



# **Sanawar Model United Nations** **Conference 2022**



**12th to 14th August 2022**

## **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Agenda: *“Deliberating upon the European security measures with special emphasis on the Ukrainian Crisis.”***

### **Background Guide**

## **Letter from the Executive Board**

Dear Delegates

On behalf of Mr. Simar Singh Gbadia (Vice President) and Ms. Mokshi Sharma (Rapporteur) of the Executive Board, I welcome you all to the Dodransbicentennial Edition- The Fifth Lawrence School, Sanawar Model United Nations Conference- 2022'.

The inception of UNSC in SNAMUN'22 is based on the idea of a continuously evolving committee with real time updates from the real world. The UNSC will thus have no freeze date and delegates would be expected to use their analytical craft to deal with an ongoing crisis. The Executive Board has selected each and every member state after much deliberation which is an indication of your country's importance to the resolution of this ongoing crisis.

We hope to run the committee based on the established UNA-USA rules of procedure. The Executive Board would ideally not be entertaining any substantive chits due to a smaller committee size. This would also facilitate spontaneous reactions in the form of verbal POIs and more speeches. The Executive Board has decided to grant the right to vote to all member nations, including observer countries.

We expect that delegates to the Security Council have prior MUN experience and would be able to focus more on content creation and taking the committee forward rather than focusing on general themes and finish the debate in a day. The level of debate is expected to be of high standards and we would greatly appreciate delegates focussing on their content and research. Please note that while the Committee is in order, you would not be allowed to use the Internet.

I hope this background guide gives you an introductory understanding of the agenda. Please note that the most important part of this background guide is the 'Themes to Consider' which should ideally give you a broad understanding of the expected direction of debate in the committee. It also advisable for the delegates to focus on international security measures and not limit their research to European measures as that is truly what a UNSC should be deliberating.

Should you have any queries, please feel free to reach out to us at **[unsc.snamun22@gmail.com](mailto:unsc.snamun22@gmail.com)**. Hoping to see you all on the breathtaking campus of Sanawar!

Wishing you luck!



**Jaiveer Singh**  
**President, UNSC**

# **OVERVIEW**

## **SECTION I**

- A. Research Suggestions
- B. Nature of Proof and Evidence
- C. Guidelines for Position Paper

## **SECTION II**

- D. Committee and Mandate

## **SECTION III:**

- E. Historical Background
- F. Timeline of Conflict
- G. Brief Causes, Consequences and Legal Ramifications of the Conflict
- H. Themes to Consider
- I. Suggestive Readings

# SECTION I

## A. RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS

1. Read the agenda guide at-least a week prior to the conference and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. In case of a crisis situation always read and look for the analysis and plausible rationale on the updates that may be issued a week before the MUN.
2. Google/search everything and find relating documents (UN news articles, scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.
3. After wholly understanding (subject to how in depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.
4. Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy (history, past actions etc.)
5. Understand the cues and hints that are given minutely in the background guide that may come handy while presentation of contentions in committee.
6. Take a good look at the mandate of council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. This point is placed here, just because your knowledge base shouldn't be limited to the mandate of the council. Know everything; speak whatever the mandate allows.
7. Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the endnotes and references.
8. Predict the kind of discussions and on what sub topics can they take place, thereby analysing the sub topic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly. Make a word/page document and put your arguments there for better presentation in council and bring a hard copy of it to the committee.
9. Ask the Executive Board your doubts, if you have any, least 3 days before the conference by means of the given email id and make sure to not disclose your allotted country, until you want to understand the policy of your country.
10. Download the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols there to and other relative treaties and documents given.

## **B. NATURE OF PROOF AND EVIDENCE**

Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations made in committee or statements that require verification:

- **Reuters:** Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.
- **UN Document:** Documents by all UN agencies will be considered as sufficient proof. Reports from all UN bodies including treaty-based bodies will also be accepted.
- **Government Reports:** Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof.
- Apart from the above, credibility of different reputed sources of information shall be ruled upon by the Executive Board in context of its submission.
- Please note that the background guide cannot be cited as a verified document in the conference.

## **C. GUIDELINES FOR THE POSITION PAPER**

A position paper is an introductory document which reflects your research and the position of your country with regard to the agenda at hand. At a glance, it should make clear the urgency of the matter and a wholehearted effort to resolve the same. The format of the Position Paper should be as follows:

Name:

Committee:

Agenda:

Country:

The position paper begins after the above details and should not exceed 2 pages in Times New Roman, 12 font, line spacing 1.5.

*Please make it convenient to submit a hard copy of your position paper during the first session on first day of the conference.*

## SECTION II

### D. COMMITTEE AND MANDATE

The United Nations Security Council, or UNSC, is one of the five (active) principal organs of the United Nations. It is composed of five permanent member nations and ten rotating member nations which each serve two-year terms. The five permanent members, also known as the P5, were the major victors of World War II. Today, the P5 is composed of China, the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, and France. Practically speaking, the most important difference between the P5 nations and the ten others is that P5 nations each possess the power to veto any resolution being considered by the body. This means that any action which even one P5 nation disagrees with can be halted by that nation. Despite the power of the P5, the other ten member states are still able to vote on all matters. Resolutions in the UNSC require the “yes” vote of at least nine out of the fifteen members, so even if no P5 nation exercises its veto power, passage is not assured.

A key aspect of the United Nations Security Council which distinguishes it from the other organs of the United Nations is that it possesses a measure of binding power in its resolution. This is because the UNSC alone is capable of using military power to combat aggressors, through the United Nations Peacekeepers, as described in the United Nations Charter. The UNSC is also capable of imposing sanctions against various nations, which it more frequently makes recourse to than direct military action. It will be edifying for delegates to research past Security Council resolutions and actions beyond those mentioned in this background guide (for instance, UNSC resolutions on similar international crises) to better understand its role in international relations both past and present.

There are several modifications that will be made in order to run this committee. As there are twenty delegates attending, a passing resolution will require at least twelve out of twenty “yes” votes instead of nine out of fifteen. The veto power of P5 states applies without alteration. Any P5 delegate will be able to utilise the veto power to block any resolution. The presidency of the Security Council will not play a role in this simulation, as the chair of the committee will facilitate debate instead of a representative from one of the member states. Please note that the 20 members of this Council have been handpicked keeping the agenda in mind and do not replicate the current UNSC membership.

## **RELEVANT UN CHARTER ARTICLES FROM WHICH UNSC DERIVES POWER**

### **Chapter V: The Security Council**

#### **COMPOSITION**

##### **Article 23**

1. The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.
2. The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from eleven to fifteen, two of the four additional members shall be chosen for a term of one year. A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
3. Each member of the Security Council shall have one representative.

#### **FUNCTIONS AND POWERS**

##### **Article 24**

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.
2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

##### **Article 25**

The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

## **Article 26**

In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

## **VOTING**

### **Article 27**

1. Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.
2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.
3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

## **PROCEDURE**

### **Article 28**

1. The Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Each member of the Security Council shall for this purpose be represented at all times at the seat of the Organization.
2. The Security Council shall hold periodic meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the government or by some other specially designated representative.
3. The Security Council may hold meetings at such places other than the seat of the Organization as in its judgment will best facilitate its work.

### **Article 29**

The Security Council may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.

### **Article 30**

The Security Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, including the method of selecting its President.

### **Article 31**

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council may participate, without vote, in the discussion of any question brought before the Security Council whenever the latter considers that the interests of that Member are specially affected.

### **Article 32**

Any Member of the United Nations which is not a member of the Security Council or any state which is not a Member of the United Nations, if it is a party to a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, shall be invited to participate, without vote, in the discussion relating to the dispute. The Security Council shall lay down such conditions as it deems just for the participation of a state which is not a Member of the United Nations.

## **Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes**

### **Article 33**

1. The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice.
2. The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means.

### **Article 34**

The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.

### **Article 35**

1. Any Member of the United Nations may bring any dispute, or any situation of the nature referred to in Article 34, to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly.
2. A state which is not a Member of the United Nations may bring to the attention of the Security Council or of the General Assembly any dispute to which it is a party if it accepts in advance, for the purposes of the dispute, the obligations of pacific settlement provided in the present Charter.
3. The proceedings of the General Assembly in respect of matters brought to its attention under this Article will be subject to the provisions of Articles 11 and 12.

### **Article 36**

1. The Security Council may, at any stage of a dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 or of a situation of like nature, recommend appropriate procedures or methods of adjustment.
2. The Security Council should take into consideration any procedures for the settlement of the dispute which have already been adopted by the parties.
3. In making recommendations under this Article the Security Council should also take into consideration that legal disputes should as a general rule be referred by the parties to the International Court of Justice in accordance with the provisions of the Statute of the Court.

## **Article 37**

1. Should the parties to a dispute of the nature referred to in Article 33 fail to settle it by the means indicated in that Article, they shall refer it to the Security Council.
2. If the Security Council deems that the continuance of the dispute is in fact likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, it shall decide whether to take action under Article 36 or to recommend such terms of settlement as it may consider appropriate.

## **Article 38**

Without prejudice to the provisions of Articles 33 to 37, the Security Council may, if all the parties to any dispute so request, make recommendations to the parties with a view to a pacific settlement of the dispute.

## **Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression**

### **Article 39**

The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security.

### **Article 40**

In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the Security Council may, before making the recommendations or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisional measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisional measures shall be without prejudice to the rights, claims, or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisional measures.

### **Article 41**

The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed force are to be employed to give effect to its decisions, and it may call upon the Members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.

### **Article 42**

Should the Security Council consider that measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proved to be inadequate, it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such action may include demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations.

### **Article 43**

1. All Members of the United Nations, in order to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and

facilities, including rights of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security.

2. Such agreement or agreements shall govern the numbers and types of forces, their degree of readiness and general location, and the nature of the facilities and assistance to be provided.
3. The agreement or agreements shall be negotiated as soon as possible on the initiative of the Security Council. They shall be concluded between the Security Council and Members or between the Security Council and groups of Members and shall be subject to ratification by the signatory states in accordance with their respective constitutional processes.

