possibility of a Russian attack on NATO in the next four years. He supported his statement with the large production of military equipment. In his view, the claimed Russian production of 1,500 tanks per year is not only intended for the war in Ukraine.
- **(1 June)** Negotiations between Ukraine and Russia in Istanbul ended without a peace agreement being signed. Both sides agreed to a larger exchange of prisoners of war and some captured Ukrainian children.
- **(2 June)** Ukrainian forces damaged at least twenty strategic aircraft, including seven Tu-95 bombers, during Operation Spiderweb, an attack carried out deep within Russian territory in the Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur regions.
- **(5 June)** The Russian security service, the FSB, has made serious accusations against the British intelligence service, claiming that it has been using the British Council as a front to influence and undermine Russian identity. It is alleged that some professors at prominent Russian universities have collaborated with the British side to the detriment of Russian security. The British Council, which stopped operating in Russia in 2018, denied the allegations and emphasised that it strives for intercultural dialogue and education. The FSB has issued official warnings to 15 Russian citizens and called on its allies to ban cooperation with the British Council, which it says is a tool of British influence.
- **(6 June)** The Russian Central Bank has made a rare decision to change its interest rate for the first time since the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. This significant move, made in the interest of maintaining economic stability, saw the interest rate drop from 21%, the highest in the last twenty-two years, to 20%.
- **(10 June)** The European Commission, in a show of unity, has proposed the 18th package of sanctions against Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, targeting Russian banks, energy companies, and military industry. The new package will mainly hit companies linked to the Nord Stream gas pipeline, and Brussels has pledged to ban imports of fuel processed from Russian oil from third countries. "Russia's goal is not peace. The goal is to establish the rule of force. Force is the only language Russia will understand," Commission President Ursula von der Leyen told a press conference. Poland, which currently holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union, has expressed hope that the package will be adopted before it hands over the presidency to Denmark on July 1, meaning the capitals would have to negotiate an agreement, likely before the leaders' meeting on June 27.
- **(11 June)** Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić attended a summit aimed at bolstering support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. This visit to Kyiv marked his first trip there since he took office as President of Serbia ten years ago. However, President Vučić declined to sign a joint statement advocating for stricter sanctions against Moscow.
- **(16 June)** Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov confirmed that remains of 6,000 fallen soldiers have been exchanged. Historically, Ukraine and Russia have rarely coordinated exchanges of prisoners of war and fallen soldiers. However, the Istanbul Agreement has enhanced cooperation in this respect.
- **(17 June)** Ukrainian diplomats expressed their disappointment at the news of Donald Trump's early departure from the G7 summit in Kananaskis, Canada. Trump returned to the United States a day before he was scheduled to meet with President Zelensky. President Trump stated that his reason for the early departure was to focus on the Israel-Iran conflict. The United States' rejection of the G7 joint statement on Ukraine, which the media reported was seen as too anti-Russian, added to the diplomatic tensions. Ukrainian officials also cast doubt on

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the usefulness of attending the NATO summit, given the uncertainty of Trump's presence. Ukraine had been hoping for new arms supplies from the United States, including air defence systems. Trump's sudden departure from the G7 summit effectively nullified the primary purpose of the special session on Ukraine, which was to secure American support for pressuring Putin to agree to a ceasefire. Despite these setbacks, Zelensky did manage to meet with other G7 leaders.

- **(21 June)** President Vladimir Putin reiterated his position at the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg that Russians and Ukrainians are one nation and, therefore, all of Ukraine belongs to Russia. He echoed his views on the collapse of the Soviet Union, stressing that Ukraine must come to terms with the facts and adopt a neutral stance. The Russian Federation's communications strategy has consistently repeated the narrative that Russians and Ukrainians are one nation. Andrii Sybiha, a Ukrainian diplomat, wrote on the "X" network that this is a clear indication of a lack of commitment to a peace agreement.
- **(23 June)** The Russian SVR foreign intelligence service has accused Serbia of selling artillery ammunition to Ukraine, marking the second such allegation from Russia in a month. According to the accusations, two Serbian companies sold artillery ammunition and other weapons to Ukraine through intermediaries in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria.
- **(24 June)** NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte outlined plans for greater investment in NATO's collective defence capabilities as well as in the Ukrainian Defence Cluster. Rutte again called on European members of the alliance to increase investment in defence and the defence industry.
- **(25 June)** President Donald Trump met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in The Hague on the sidelines of the NATO Summit. In a statement, he stressed the importance of the meeting, highlighting that greater European commitment and an increase in defence spending to five per cent would help prevent a greater catastrophe and escalation of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.
- **(26 June)** Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said after talks with US President Donald Trump that the United States needs to show the same commitment to resolving the war between Russia and Ukraine as it has to the conflict between Israel and Iran. She emphasised the importance of a lasting commitment to Ukraine.
- **(26 June)** Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said that Slovakia would not support a new package of EU sanctions against Russia until the issues surrounding gas supplies after 2027 are resolved. Slovakia and Hungary oppose proposals to phase out Russian imports, as this would lead to shortages and higher prices. Fico also warned of potential losses of up to €20 billion due to the breach of long-term contracts with Gazprom. Although he supported the summit conclusions, he would not support sanctions. The adoption of sanctions requires the consent of all member states.
- **(27 June)** Russian President Vladimir Putin has announced a reduction in defence spending for next year. He made the announcement, that Russia is planning to cut defence spending for the next three years, during a meeting of the Eurasian Economic Union in Minsk. He pointed out that higher spending would lead to higher inflation and a greater budgetary burden, underscoring the significance of this decision in the international economic landscape.
- **(29 June)** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has signed a decree that, once approved by the Ukrainian parliament, will allow Ukraine to withdraw from the Ottawa Treaty on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines. With this decision, Ukraine will join Poland, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, whose withdrawal will take effect in six months.

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