



Situation Room

**** MONITORING SECURITY IN UKRAINE ****

Period under review: from 1 July 2025 to 31 July 2025

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

Situation analysis recap:

- **(1 July)** The Pentagon temporarily halted deliveries of certain air defence missiles and precision munitions to Ukraine due to concerns over low US military stockpiles. Meanwhile, Russian forces captured nearly 1,000 km² of Ukrainian territory over the past two months, including—for the first time in three years of war—a settlement in the Dnipropetrovsk region. The governor of Luhansk confirmed that the region is now entirely under Russian control.
- **(2 July)** Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrii Sibiha summoned the Deputy Head of the US Embassy Mission, John Ginkel, to discuss military aid and defence cooperation following the White House's suspension of arms deliveries.
- **(3 July)** Washington downplayed the significance of the paused arms shipments, asserting that President Donald Trump still had “effective” options to support Ukraine. Kyiv warned that any disruption in assistance would embolden Russia.
- **(4 July)** Russia launched its largest drone and missile attack to date, deploying 539 drones and 11 cruise and ballistic missiles. Kyiv was the primary target. The assault came just two days after the US halted the delivery of critical air defence interceptors.
- **(5 July)** European intelligence agencies reported Russia's increasing use of chemical agents in Ukraine—violating the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- **(6 July)** Russian forces conducted multiple strikes overnight, including a so-called “double-tap” attack on rescuers. Meanwhile, Russia's statistics agency stopped publishing casualty numbers, likely to conceal military losses.
- **(7 July)** President Trump announced that the US would resume the shipment of defensive weapons to Ukraine.
- **(9 July)** Russia's summer offensive is progressing slowly on three fronts. Commentators have noted that at the current pace of advance, it would take over 70 years to capture all of Ukraine. Meanwhile, nighttime drone and missile attacks have reached record intensity.
- **(10 July)** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy advocated for additional air defence assistance at a conference in Rome, held in conjunction with the Conference on Ukraine's Recovery. Zelenskyy held a

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series of meetings, including a video call, with leaders of about 30 countries of the "Coalition of the Willing."

- **(11 July)** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met at the ASEAN summit in Malaysia. Despite strained relations, it marked a rare instance of direct diplomatic dialogue on Ukraine.
- **(13 July)** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un reaffirmed full support for Moscow during Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov's three-day visit—part of ongoing efforts to deepen bilateral ties.
- **(14 July)** President Trump, during a meeting with the NATO Secretary General, Mark Rutte, announced the deployment of Patriot missile systems to Ukraine, funded by European allies. He also threatened tariffs of up to 100% on Russian goods if no progress toward peace is made within 50 days. That same day, President Zelenskyy nominated Economy Minister Yulia Svyrydenko as Ukraine's new Prime Minister—a significant political shift during wartime.
- **(15 July)** Slovakia blocked the adoption of a new EU sanctions package against Russia, objecting to a separate proposal to phase out Russian gas imports by 2028.
- **(16 July)** President Trump stated that Ukraine should not target Moscow, following media accusations that he had encouraged President Zelenskyy, during a phone call between the leaders on 4 July, to use long-range weapons against the Russian capital.
- **(17 July)** NATO's new Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, General Alexis G. Grynkewich, confirmed that preparations to supply Patriot systems to Ukraine were in their final phase, warning that Russia remains a long-term threat to European security, even in the event of a peace agreement.
- **(18 July)** The EU approved its 18th sanctions package against Russia after Slovakia lifted its objections. The measures include further restrictions on oil exports, actions targeting the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines, and new banking sector sanctions.
- **(19 July)** President Zelenskyy reiterated his readiness for direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, emphasising that a leader-to-leader meeting is essential for achieving lasting peace.
- **(20 July)** The Kremlin's spokesperson stated that Putin remains open to a peace deal, but only if Russia's objectives are fulfilled. Meanwhile, Ukrainian drones temporarily disrupted air traffic in Moscow, causing over 140 flight cancellations.
- **(21 July)** UK Defence Minister John Healey stressed the importance of using the US-set 50-day ceasefire window to strengthen Ukraine's position both militarily and diplomatically.
- **(22 July)** Massive protests erupted in Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipro, and Odesa against a new law that reduced the independence of Ukraine's main anti-corruption institutions. The law placed the National Anti-Corruption

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Bureau (NABU) and Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) under the authority of the Prosecutor General, who is appointed by the president. Critics see this as a blow to anti-corruption efforts, while Zelenskyy claims it's necessary to eliminate Russian influence. The protests were the largest since the beginning of the Russian invasion in 2022.

- **(23 July)** The third round of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia in Istanbul ended with no breakthrough, aside from an agreement on prisoner exchanges and the repatriation of fallen soldiers. Talks lasted less than an hour and were held over seven weeks after the previous round. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reiterated that Ukraine, as an EU candidate, must not compromise on anti-corruption reforms.
- **(24 July)** In response to growing domestic and international criticism, President Zelenskyy introduced a new draft law to Parliament aimed at strengthening the rule of law and ensuring the independence of anti-corruption institutions. The anti-corruption agency confirmed that the proposal enhances the powers and autonomy of key bodies. Both the agency and the prosecutor's office participated in drafting the bill, which was welcomed in Brussels.
- **(25 July)** President Zelenskyy is set to appeal to European partners to help fund higher wages for Ukrainian soldiers to boost recruitment efforts. He will also seek seven additional Patriot air defence systems after Germany and Norway confirmed they would send three. On the same day, Russian President Putin signed a law incentivising businesses to invest in occupied Ukrainian territories.
- **(26 July)** Russia's Defence Ministry claimed that its forces had captured two more villages in eastern Ukraine, including one in Dnipropetrovsk region, where Russian troops are reportedly advancing. Ukraine has not confirmed these territorial losses but reported intense fighting.
- **(27 July)** Russia launched a regular air route between Moscow and Pyongyang, reflecting increasingly close ties between the two countries. Following demand, the flight will operate once a month.
- **(28 July)** During a visit to Scotland, President Trump expressed disappointment with President Putin and shortened the original 50-day ceasefire deadline to just 10–12 days, stating that the initial warning had failed to yield results.
- **(30 July)** A massive locust invasion has devastated parts of southern Ukraine, threatening sunflower fields and other crops. Local officials blame the war for preventing standard pest control methods.
- **(31 July)** President Zelenskyy signed a new law on anti-corruption agencies aimed at reinforcing their independence. This was a reversal of his earlier efforts to place them under the control of Ukraine's Prosecutor General.

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