#### **Article 44**

When the Security Council has decided to use force it shall, before calling upon a Member not represented on it to provide armed forces in fulfilment of the obligations assumed under Article 43, invite that Member, if the Member so desires, to participate in the decisions of the Security Council concerning the employment of contingents of that Member's armed forces.

#### **Article 45**

In order to enable the United Nations to take urgent military measures, Members shall hold immediately available national air-force contingents for combined international enforcement action. The strength and degree of readiness of these contingents and plans for their combined action shall be determined within the limits laid down in the special agreement or agreements referred to in Article 43, by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

#### **Article 46**

Plans for the application of armed force shall be made by the Security Council with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee.

#### **Article 47**

1. There shall be established a Military Staff Committee to advise and assist the Security Council on all questions relating to the Security Council's military requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, the employment and command of forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments, and possible disarmament.
2. The Military Staff Committee shall consist of the Chiefs of Staff of the permanent members of the Security Council or their representatives. Any Member of the United Nations not permanently represented on the Committee shall be invited by the Committee to be associated with it when the efficient discharge of the Committee's responsibilities requires the participation of that Member in its work.
3. The Military Staff Committee shall be responsible under the Security Council for the strategic direction of any armed forces placed at the disposal of the Security Council. Questions relating to the command of such forces shall be worked out subsequently.
4. The Military Staff Committee, with the authorization of the Security Council and after consultation with appropriate regional agencies, may establish regional sub-committees.

#### **Article 48**

1. The action required to carry out the decisions of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security shall be taken by all the Members of the United Nations or by some of them, as the Security Council may determine.
2. Such decisions shall be carried out by the Members of the United Nations directly and through their action in the appropriate international agencies of which they are members.

### **Article 49**

The Members of the United Nations shall join in affording mutual assistance in carrying out the measures decided upon by the Security Council.

### **Article 50**

If preventive or enforcement measures against any state are taken by the Security Council, any other state, whether a Member of the United Nations or not, which finds itself confronted with special economic problems arising from the carrying out of those measures shall have the right to consult the Security Council with regard to a solution of those problems.

### **Article 51**

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

## **Chapter VIII: Regional Arrangements**

### **Article 52**

1. Nothing in the present Charter precludes the existence of regional arrangements or agencies for dealing with such matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security as are appropriate for regional action provided that such arrangements or agencies and their activities are consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations.
2. The Members of the United Nations entering into such arrangements or constituting such agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.
3. The Security Council shall encourage the development of pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies either on the initiative of the states concerned or by reference from the Security Council.
4. This Article in no way impairs the application of Articles 34 and 35.

### **Article 53**

1. The Security Council shall, where appropriate, utilize such regional arrangements or agencies for enforcement action under its authority. But no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the

Security Council, with the exception of measures against any enemy state, as defined in paragraph 2 of this Article, provided for pursuant to Article 107 or in regional arrangements directed against renewal of aggressive policy on the part of any such state, until such time as the Organization may, on request of the Governments concerned, be charged with the responsibility for preventing further aggression by such a state.

2. The term enemy state as used in paragraph 1 of this Article applies to any state which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present Charter.

## **Article 54**

The Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

## **Chapter XI: Declaration Regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories**

### **Article 73**

Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the present Charter, the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories, and, to this end:

1. to ensure, with due respect for the culture of the peoples concerned, their political, economic, social, and educational advancement, their just treatment, and their protection against abuses;
2. to develop self-government, to take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples, and to assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions, according to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement;
3. to further international peace and security;
4. to promote constructive measures of development, to encourage research, and to co-operate with one another and, when and where appropriate, with specialized international bodies with a view to the practical achievement of the social, economic, and scientific purposes set forth in this Article; and
5. to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General for information purposes, subject to such limitation as security and constitutional considerations may require, statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to economic, social, and educational conditions in the territories for which they are respectively responsible other than those territories to which Chapters XII and XIII apply.

## Article 74

Members of the United Nations also agree that their policy in respect of the territories to which this Chapter applies, no less than in respect of their metropolitan areas, must be based on the general principle of good-neighbourliness, due account being taken of the interests and well-being of the rest of the world, in social, economic, and commercial matters.

## SECTION III

### E. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 9th century: Kyivan Rus

At some point in the late 9th century, a group of Norsemen calling themselves Rus (pronounced “Roos”) established control over the East Slavic communities in what is now Northwest Russia, then moved down the Dnieper River to make the city of Kyiv, in what is now Ukraine, their capital. Historians call this large medieval state Kyivan Rus.

The Norse elite soon assimilated into the local Slavic population, which began to refer to itself as the people of Rus, or Rusyns. The heart of the Rus state was present-day central Ukraine; Moscow was established in the 12th century in what was then a far-flung northeastern frontier. In 988, Grand Prince Volodimer (‘Volodymyr ’in Ukrainian, ‘Vladimir ’in Russian), who died in 1015, accepted Christianity from Byzantium. Few Rusyns read or spoke the literary language of the church and state, Old Church Slavonic. Instead, they spoke a host of East Slavic dialects from which the Ukrainian, Belarusian, and Russian languages would eventually develop.

In the mid-13th century, the loose federation of Rus principalities was easily conquered by the Mongol empire, but Russia and Ukraine still contest the glorious legacy of medieval Rus.

#### 1654: Treaty of Pereiaslav (aka the Pereyaslav Agreement)

Exploiting the late 14th-century decline of Mongol power, the Grand Principality of Moscow and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (the latter eventually uniting with Poland) divided the former Rus lands. A new social group of Ukrainian Cossacks developed on the southern frontier of Poland, guarding it against Crimean Tatar raids. The Ukrainian Cossacks were a large group of free people, many of them runaway peasant serfs, who guarded the southern steppe border of Poland against Turkish and Tatar raids.

The concept of ‘Ukraine ’already existed, but locals continued calling themselves ‘Rusyns’, while referring to the future Russians as ‘Muscovites’. By the early 17th century, the Orthodox Christian population of the Ukrainian lands had become antagonised by Catholic Poland’s religious policies and the spread of serfdom – a form of slavery in which peasants were bound to the land and sold with it. A 1648 Cossack rebellion led by Hetman (military leader) Bohdan Khmelnytsky (c1595–1657) became a mass social and religious war against Polish rule, resulting in the creation of the Hetmanate, a Cossack polity nominally autonomous under the Polish king but independent in fact.

## **1876: The Ems Act**

In 1764, Catherine II (1729–96) abolished the Hetmanate to erase the last remnants of Ukrainian autonomy, and the Russian army destroyed the Cossack stronghold on the Dnieper. Cossack officers could make claims to noble status – the empire agreed to accept them as equal to Russian nobles as long as they could provide the relevant paperwork – but Ukrainian peasants eventually became enserfed.

During the partitions of Poland in the late 18th century, Catherine acquired a large stretch of Ukrainian lands that Poland had retained after 1654. As the institutional legacy of the Hetmanate was being dismantled, new interest in Ukrainian history and folklore developed among intellectuals under the influence of pan-European Romanticism. During the 1840s, Ukraine's national bard, Taras Shevchenko (1814–61), published his first poems in Ukrainian and subsequently co-founded a secret political society that discussed a free Slavic federation and the abolition of serfdom.

The Ukrainian national revival was also underway in the westernmost Rus lands, which passed from Poland to the Austrian Empire. Worried Russian authorities responded in 1863 by banning the publication of educational literature written in the Ukrainian language. In 1876, Tsar Alexander II (1818–81), while holidaying at the bathing resort of Bad Ems in Germany, signed the Ems Act, which banned all publishing in the Ukrainian language. The empire continued to promote assimilation to Russian culture by rewarding those “loyal” Ukrainians it considered to constitute the ‘Little Russian tribe’ of the greater Russian people, while simultaneously discriminating against politicised Ukrainians in the form of lost jobs, arrest, and exile.. Ukrainian patriots now began using ‘Ukrainians’ as an ethnic designation to signify their distinctness from Russians.

## **1918: Ukrainian independence**

With the collapse of the Russian monarchy in 1917 under the strain of war and political discord, patriotic Ukrainians established their coordinating body, the Central Rada (Council), which soon developed into a revolutionary parliament. The Russian Provisional Government granted Ukraine autonomy under the name of the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR), but the Bolsheviks subsequently refused to recognise it and invaded Ukraine in order to include it in the Soviet state.

The UNR declared full independence in January 1918 and signed a peace treaty with the Central Powers in Brest before the Bolsheviks did the same. The German authorities installed a Ukrainian monarch under the historic title of hetman, but the UNR returned to power after the end of the First World War and proclaimed unification with the Ukrainian lands of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The UNR could not survive the titanic clash between the Russian Reds and Whites during the Russian civil war (1917–22), as neither power recognised Ukrainian sovereignty, but the precedent of Ukrainian independence forced the Bolsheviks to create a Soviet Ukrainian Republic which in 1922 became a founding member of the Soviet Union.

However, in the early 1930s Stalin returned to the unfinished task of crushing the Ukrainian political nation, which developed during the Revolution. Some 4 million Ukrainian peasants perished in the state-engineered famine of 1932–33, which in Ukraine is known as the Holodomor (“murder through starvation”) and considered a genocide – an interpretation increasingly accepted worldwide, but which Russia rejects. Stalin also destroyed the Ukrainian cultural elite and began promoting the tsarist notion of Ukrainians as the Russians’ “younger brother.”

## **1945: The enlarged Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic**

Following up on his agreement with Hitler on the division of East-Central Europe between them, Stalin invaded Poland in September 1939 and incorporated into the Ukrainian SSR the Ukrainian lands that Poland had kept after its brief war with the Bolsheviks in 1919, a stalemate which ended Lenin's dream of the Red cavalry bringing the revolution to Europe. At the Yalta Conference in 1945, Churchill and Roosevelt allowed Stalin to keep these territories. The Soviets also pressured Czechoslovakia into giving up its "Rusyn" lands.

The resulting enlarged Ukrainian SSR came to incorporate nearly all the territories with an ethnic Ukrainian majority under its energetic party boss Nikita Khrushchev (1894–1971). Khrushchev thereby achieved a longstanding aim of Ukrainian patriots to create a united Ukraine, but pursued a course of cultural assimilation into Russia rather than promoting Ukrainian autonomy. Stubborn armed resistance to Soviet rule by Ukrainian nationalists in the formerly Polish territories continued into the 1950s.

### **1954: The transfer of the Crimean Peninsula**

Although attached by land only to Ukraine, Crimea (Ukraine's southern Crimean peninsula) became an autonomous republic within Russia in 1921, partly because of the peninsula's strategic significance. Neither Russians nor Ukrainians constituted a majority there, and in the 1920s the Soviets cultivated the culture of the Crimean Tatars, who had lived on the peninsula since the 13th century and whose Crimean Khanate the Russian Empire conquered in 1783, to impress the Western colonies and newly independent states in Asia with their seemingly benevolent policies.

When the Red Army retook Crimea from Nazi Germany in 1944, however, Stalin ordered a forced deportation of the Tatars, which many historians consider genocidal. As a result of this deportation, ethnic Russians became a numerical majority virtually overnight. The war had left the peninsula's economy and cities in ruins. To mark the 300 years since Pereiaslav, Khrushchev organised the transfer of Crimea to the Ukrainian SSR, which was to rebuild it and supply it with fresh water through a major channel to be constructed. He also hoped to gratify the Ukrainian bureaucrats comprising his power base and, perhaps, to add a culturally Russian counterweight to the recently incorporated nationalistic western regions.

### **1991: The collapse of the Soviet Union**

When Mikhail Gorbachev's (1931–) loosening of ideological controls resulted in the mass rejection of Soviet communism, Ukrainian and Russian democratic activists worked together to usher in the new politics, such as freedom of speech and free elections. Russian President Boris Yeltsin's (1931–2007) administration did not try to preserve the Soviet federation but, rather, sought an independent Russia. This made Yeltsin a natural ally of President Leonid Kravchuk of Ukraine (1934–), but only as long as both rejected the Soviet legacy.

The Ukrainian referendum in December 1991 spelled the end of the union, and Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus initiated its formal dissolution. However, with economic reforms stalling in the early 1990s, Yeltsin and other Russian figures increasingly appealed to domestic nationalists nostalgic for the Soviet empire by criticising Ukrainian cultural policies and questioning the transfer of Crimea.

In 1997, a comprehensive treaty between Russia and Ukraine affirmed the integrity of the Ukrainian borders – something that Russia and the Western nuclear powers also guaranteed in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994, when Ukraine agreed to surrender its Soviet-made nuclear arsenal. This treaty expired on 31 March 2019.

### **2014: The annexation of Crimea and the war in the Donbas**

When a popular revolution in Ukraine removed the pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich and brought to power pro-Western democratic forces – an act approved by the parliament and confirmed by snap presidential elections – the Russian authorities took advantage of the turmoil to establish military control over Crimea. They calculated that the local Russian majority would support the peninsula's incorporation into Russia, attracted by higher salaries and better career options without the need to study Ukrainian. But the sham referendum on joining Russia produced implausible results, and the world community, aside from a few pro-Russian outliers like North Korea, Syria, and Venezuela, decisively condemned the annexation.

Facing punitive western sanctions, Russian authorities in Crimea began to repress local Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar activists. Having ensured its control over Crimea, Russia also fomented rebellions in other southeastern Ukrainian provinces, where the dominant regional parties have long cultivated pro-Russian attitudes. But this strategy only worked in the Donbas, a depressed industrial region with a Russian-speaking majority. When Ukrainian troops tried to re-establish control, President Putin's administration covertly sent regular army units to support the pro-Russian separatists and Russian "volunteers."

The active phase of the war lasted until the fall of 2015, with renewed escalation in 2017 and early 2020, resulting in an estimated human cost of 14,000 killed and an estimated 1.5 million displaced.

## **2021: The build-up of Russian troops and an ultimatum to the West**

The war in the Donbas never formally ended; low-intensity fire is a daily reality, and casualties are reported every week. Western intermediaries helped to de-escalate military action in 2015 by holding summits in the 'Normandy Format' (Germany, France, Russia, and Ukraine). The Minsk Protocol of 2015, signed during the summit in the Belarusian capital, charted a path to a peaceful resolution, but it remains blocked because certain steps are unacceptable either to Ukraine (a proposal to allow local elections to take place in the two "people's republics" despite the presence of Russian troops there without having established Ukraine's control over its border with Russia) or to Russia (acknowledging the presence of its troops and withdrawing them).

Late in 2021, Western and Ukrainian intelligence agencies released information about a massive build-up of Russian troops along the Ukrainian border and the preparation of infrastructure for a possible invasion. Russian officials insisted that these preparations were merely military exercises, but they also issued an ultimatum to the west demanding written guarantees against NATO's further eastern expansion; restrictions on the types of weapons placed in NATO member countries who have joined the alliance since 1997; and a halt to any NATO military cooperation with other post-Soviet states (notably, Ukraine and Georgia). Meanwhile, the Russian media stoked fears about an imminent NATO attack on Russia and/or Ukrainian offensive in the Donbas.

## **F. TIMELINE OF THE CONFLICT**

*(The timeline below is primarily taken from Wikipedia and is extremely detailed. This is only for basic knowledge of the conflict to a fresher and can be overlooked if you have been following the war news regularly)*

### **10 November 2021**

The United States reported an unusual movement of Russian troops near the borders of Ukraine. By 28 November, Ukraine had reported a build-up of 92,000 Russian troops.

**7 December 2021**

US President Joe Biden warned President of Russia, Vladimir Putin of "strong economic and other measures" if Russia attacked Ukraine.

**17 December 2021**

Putin proposed a prohibition on Ukraine ever joining NATO, which Ukraine rejected.

**17 January 2022**

Russian troops began arriving in Russia's ally Belarus, ostensibly "for military exercises".

**19 January 2022**

The US gave Ukraine \$200 million in security aid.

**19 January 2022**

Biden stated in a press conference: "Russia will be held accountable if it invades. And it depends on what it does." Many critics of the US president felt this left the door open for President of Russia Vladimir Putin to invade.

**24 January, 2022**

NATO put troops on standby.

**25 January 2022**

Russian exercises involving 6,000 troops and 60 jets took place in Russia near Ukraine and Crimea.

**10 February 2022**

Russia and Belarus began 10 days of military manoeuvres.

**17 February 2022**

Fighting escalated in separatist regions of eastern Ukraine.

**21 February 2022**

Putin announced Russian recognition of two pro-Russian breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine (the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic). This announcement led to a first round of economic sanctions from NATO countries the following day.

In his televised "address concerning the events in Ukraine" before the announcement, Putin stated his belief that Vladimir Lenin was the "author and architect" of Ukraine and labeled Ukrainians who have taken down Lenin's monuments "ungrateful descendants", saying "This is what they call decommunisation. Do you want decommunisation? Well, that suits us just fine. But it is unnecessary, as they say, to stop halfway. We are ready to show you what real decommunisation means for Ukraine."

**24 February 2022**

Putin announced his decision to launch a "special military operation" in eastern Ukraine. He stated there were no plans to occupy Ukrainian territory and that he supported the right of the peoples of Ukraine to self-determination. Putin also stated that Russia sought the "demilitarisation and denazification" of Ukraine, and that "all responsibility for possible bloodshed will be entirely on the conscience of the regime ruling on the territory of Ukraine." The Russian Ministry of Defence

asked air traffic control units of Ukraine to stop flights, and the airspace over Ukraine was restricted to non-civilian air traffic, and the whole area was deemed an active conflict zone by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency.

Within minutes of Putin's announcement, explosions were reported in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odessa, and the Donbas. Ukrainian officials said that Russian troops had landed in Mariupol and Odessa, and launched cruise and ballistic missiles at airfields, military headquarters, and military depots in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Dnipro. Military vehicles entered Ukraine through Senkivka, where Ukraine meets Belarus and Russia. A video captured Russian troops entering Ukraine from Russian-annexed Crimea.

The Kremlin planned initially to target artillery and missiles at command and control centres and then send fighter jets and helicopters to quickly gain air superiority. The Center for Naval Analyses said that Russia would create a pincer movement to encircle Kyiv and envelop Ukraine's forces in the east, with the Center for Strategic and International Studies identifying three axes of advance: from Belarus in the north, from Donetsk, and from Crimea in the south. The US said it believed that Russia intended to "decapitate" Ukraine's government and install its own, and US intelligence officials believed that Kyiv would fall within 96 hours.

Russian forces began invading near Kharkiv and large-scale amphibious landings were reported in Mariupol. Troops also entered the country from Belarus. The Ukrainian Border Force reported attacks on Luhansk Oblast, Sumy Oblast, Kharkiv Oblast, Chernihiv Oblast, and Zhytomyr Oblast, as well as from Crimea. The Ukrainian interior ministry reported that Russian forces had captured the villages of Horodyshe and Milove in Luhansk. The Ukrainian Centre for Strategic Communication reported that the Ukrainian army had repelled an attack at Shchastia (near Luhansk) and retaken control of the town, claiming nearly 50 Russian lives.

Zelenskyy proclaimed martial law. He also broke off Russia–Ukraine relations, effective immediately. Russian missiles targeted Ukrainian infrastructure, including Boryspil International Airport, Ukraine's largest airport, 29 km east of Kyiv.

A briefing by the Ukrainian presidential administration reported that Russian troops had invaded Ukraine from the north (up to 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) south of the border), and Russian troops were active in Kharkiv Oblast, Chernihiv Oblast, and near Sumy. The press briefing also reported that Ukraine had repulsed an attack in Volyn Oblast. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry reported that they had stopped Russian troops in Chernihiv Oblast, a major battle near Kharkiv was in progress, and Mariupol and Shchastia had been fully retaken.

In the Battle of Antonov Airport, Russian airborne troops seized Hostomel Airport in Hostomel, a suburb of Kyiv, arriving in helicopters early in the morning; a Ukrainian counteroffensive to recapture the airport launched later in the day. The Rapid Response Brigade of the Ukrainian National Guard stated that it had fought at the airfield, shooting down three of 34 Russian helicopters.

Belarus allowed Russian troops to invade Ukraine from the north, at 11:00 (UTC+2). Ukrainian border guards reported a border breach in Vilcha (Kyiv Oblast), and border guards in Zhytomyr Oblast were bombarded by Russian rocket launchers. A helicopter without markings reportedly bombed Slavutych border guards from Belarus. A second wave of Russian missile bombings targeted the cities of Kyiv, Odessa, Kharkiv, and Lviv. Heavy ground fighting was reported in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Russian troops advancing from Crimea moved towards the city of Nova Kakhovka in Kherson Oblast. Later that day, Russian troops entered the city of Kherson and took control of the North Crimean Canal, which allowed them to resume water supply to the peninsula.

Ukrainian border guards and Armed Forces reported two new clashes near Sumy ("in the direction of Konotop") and Starobilsk in Luhansk Oblast. Valerii Zaluzhnyi reported four ballistic missiles

launched from Belarus in a southwestern direction. Several stations of the Kyiv Metro and Kharkiv Metro were used as bomb shelters for the local population. A local hospital in Vuhledar (Donetsk Oblast) was reportedly bombed, with four civilians dead and 10 wounded, including six physicians.

Zelenskyy said that fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces had erupted in the ghost cities of Chernobyl and Pripyat. The Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant came under Russian control, as well as the surrounding areas.

Vitali Klitschko, mayor of Kyiv, proclaimed a curfew from 22:00 to 07:00.

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine announced that Russian forces had captured Snake Island following naval and air bombardment. All thirteen border guards on the island were assumed to have been killed, after refusing to surrender to a Russian warship and a recording of the guards refusing an offer to surrender went viral on social media. Zelenskyy announced that they would be posthumously granted the title of Hero of Ukraine, the country's highest honour. Seventeen civilians were confirmed killed, including thirteen killed in Southern Ukraine, three in Mariupol, and one in Kharkiv. Zelenskyy said that 137 Ukrainian citizens (both soldiers and civilians) died on the first day of the invasion. He ordered a general mobilisation of all Ukrainian males between 18 and 60 years old, who were also banned from leaving Ukraine.

## **25 February 2022**

At 04:00 local time, Kyiv was rocked by two explosions from cruise and ballistic missiles. The Ukrainian government said that it had shot down an enemy aircraft over Kyiv, which crashed into a residential building, setting it on fire. It was later confirmed that the aircraft was a Ukrainian Su-27.

Independent military analysts noted that Russian forces in the north of the country appeared to be heavily engaged by the Ukrainian military. Russian units attempting to encircle Kyiv and advance into Kharkiv were bogged down in heavy fighting, with social media images suggesting that some Russian armoured columns were ambushed.

Russian operations in the east and south were more effective. The Russian units outside Donbas appeared to have manoeuvred around the prepared defensive trenches and attacked Ukrainian defensive positions in the rear. Meanwhile, Russian military forces advancing from Crimea divided into two columns, with analysts suggesting that they may have been attempting to encircle and entrap the Ukrainian defenders at Donbas, forcing the Ukrainians to abandon their prepared defences and fight in the open.

Zelenskyy accused Russia of targeting civilian sites; Ukrainian Interior Ministry representative Vadym Denysenko said that 33 civilian sites had been hit in the previous 24 hours.

Ukraine's Defence Ministry stated that Russian forces had entered Obolon, Kyiv, and were approximately 9 kilometres (5.6 mi) from the Verkhovna Rada building. Russia's Spetsnaz troops infiltrated the city with the intention of "hunting" government officials. An unmarked armored vehicle was filmed veering across a road and crushing a civilian car in northern Kyiv. Although widely captioned as the act of a Russian tank, experts suggested it was unclear who operated the military vehicle or why the incident occurred. The civilian driving the car, an elderly man, survived and was helped out by locals.

The mayor of Horlivka in the Russian-backed Donetsk People's Republic said that the Ukrainian military had hit a local school building, killing two teachers.

As Russian troops approached Kyiv, Zelenskyy asked residents to prepare Molotov cocktails to "neutralise" the enemy. Putin meanwhile called on the Ukrainian military to overthrow the government. Ukraine distributed 18,000 guns to Kyiv residents who expressed a willingness to fight and deployed the Territorial Defence Forces, the reserves of Ukrainian military, to defend Kyiv. The

Defence Ministry also announced that all Ukrainian civilians were eligible to volunteer for military service regardless of their age.

By the evening, the Pentagon stated that Russia had not established air supremacy over Ukrainian airspace, as US analysts had predicted. Ukrainian air defence capabilities had been degraded by Russian attacks, but remained operational. Military aircraft from both nations continued to fly over Ukraine. The Pentagon also said that Russian troops were not advancing as quickly as either US intelligence or Moscow had believed they would, that Russia had not taken any population centres, and that Ukrainian command and control was still intact. The Pentagon warned that Russia had sent into Ukraine only 30 per cent of the 150,000–190,000 troops it had massed at the border.

Reports circulated of a Ukrainian missile attack against the Millerovo air base in Russia, to prevent the base from being used to provide air support to Russian troops in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy said that the Ukrainian government was not "afraid to talk about neutral status". On the same day, President Putin indicated to Xi Jinping, the Chinese paramount leader and general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, that "Russia is willing to conduct high-level negotiations with Ukraine".

## **26 February 2022**

Heavy fighting was reported overnight to the south of Kyiv, near Vasylkiv and its air base. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that a Ukrainian Su-27 fighter had shot down a Russian Il-76 transport plane carrying paratroopers near the city. Vasylkiv mayor Natalia Balasinovich said her city was successfully defended by Ukrainian forces and fighting was ending.

More than 48 explosions in 30 minutes were reported around Kyiv, as the Ukrainian military was reported to be fighting near the CHP-6 power station in the northern neighbourhood of Troieshchyna. BBC News reported that the attack might have been an attempt to cut off electricity to the city. Heavy fighting was reported near the Kyiv Zoo and the Shuliavka neighbourhood. The Ukrainian military said it repelled a Russian attack on an army base on Peremohy Avenue, a main road in Kyiv; it also said it repelled a Russian assault on Mykolaiv on the Black Sea. American officials said a Russian Il-76 transport plane was shot down by Ukrainian forces near Bila Tserkva, about 80 kilometres (50 mi) south of Kyiv. US officials stated that American intelligence data, shared with Ukrainian forces in real-time, helped to down the Il-76. Zelenskyy, remaining in Kyiv, refused US offers of evacuation, instead requesting more ammunition for Ukrainian troops.

Hundreds of casualties were reported in overnight fighting in Kyiv, where shelling destroyed an apartment building, bridges, and schools. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that its aircraft had conducted 34 sorties in the past 24 hours, indicating that Russia had unexpectedly continued to fail to gain air superiority.

By afternoon, most of the Russian forces that had amassed around Ukraine were fighting in the country. Mayor Klitschko of Kyiv imposed a curfew from 5 p.m. Saturday until 8 a.m. Monday, warning that anyone found outside during that time would be considered part of enemy sabotage and reconnaissance groups. Internet connections were disrupted in parts of Ukraine, particularly the south and east. In response to a request from Mykhailo Fedorov, the Vice-Prime Minister of Ukraine, Elon Musk announced that he had turned on his Starlink service in Ukraine, with "more terminals en route".

Ukrainian Interior Ministry representative Vadym Denysenko said that Russian forces had advanced further towards Enerhodar and the Zaporizhia Nuclear Power Plant, that they were deploying Grad missiles there and might attack the plant. The Zaporizhia Regional State Administration stated that the Russian forces advancing on Enerhodar later returned to Bolshaya Belozerka, a village located 30 kilometres (19 mi) from the city, on the same day.

A Japanese-owned cargo ship, the MV *Namura Queen* with 20 crew members aboard, was struck by a Russian missile in the Black Sea. A Moldovan ship, MV *Millennial Spirit*, was also shelled by a Russian warship, causing serious injuries.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the head of the Chechen Republic, confirmed that the Kadyrovtsy, units loyal to the Chechen Republic, had been deployed into Ukraine as well. Oleksiy Danilov, the Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, stated that members of Russia's Federal Security Service had tipped Ukraine off that Kadyrovtsy were attempting to infiltrate Kyiv and assassinate President Zelenskyy. Danilov stated that the Kadyrovtsy had split into two groups, with one destroyed by Ukrainian forces.

A six-year-old boy was killed and multiple others were wounded when artillery fire hit the Okhmatdyt Children's Hospital in Kyiv. The Ukrainian military stated they had blown up a convoy of 56 tankers in Chernihiv Oblast carrying diesel for Russian forces.

By the end of the day, Russian forces had failed to encircle and isolate Kyiv, despite mechanised and airborne attacks. The Ukrainian General Staff reported that Russia had committed its operational northern reserve of 17 battalion tactical groups (BTGs) after Ukrainian forces halted the advance of 14 BTGs north of Kyiv. Russia temporarily abandoned attempts to seize Chernihiv and Kharkiv after attacks were repelled by determined Ukrainian resistance, and bypassed those cities to continue towards Kyiv. In the south, Russia took Berdiansk and threatened to encircle Mariupol.

The Institute for the Study of War (ISW) said that poor planning and execution was leading to morale and logistical issues for the Russian military in northern Ukraine. US and UK officials reported that Russian forces faced shortages of gasoline and diesel fuel, leading to tanks and armoured vehicles stalling and slowing their advance. Videos also emerged online of Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers, or APCs, stranded on the roadside. Russia continued to not use its full arsenal; the ISW said this was likely to avoid the diplomatic and public relations consequences of mass civilian casualties, as well as to avoid creating rubble that would impede the advance of its own forces.

## **27 February 2022**

Overnight, a gas pipeline outside Kharkiv was reported blown up by a Russian attack, while an oil depot in the village of Kriachky near Vasylykiv ignited after being hit by missiles. Heavy fighting near the Vasylykiv air base prevented firefighters from tackling the blaze. Also, a group of Ukrainian Roma (Gypsies) reportedly seized a Russian tank in Liubymivka, close to Kakhovka in Kherson Oblast. The Presidential Office stated that Zhuliany Airport was also bombed. Russian-backed separatists in Luhansk province said that an oil terminal in the town of Rovenky was hit by a Ukrainian missile. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kharkiv rescued 80 people from a nine-story residential building hit by Russian artillery, extensively damaging it and killing a woman.

Nova Kakhovka's mayor, Vladimir Kovalenko, confirmed that the city had been seized by Russian troops, and accused them of destroying the settlements of Kozatske and Vesele. Russian troops also entered Kharkiv, with fighting in the city streets, including in the city centre. At the same time, Russian tanks started pushing into Sumy. The Russian Defense Ministry announced that they had completely surrounded Kherson and Berdiansk, and captured Henichesk and Kherson International Airport in Chornobaivka. Ukrainian forces struck the Russian-occupied airport at Chornobaivka, inflicting losses on the Russian army. By early afternoon, Kharkiv Oblast governor Oleh Synyehubov stated that Ukrainian forces had regained full control of Kharkiv, and Ukrainian authorities said that dozens of Russian troops had surrendered. Hennadiy Matsegora, the mayor of Kupiansk, agreed to hand over control of the city to Russian forces.

In a televised address, Putin ordered the Minister of Defence and the Chief of the General Staff "to put the deterrence forces of the Russian army into a special mode of combat service", in response to what he called "aggressive statements" by NATO members. The phrase Putin used, namely "special mode of combat service", was unknown on the basis of open sources. The order was interpreted as a threat and met with criticism from NATO, the EU, and the United Nations (UN); NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg described it as "dangerous and irresponsible", while UN official Stéphane Dujarric called the idea of a nuclear war "inconceivable".

According to intelligence analyst firm Rochan Consulting, Russia had succeeded in connecting Crimea with areas in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russian forces by besieging Mariupol and Berdiansk. Oleksiy Arestovych, an advisor to Zelenskyy, said that Berdiansk had been captured by Russian forces. The main Russian force from the Crimea advanced north towards Zaporizhzhia, while a Russian force on the east bank of the Dnipro threatened Mykolaiv.

Russian forces were pushed back in Bucha and Irpin to the north-west of Kyiv. According to UK military intelligence, Russian mechanised forces bypassed Chernihiv and moved towards Kyiv. Luhansk Oblast governor Serhiy Haidai accused Russian forces of destroying Stanytsia Luhanska and Shchastia before capturing them, while Donetsk Oblast governor Pavlo Kyrylenko also accused them of destroying Volnovakha.

The ISW said that Russian forces in northern Ukraine had likely begun an "operational pause" the previous day, to deploy additional forces and supplies; Russian military resources not previously part of the invasion force were being moved toward Ukraine in anticipation of a more difficult conflict than initially expected.

## **28 February 2022**

Fighting took place around Mariupol throughout the night. On the morning of 28 February, the UK defence ministry said that most Russian ground forces remained over 30 km (19 mi) north of Kyiv, having been slowed by Ukrainian resistance at Hostomel Airport. It also said that despite fighting near Chernihiv and Kharkiv, both cities remained under Ukrainian control. Maxar Technologies released satellite images showing a Russian column, including tanks and self-propelled artillery, travelling toward Kyiv near Ivankiv. The firm initially stated that the convoy was approximately 27 kilometres (17 mi) long, but clarified later that day that the column was actually more than 64 kilometres (40 mi) in length.

*The Times* reported that the Wagner Group had been redeployed from Africa to Kyiv, with orders to assassinate Zelenskyy in the first days of the Russian invasion.

Ukrainian advisor Arestovych stated that more than 200 Russian military vehicles had been destroyed or damaged on the highway between Irpin and Zhytomyr by 14:00 EET. Ihor Terekhov, mayor of Kharkiv, said that nine civilians were killed and 37 wounded by Russian shells. Oksana Markarova, the Ukrainian ambassador to the US, accused Russia of using a vacuum bomb.

Talks between Ukrainian and Russian representatives in Gomel, Belarus ended without a breakthrough. As a condition for ending the invasion, Putin demanded Ukraine's neutrality, "denazification" and "demilitarisation", and recognition of Crimea as Russian territory.

Russia increased strikes on Ukrainian airfields and logistics centres, particularly in the west, apparently trying to ground the Ukrainian Air Force and disrupt resupply from the west. In the north, the ISW called the decision to use heavy artillery in Kharkiv "a dangerous inflection". Additional Russian forces and logistics columns in southern Belarus appeared to be manoeuvring to support a Kyiv assault. An analyst with the Royal United Services Institute stated that the Ukrainian regular army was no longer functioning in formations but in largely fixed defences, and was increasingly integrated with Territorial Defense Forces and armed volunteers.

A diplomatic crisis in Greece–Russia relations was sparked when Russian air forces bombarded Buhas and Sartana near Mariupol, majority-populated by Ukrainian Greeks, killing 12 Greeks.

Greece protested strongly, summoning the Russian ambassador. French President Emmanuel Macron and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, along with Germany, and other countries, expressed their condolences to Greece. Russian authorities denied responsibility, but Greek authorities stated that they had evidence of Russian involvement. Greek prime minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis announced that his country would send defensive military equipment and humanitarian aid to support Ukraine.

A Sky News reporting team attempting to return to Kyiv came under fire from what Ukraine described as a Russian saboteur reconnaissance squad. Stuart Ramsay, a member of the team, was wounded in the lower back.

A ranking Russian Army commander, Major General Andrey Sukhovetsky, deputy commander of the 41st Combined Arms Army of the Central Military District, was killed in unspecified circumstances in Ukraine.

### **1 March 2022**

According to Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, the governor of Sumy Oblast, more than 70 Ukrainian soldiers were killed by Russian shelling at a military base in Okhtyrka. A Russian missile later hit the regional administration building on Freedom Square, killing at least ten civilians, and wounding 35 others. In southern Ukraine, the city of Kherson was reportedly under attack by Russian forces. The Ukrainian government announced that it would sell war bonds to fund the armed forces.

The Ukrainian parliament stated that the Armed Forces of Belarus had joined Russia's invasion and were in Chernihiv Oblast, northeast of the capital. UNIAN reported that a column of 33 military vehicles had entered the region. The US disagreed, saying that there was "no indication" that Belarus had invaded. Hours prior, Belarus's President Lukashenko said that Belarus would not join the war.

After Russia's Defense Ministry announced that it would hit targets to stop "information attacks", missiles struck broadcasting infrastructure for the primary television and radio transmitters in Kyiv, taking TV channels off the air. Ukrainian officials said that the attack killed five people and damaged the nearby Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Center, Ukraine's main Holocaust memorial.

The US Department of Defense said that Russian forces had captured Berdiansk and Melitopol.

### **2 March 2022**

The Ukrainian military reported a Russian paratrooper assault on northwest Kharkiv, where a military hospital came under attack. Zhyvytskyi said that Russian forces had captured Trostianets.

Ukrainian advisor Arestovych said that Ukrainian forces had gone on the offensive for the first time, advancing on Horlivka. Russian troops captured the city of Kherson, beginning a military occupation of the city and oblast.

Valerii Zaluzhnyi, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, said that Ukrainian forces had recaptured Makariv. Vadym Boichenko, the mayor of Mariupol, reported that residential areas were being "relentlessly" shelled by the Russian military, with "scores of" casualties among civilians.

The Bangladeshi bulk carrier *Banglar Samriddhi* was struck by a missile at the port of Olvia in Mykolaiv Oblast, setting it on fire and killing a Bangladeshi engineer.

*Ukrayinska Pravda* reported that a source in Ukrainian intelligence said that Viktor Yanukovich, the former president of Ukraine with pro-Russia sympathies ousted following the Revolution of Dignity, was in Minsk, Belarus, and that Russia intended to declare him president when Russian

forces gained control of Kyiv. Other analysts said that Putin might put the pro-Russian Viktor Medvedchuk in as president if Ukraine surrendered.

Sergey Lavrov, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, accused NATO and the EU of wanting to start a nuclear war and warned that "World War III would be nuclear and destructive".

### **3 March 2022**

During a second round of talks, Russia and Ukraine agreed to open humanitarian corridors for the evacuation of civilians. The Estonian cargo ship *Helt* sank after an explosion near Odessa; all six crew members aboard survived.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs authorized the supply of 2,700 surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) to Ukraine. The Verkhovna Rada passed a law allowing the seizure of assets of the Russian government or nationals.

The Russian Defense Ministry stated it had captured Balakliia. Zelenskyy meanwhile asked for direct talks with Russian president Putin, "the only way to stop this war". The United States said that about 90% of the Russian forces that had amassed around Ukraine before the invasion had entered the country.

Zelenskyy also announced that the first international volunteers had arrived in Ukraine to fight against Russian forces. He added that Ukraine was regularly receiving weapons from Western countries.

### **4 March 2022**

At Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, a projectile hit the plant site, causing a localised fire in a building that did not contain reactors. The State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate of Ukraine reported no changes in radiation levels and officials reported that the fire was extinguished after several hours. The transformer of Unit 6 was also damaged. After a battle that killed three Ukrainian soldiers, Russian troops occupied the power plant. The representative of the Russian Ministry of Defense, Igor Konashenkov, said that the attack on the power plant was an attempted provocation by a Ukrainian sabotage group. Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksiy Danilov said that the shelling of the power plant was carried out by the Russians.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg rejected Ukraine's request for a no-fly zone over the country, stating that this would lead to a full-fledged war with Russia. The United States said that Russia had fired more than 500 missiles at Ukraine and the Russian Kyiv convoy north of Kyiv was 15 miles (24 km) away from the capital.

### **5 March 2022**

Russian armed forces announced a ceasefire to allow around 200,000 civilians to evacuate Mariupol, which lacked water and electricity. Soon after this, however, the ceasefire ended with Russia and Ukraine blaming each other for the breakdown. Meanwhile, Arestovych stated that Russian troops had captured Bucha and Hostomel.

### **6 March 2022**

The Havryshivka Vinnytsia International Airport was destroyed after being hit with Russian missile attacks during the day. The Zhytomyr Armour Plant was destroyed in a Russian airstrike as well. A second attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol was meanwhile scuttled. A US defense official

later stated that about 95% of the troops Russia had stationed around Ukraine before the start of the war were inside the country.

### **7 March 2022**

The Hostomel City Council announced that mayor Yuri Prilipko had been killed by Russian forces. Oleksandr Markushin, the mayor of Irpin, was meanwhile reported captured.

Ukrainian armed forces stated that Russian forces had captured Vasylivka, Tokmak and Polohy. Vitaliy Kim, governor of Mykolaiv Oblast, said that Ukrainian forces had retaken Mykolaiv International Airport. The Ukrainian armed forces meanwhile said that they had retaken Chuhuiv in a counter-attack overnight, in addition to killing two Russian commanders. The Ukrainian Air Force also bombed the military airbase at the Russian-occupied Kherson International Airport.

The Russian Defense Ministry stated that it would open six humanitarian corridors. The Ukrainian government criticised the announcement, since only two of them led to other Ukrainian territories, while the others led to Russia or Belarus.

A US defense official stated that Russia had deployed nearly 100% of the forces it had amassed around Ukraine before the invasion and fired more than 625 missiles.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Defence said that it had killed Russian Major General Vitaly Gerasimov near Kharkiv. Two Russian missiles hit oil depots in Zhytomyr and Cherniakhiv, setting them ablaze.

### **8 March 2022**

Another attempt to evacuate civilians from Mariupol was prevented, with the Ukrainian government accusing Russian forces of targeting the evacuation corridor. However, civilians were able to evacuate from Sumy, the first such evacuation as part of an agreement between Ukraine and Russia on humanitarian corridors.

### **9 March 2022**

Poland offered to transfer all its 23 MiG-29 fighter jets to the United States for free and deliver them to Ramstein Air Base in Germany, with the United States then delivering them to Ukraine. The US rejected the proposition, the Pentagon pronouncing Poland's proposal "not tenable". Davyd Arakhamia, a Ukrainian negotiator in talks with Russia, stated that more than 40,000 civilians were evacuated from various cities during the day.

### **10 March 2022**

Turkey hosted a tri-lateral meeting between foreign ministers in Antalya. Dmytro Kuleba, the Ukrainian Foreign minister, described his meeting with Lavrov as difficult, and said it yielded no result. The Russian Defense Ministry said that Russian forces would open humanitarian corridors everyday to Russia from 10:00.

A senior US Defense Department official said that west of Kyiv, Russian military had advanced by about 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) closer to central Kyiv, in the vicinity of Hostomel Airport. The column advancing from the east was meanwhile 40 kilometres away from Kyiv. He also said that Chernihiv was now "isolated". Ukrainian forces ambushed a Russian column in Brovary Raion and forced it to retreat after destroying several tanks and killing a tank commander.

The Russian convoy approaching Kyiv from the north had largely dispersed and redeployed, according to Maxar Technologies. UK's Ministry of Defence said that Russia was likely regrouping for an attack on Kyiv.

A Soviet-era drone crashed in Zagreb, the capital city of Croatia.

### **11 March 2022**

Russian forces expanded their offensive to Western Ukraine, targeting Ivano-Frankivsk and Lutsk. Four Ukrainian soldiers were killed and another six wounded during rocket attacks on Lutsk Air Base, while two boiler plants were shut down and the air base was destroyed. Missiles also hit Dnipro, killing one civilian, while the Russian Defense Ministry said that it had disabled the military airbase at Ivano-Frankivsk International Airport.

According to Ukrainian officials, the mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedorov, was abducted by Russian soldiers. Elsewhere, a top Russian commander, Maj. Gen. Andrei Kolesnikov, was reported by Ukrainian officials to have been killed in action. Western officials believe that around 20 Russian major generals were taking a personal part in the invasion to motivate demoralized Russian troops.

Fighting intensified during the day to the northeast and east of Kyiv. The Ukrainian Air Force later said that Russia had conducted a false flag operation to make the Armed Forces of Belarus enter the war, by using its jets to fire at the village of Kopani near Belarus' border with Ukraine from Ukrainian airspace. It also stated that two other Belarusian settlements were attacked as well. The Belarusian Ministry of Defence, however, stated that no such attack had occurred.

Putin approved the deployment of up to 16,000 volunteers from the Middle East to Ukraine during the day, with the Wagner Group already reported to have recruited more than 4,000 Syrians. Fighters from the Central African Republic also said that they were preparing to fight for Russia in Ukraine.

A Russian tank also allegedly shelled a care home in Kreminna, killing 56 residents.

### **12 March 2022**

Heavy fighting occurred north of Kyiv and around other besieged cities during the day, while Ukrainian officials said that the clashes and Russian airstrikes were threatening civilian evacuations. Russian forces destroyed Vasylkiv Air Base, and the Russian Defense Ministry also said that they had destroyed the main center of radio and electronic intelligence of Ukrainian forces in Brovary.

Kuleba accused the Russian government of planning a staged referendum in Kherson to create a "Kherson People's Republic", run by a government sympathetic to Russia. The forces of the DPR, meanwhile, captured Volnovakha.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces stated that Russia's advance had slowed down and had been stopped at many places. Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk, meanwhile, said that around 13,000 civilians were evacuated during the day.

Ukrainian officials accused Russia of using phosphorus bombs in Popasna late on 12 March. The Sviatohirsk Lavra monastery was damaged in Russian bombing.

### **13 March 2022**

Russian forces bombed the Yavoriv International Center for Peacekeeping and Security, a military base used by the Ukrainian military to hold most of their drills with NATO countries, with more than 30 missiles according to Lviv Oblast's governor Maksym Kozytskyi. He later stated that 35

people had been killed and 134 were wounded, while the Russian Defense Ministry stated that up to 180 non-Ukrainian mercenaries were killed and many weapons supplied by other nations to Ukraine were destroyed. This was the westernmost strike carried out by Russia since the war began. It also said that another Ukrainian military facility in Starichi was hit, while the mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk stated that the city's airport was hit again.

Heavy fighting was reported on multiple fronts during the day. Ukraine said that it was counter-attacking in Kharkiv Oblast and around Mykolaiv, while UK's Ministry of Defense stated that Russian forces were trying to isolate Ukrainian forces in Eastern Ukraine and the Russian Navy had effectively established a blockade around Ukraine's Black Sea coastline, stopping its international maritime trade.

But Zelenskyy stated that nearly 125,000 civilians had been evacuated under the humanitarian corridor agreement, while Russian and Ukrainian negotiators reported progress in peace talks. An American journalist, Brent Renaud, was shot dead in Irpin as a result of fire opened by Russian forces, according to the Kyiv police department.

An unarmed Russian Orlan-10 reconnaissance drone crashed in the Romanian village of Tărpiu.

### **14 March 2022**

Denis Pushilin, head of the DPR, said they had downed a Ukrainian Tochka-U missile over the city of Donetsk, but the city centre was struck by the missile's fragments. The Russian Defense Ministry said that 23 civilians were killed. The Ukrainian military however said that Russian forces were behind the attack. In retaliation, the Russian Defence Ministry promised to take steps to destroy Ukraine's defence industry outfits. It also said that Russia knew the locations of all "foreign mercenaries in Ukraine" and the Russian forces would continue to strike them with precision.

A Russian missile strike hit a transmission tower in the village of Antopi in Rivne Oblast, according to oblast governor Vitaliy Koval. Koval later stated that 21 civilians were killed and nine were wounded. Dnipro Oblast governor Valentyn Reznichenko stated that Russian bombardment of the Dnipro International Airport destroyed its runway and damaged the terminal. Civilians were able to evacuate Mariupol for the first time.

A senior US Department of Defence official stated that Russia's advance had been stalled on almost all fronts, but it did not seem that it would stop its attacks. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that over 40,000 Syrians had registered to fight for Russia in Ukraine. It added that recruitment notices had been sent out to Al-Katerji militia, which had acted as an intermediary between the Syrian government and the Islamic State group in the past.

### **15 March 2022**

The Russian Defense Ministry stated on 15 March that Russian forces had taken complete control of Kherson Oblast and had shot down six Bayraktar TB2 drones in the previous 24 hours. Russian landing ships approached the coast of Odessa.

Herashchenko later said that Russian Maj. Gen. Oleg Mityaev was killed in Mariupol. The Ukrainian Air Force meanwhile struck the military airbase at the Kherson International Airport again, destroying multiple Russian helicopters.

On the same day, Zelenskyy stated that Ukraine would not join NATO any time soon, and "it's a truth and it must be recognized". Prime Ministers of the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Poland later visited Kyiv via rail and met with Zelenskyy to show support for Ukraine.

### **16 March 2022**

The U.S. Embassy in Kyiv reported that Russian forces had shot and killed 10 people queuing up for bread in Chernihiv, though it provided no evidence. Videos were later posted by others on social media showing the purported aftermath.

Ukraine later announced its forces had begun a counter-offensive to repel Russian forces approaching Kyiv, with fighting in Bucha, Hostomel, and Irpin. Additionally, Ukrainian forces also started an offensive near Mykolaiv towards Kherson.

Lavrov and Zelenskyy meanwhile stated that talks were progressing, with Lavrov stating that neutrality of Ukraine was now being discussed. Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Putin, stated that they were looking at a demilitarization model along the lines of Austria and Sweden, which have their own armies, but Zelenskyy's office rejected this shortly afterwards.<sup>271</sup> Mikhail Podolyak, one of the Ukrainian negotiators, stated that under the proposed peace plan, Ukraine would remain neutral, enshrine rights for Russian speakers, and ignore the issue of disputed territories. In return, it would keep its military, while allied countries would intervene if it was invaded again.

Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, later reported that Russian forces had released Melitopol's mayor, Ivan Fedorov. The regional drama theater in Mariupol, sheltering around 1,000 civilians, was bombed later that day. In two places outside the theatre, the word "дети" (Russian for "children") was spelled out in an attempt to identify it to invading forces as a civilian air raid shelter containing children, and not a military target.

#### **17 March 2022**

During the day, the city of Rubizhne, in Eastern Ukraine, was captured by Russia. The city of Iziium, also in Eastern Ukraine, was reportedly captured, though fighting continued.

#### **18 March 2022**

Russian artillery hit a Ukrainian military barracks in Mykolaiv, where around 200 soldiers were stationed. Only one survivor was pulled from the rubble the next day; temperatures fell below 6 °C (43 °F) during the night.

#### **19 March 2022**

Russian forces bombed an art school in Mariupol where 400 people were taking shelter.

#### **20 March 2022**

The deputy commander of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, Andrey Paliy, was confirmed to have been shot dead by Ukrainian forces.

Around 11 p.m., the Kyiv shopping center Retroville, in Podilskyi district, was hit by a Russian Kalibr missile. The shopping center was storing equipment for Ukrainian forces. The attack resulted in at least 8 deaths.

#### **21 March 2022**

An ammonia leak occurred from the Sumykhimprom chemical plant, located in Sumy, Ukraine.

#### **22 March 2022**

The Ukrainian state agency responsible for the Chernobyl exclusion zone reported that Russian forces had destroyed a new laboratory at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. The laboratory, which

opened in 2015, worked to improve the management of radioactive waste, among other things. "The laboratory contained highly active samples and samples of radionuclides that are now in the hands of the enemy, which we hope will harm itself and not the civilized world," the agency said in its statement.

### **23 March 2022**

A senior US defence official said that Ukrainian forces had pushed Russian forces back on the frontlines east of Kyiv. The official added that Russian forces were becoming more active in the eastern part of Ukraine in the Donbas area, saying they were "applying a lot more energy" in the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

### **24 March 2022**

An explosion occurred onboard Russian Navy's *Saratov* Alligator-class landing ship while the vessel was berthed in Berdiansk. Ukrainian forces stated that they hit the ship with a Tochka ballistic missile, but the cause of the explosion is yet to be verified. The two other landing ships accompanying the vessel quickly left the port, one of them on fire, and it is currently unknown whether they sustained any damage.

Representative of the Russian Ministry of Defense Igor Konashenkov stated that by the morning of March 24, the city of Izium was completely under the control of the Russian army. This was later denied by Ukrainian officials.

Ukrainian officials said that Russian forces had used phosphorus bombs.

### **25 March 2022**

Ukrainian forces mounted counterattacks on Kyiv's eastern approaches, recapturing some defensive positions and settlements such as Lukyanivka. Just northwest of the capital, the fighting for Irpin continued, most of the town remaining in the Ukrainian hands amid sustained Russian artillery fire. Russian forces took over the city of Slavutych north of Kyiv, close to the Chernobyl nuclear site. A Ukrainian airstrike on a command post of the 49th Russian Army in the Chornobaivka airfield in the Kherson Raion killed the Russian general Yakov Rezantsev. Ukrainians began a counterattack east of the city of Kharkiv in Ukraine's northeast.

The Russians continued to target military and civilian infrastructure in a bombing campaign, hitting the Ukrainian Air Force command center in Vinnytsia in west-central Ukraine. Colonel General Sergey Rudskoy, first deputy chief of Russia's General Staff, stated in a media briefing that the "first stage" of Russia's military operation was complete, and that their primary focus was now centered on "the liberation of Donbas".

### **26 March 2022**

In the ongoing battle of Kyiv, suburbs to the west and east of the capital, including Makariv, Bucha, Irpin, and Bilohorodka, continued to be shelled by the Russian military and in some areas, such as Bucha and Nemishaieve, Russian forces were digging in. After tense street protests by locals in the occupied city of Slavutych, north of Kyiv, the Russian military agreed to withdraw provided there were no Ukrainian soldiers in the city, but set up a checkpoint outside Slavutych.

The Ukrainian military reported that they recaptured the city of Trostianets – strategically located between the larger settlements of Sumy and Kharkiv – and the villages of Poltavka and Malynivka east of Huliaipole in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. A Ukrainian counterattack also continued east of the city

of Kharkiv, leading to the recovery of several settlements, such as the heavily contested village of Vilkhivka uk.

Ukraine's State Nuclear Regulatory Inspectorate said that the neutron source experimental facility in the Kharkiv Institute of Physics and Technology came under shelling by Russian forces, adding that the fighting made it impossible to assess the damage.

Russian missile strikes also targeted industrial and military facilities, including fuel storage depots and a radio repair plant in Lviv, western Ukraine, hitting the city for the first time in the invasion.

The attack coincided with the US President Biden delivering a speech in Warsaw, the capital of neighboring Poland, in which he pledged continued support to Ukraine and said President Putin could not "remain in power". The White House later clarified that it was not a call for a regime change.

Anatoly Bibilov, the Russian-backed leader of Georgia's breakaway state of South Ossetia, confirmed that local forces had joined Russian troops transferred from the region to Ukraine.

### **27 March 2022**

Russian military continued missile strikes across Ukraine including the cities of Lutsk, Kharkiv, Zhytomyr and Rivne, while Mariupol was again subjected to sustained shelling. Ukraine's defense officials reported that the Russian forces – their ground offensive largely stalled – were attempting to regroup and establish a "corridor" around Kyiv to block supply routes to the capital. The Ukrainian military stated on 28 March that four Russian planes, one helicopter, two drones, and two cruise missiles were downed during the previous 24 hours.

The Ukrainian army continued its counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region near the Russian border, claiming full control of Mala Rohan and much of Vilkhivka. According to the Ukrainian military, the Russians largely abandoned their advance in the Sumy region, but regrouped and counterattacked at Izium. The pro-Russian forces of the Luhansk People's Republic reported that the Ukrainian military lost 60 men, six tanks, and three armored personnel carriers in the region on 27 March.

The Chief of the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine, Brigadier General Kyrylo Budanov, stated that Russia's efforts to overthrow the Ukrainian government had failed and that Putin was now trying to split Ukraine per the "Korean scenario". Zelenskyy said in an interview with Russian independent journalists that his government was ready to accept a neutral, non-nuclear status as part of a peace deal with Russia, but that any agreement would require approval in a nationwide referendum.

### **28 March 2022**

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry said that Russian forces were regrouping to advance towards Donetsk and Luhansk, partially controlled by Russian-backed separatists, while bringing more warships in the Black and Azov seas closer to the coastline, probably to carry out more missile strikes in Ukraine. On the Kyiv front, the western suburbs of Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, and Makariv, as well as the route from and to the city of Zhytomyr to the west, and areas north of Vyshhorod remained subject to Russian shelling. Later on 28 March, Mayor Oleksandr Markushyn announced that the city of Irpin had been fully retaken by the Ukrainian forces.

Heavy fighting continued in Mariupol, where the Ukrainian forces resisted the Russian offensive into the city's centre. Ukrainian officials accused the Russian military of forcibly deporting local civilians, including children, to Russia. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine described the besieged city as turned into "dust" by the Russian military. The mayor of Mariupol, Vadym Boychenko, called for a complete evacuation of the remaining population of the city.

Russia's Defence Ministry said on 29 March that it had destroyed a large fuel depot in Ukraine's Rivne region with cruise missiles on the evening of 28 March.

### **29 March 2022**

Ukrainian and Russian negotiators met in Istanbul for a new round of in-person talks. Ukraine proposed adopting a neutral status in exchange for security guarantees along the lines of the NATO's Article 5. The proposals also included a 15-year consultation period on the status of Russian-annexed Crimea and return of all Russian forces to their pre-invasion positions. Russia's Ministry of Defense announced "drastic reduction of military activity" on the Kyiv and Chernihiv fronts, which, Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky clarified, was not tantamount to a ceasefire. The United States Department of Defense cautioned that an observed movement of elements of the Russian army away from Kyiv was likely "a repositioning, not a real withdrawal".

Despite the negotiations, airstrikes and ground fighting continued unabated. The Ukrainian military reported they were holding back Russian invasion forces in the east, southeast, and northeast, counterattacking in certain areas. Intense fighting occurred around the suburbs of Kyiv, especially in the northwest and northeast of the capital. A Russian airstrike hit a regional government building in Mykolaiv, killing at least 35 and wounding 33 others.

Late on 29 March, local officials reported a series of explosions outside the Russian city of Belgorod, near the border with Ukraine. According to TASS, a temporary Russian military camp was hit by a shell fired from the Ukrainian side, wounding at least four.

### **30 March 2022**

Russian military continued to state that de-escalation around Kyiv and Chernihiv for a "planned regrouping of troops" was underway in order to focus on the Donbas region. The Ukrainian Defense Ministry stated they had not noticed any massive withdrawal of the Russian forces, but individual units were being pulled back to replenish the heavy losses they had suffered. In the meantime, heavy fighting and shelling continued in the outskirts of Kyiv, including around Irpin. Local officials also reported heavy shelling of Chernihiv as well as the Ukrainian-controlled areas in the Donbas region, including Mariupol, Marinka, Krasnohorivka, Avdiivka, Lysychansk and other settlements.

### **31 March 2022**

The Russian military increased their number of air sorties, their airstrikes principally focused on the areas of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Iziium to the south of Kharkiv, and the Donbas region. According to Ukraine's state nuclear company Energoatom, most of the Russian troops had withdrawn from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant towards the border. A US defense official also reported that Russian forces had been drawing down in the areas north and northwest of Kyiv, including the Hostomel Airport. Ukrainian forces continued to stage counterattacks in some areas, reclaiming the settlements of Zatyshshia, Malynivka, Vesele, Zelenyi Hai and Chervone in the Zaporizhzhia region and Sloboda and Lukashivka in the Chernihiv region. Russian forces said that they had captured Zolota Nyva in the Donetsk region and Zhitlovka in the Luhansk region.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that a humanitarian convoy was on its way to deliver aid supplies and evacuate civilians from the besieged city of Mariupol. Deputy Prime Minister Vereshchuk later said that twelve Ukrainian trucks were able to deliver humanitarian supplies to Mariupol, but the supplies were seized by Russian troops.

### **1 April 2022**

The regional governor of Belgorod Oblast, Vyacheslav Gladkov, stated that two Ukrainian Mi-24 military helicopters had struck a fuel storage depot in the city of Belgorod on Friday after crossing into Russia at low altitude. Security camera footage of the depot showed a flash of light from what appeared to be a rocket fired from a low altitude in the sky, followed by an explosion on the ground.

The Ukrainian military confirmed that Iziium was under Russian control.

## **2 April 2022**

Russian missiles hit the cities of Poltava and Kremenchuk in central Ukraine early on 2 April, damaging infrastructure and residential buildings, the head of the Poltava region, Dmytro Lunin said, "Poltava city is the capital of the Poltava region and Kremenchuk is one of the area's major cities." Lunin later said that at least four missiles hit two infrastructure objects in Poltava while, according to preliminary information, three enemy planes attacked the industrial facilities of Kremenchuk. He also added that there was no immediate information about possible casualties. However, neither of these incidents could immediately be verified.

The Kyiv offensive fell apart several days after Russia said it would withdraw some troops from the north. The Russians retreated all the way back to Chernobyl. Ukraine's deputy defence minister, Hanna Maliar, later confirmed that Ukrainian forces had retaken control of all of Kyiv Oblast.

## **3 April 2022**

Corpses were found in Bucha from the Bucha massacre. At least 20 dead Ukrainian civilians were seen by reporters and, according to Bucha's mayor, 280 bodies were buried in mass graves. Human Rights Watch reported war crimes in the occupied areas of Ukraine — executions, rape, torture, and lootings.

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry reported that Lithuanian film director Mantas Kvedaravičius was shot and killed in Mariupol while trying to escape.

## **4 April 2022**

Zelenskyy accused Russia of genocide and said that sanctions from the west were not "enough" to respond to Russia's actions. The United States began pushing to suspend Russia from the United Nations Human Rights Council. Putin signed a decree restricting visas for nationals of countries deemed "unfriendly" to Russia.

Russia accused Ukraine of orchestrating a false flag in Bucha, calling the photos and videos a "staged performance." Biden called for Putin to be tried for war crimes committed by Russian soldiers in Bucha.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of Luhansk, said that a Russian strike had hit a tank containing nitric acid near Rubizhne, which the Ukrainian military said Russian forces had been trying to take. However, this could not be verified independently.

## **5 April 2022**

Zelenskyy addressed the United Nations Security Council regarding events in Bucha. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russia was not opposed to a meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy, but such a meeting would only be held if a document was agreed upon beforehand.

## **6 April 2022**

Pope Francis criticized the "impotence" of international organizations failing to stop the invasion.

Russian artillery fire killed at least four people and wounded four others at a humanitarian aid distribution point on Wednesday as Russian forces bombarded towns, cities and rail infrastructure in eastern Ukraine, local officials said. Later, Ukrainian Railways reported there were a number of casualties after three rockets hit an unspecified rail station in the east, without giving further details.

### **7 April 2022**

Missiles destroyed fuel storage facilities in Mykolayiv, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Chuhuiv, according to the Russian defense ministry, which also stated that Ukraine used the facilities to supply its troops near Mykolaiv and Kharkiv and in the Donbas region.

Zelenskyy told the Greek Parliament that Ukraine needed more anti-aircraft systems, artillery systems, ammunition, and armored vehicles. In Brussels, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba asked NATO for "weapons, weapons, and weapons." The United States Congress began passing a bill that would make it easier to send weapons to Ukraine.

The United Nations General Assembly expelled Russia from the UN Human Rights Council.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov admitted that Russia had suffered significant losses and called the casualties a "tragedy".

By 7 April, Russian troops deployed to the northern front by the Russian Eastern Military District pulled back from the Kyiv offensive, apparently to resupply then redeploy to the Donbas region to reinforce the renewed invasion of southeastern Ukraine.

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, governor of Sumy Oblast, said that all Russian troops had left the region, but it was still unsafe due to rigged explosives and other ammunition Russian troops had left behind.

### **8 April 2022**

Russia said it had destroyed a training centre for foreign mercenaries near the city of Odessa. A defence ministry spokesperson said in a briefing, "High-precision missiles of the Bastion coastal missile system destroyed a foreign mercenary assembly and training centre near the village of Krasnosilka northeast of Odessa." However, this could not be verified.

A train station in Kramatorsk was hit by a Russian rocket strike, killing at least 57 people and wounding 109 others. Pavlo Kyrylenko, the governor of the Donetsk region, said thousands of people had been at the station at the time the two rockets struck. Kyrylenko published a photograph online showing several bodies on the ground beside piles of suitcases and other luggage. Armed police personnel wearing flak jackets were also visible. Another photo showed rescue services tackling what appeared to be a fire, with a pall of grey smoke rising into the air. However, these photos could not be immediately verified.

The Russian Ministry of Defence denied the attack and said in a statement, "All statements by representatives of the Kyiv nationalist regime about the 'rocket attack' allegedly carried out by Russia on April 8 at the railway station in the city of Kramatorsk are a provocation and are absolutely untrue."

As the European Council adopted a fifth package of restrictive measures against Russia,<sup>374</sup> President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen met Zelenskyy in Kyiv. The two visited Bucha's mass graves, where President von der Leyen told reporters that "the unthinkable has happened here".<sup>375</sup> Later that day the two held a press conference where President von der Leyen handed over to President Zelenskyy a questionnaire for joining the EU.<sup>376</sup> She was accompanied by Josep Borrell, who expressed "confidence that EU states would soon agree to his proposal to provide Ukraine with an additional €500 million to support the armed forces in their fight against the Russian army."

### **9 April 2022**

Russian president Putin appointed Russian Army General Aleksandr Dvornikov, commander of Russia's Southern Military District, commander of Russia's military campaign in Ukraine. Dvornikov was known for his command of the Russian forces during the Russian military intervention in Syria.

Russian forces again hit a storage tank containing nitric acid in Rubizhne, according to Serhiy Haidai, the governor of Ukraine's Luhansk region. He added that the tank contained about three tons of nitric acid.

New graves with dozens of Ukrainian civilians were found in Buzova, a liberated village near Kyiv that for weeks had been occupied by Russian forces.

The United Kingdom's Prime Minister Boris Johnson met Zelenskyy in Kyiv, offering armored vehicles, anti-ship missile systems and promising loans and an easing of tariffs.

### **10 April 2022**

Satellite images showed an eight-mile-long (about 13 km) Russian military convoy moving south through the eastern Ukraine town of Velykyi Burluk towards Kharkiv.

Valentyn Reznichenko, the head of Dnipro's military administration, said that Dnipro Airport, as well as the infrastructure around it, had been completely destroyed by Russian shelling.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that Russian Ka-52 attack helicopters had destroyed a convoy of Ukraine's armoured vehicles and anti-aircraft warfare systems. The ministry published video footage of Ka-52 attack helicopters flying at extremely low altitude, launching missiles and firing from guns at ground targets. The location and timing of the attack was not specified.

### **11 April 2022**

The Russian Defence Minister stated that high-precision sea-based Kalibr missiles on the southern outskirts of Dnipro destroyed equipment from a S-300 anti-aircraft missile division supplied to Ukraine by a European country, which was hidden in a hangar. Four S-300 launchers and up to 25 Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel were also hit. The Government of Slovakia, having previously confirmed a donation of its S-300 air defence system to Ukraine, denied Russian claims.

Chancellor of Austria Karl Nehammer met with Putin in Moscow, the first visit from a Western leader since the invasion began. He said the conversation with Putin was "very direct, open and tough" and that the meeting with Putin was "not a friendly visit".

### **12 April 2022**

In a Telegram statement, the Azov battalion stated that Russian forces dropped "a poisonous substance of unknown origin" from an unmanned aerial vehicle onto Ukrainian military and civilians in Mariupol. Petro Andryushchenko, an adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, said that city officials were awaiting additional information from military forces, and speculated that in one possible scenario, the "discharge of an unknown chemical" could be "a test".

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that high-precision air-based and sea-based missiles destroyed one ammunition depot and a secure hangar with Ukrainian aircraft inside at the Starokostiantyniv military airfield in Khmelnytskyi Oblast, as well as one ammunition depot near Gavrillovka near Kiev.

### **13 April 2022**

According to a statement from the Russian Defence Ministry, 1,026 soldiers of Ukraine's 36th Separate Marine Brigade, including 162 officers, surrendered in the besieged port city of Mariupol. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry said it had no information about this, but Denys Prokopenko, commander of the Azov Regiment, later confirmed that some Ukrainian defenders had surrendered.

Ukraine stated that the Russian guided-missile cruiser *Moskva*, flagship of the Black Sea Fleet, was hit by two Ukrainian Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles and set on fire. The *Moskva* later suffered a munition explosion due to the fires. The Russian Defence Ministry confirmed that the warship had suffered serious damage and that all its crew had been evacuated but it remained afloat, which the Pentagon confirmed. The damage was due to an accidental fire, Russia said, and measures were being taken to tow the ship back to port. It subsequently sank.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov warned that Russia would see U.S. and NATO vehicles transporting weapons on Ukrainian territory as legitimate military targets. He added that any attempts by the West to inflict significant damage on Russia's military or its separatist allies in Ukraine would be "harshly suppressed".

Ivan Ariefiev, the regional military administration spokesperson of Zaporizhzhia Oblast, said that Russian forces attacked Novodanylivka uk village in Zaporizhzhia Oblast with phosphorus bombs.

### **14 April 2022**

Russia said that two heavily-armed Ukrainian combat helicopters entered Russian airspace and conducted at least six airstrikes on residential buildings in Bryansk Oblast. The governor of the Belgorod region said that a village there was also attacked, but that no one was injured.

Russian authorities accused Ukraine of shelling the town of Klimovo and the village of Spodorashino. Additionally, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) stated that Ukrainian armed forces had opened fire at the Novye Yurkovichy border checkpoint in the Bryansk region.

Russia's Ministry of Defence stated that the Russian cruiser *Moskva*, which Ukraine said it had hit the previous day, had sunk in the Black Sea while being towed to port.

### **15 April 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that its S-400 defense systems had shot down a Ukrainian Mi-8 helicopter, allegedly used to attack Klimovo.

The Russian Defence Ministry also said that the Ilyich Steel and Iron Plant in Mariupol had been "liberated" from Ukrainian forces, implying that Russian forces had taken control of the plant.

It also stated that its strategic rocket forces had "eliminated up to 30 Polish mercenaries" in a strike on the village of Iziumsk.

Ukrainian forces regained control of Rohan in Kharkiv Oblast.

### **16 April 2022**

Russia said that it had destroyed production buildings of an armoured vehicle plant in Kyiv and a military repair facility in Mykolaiv using high-precision air-launched long-range weapons.

Russia also said that it had downed a Ukrainian Su-25 aircraft near the city of Izium. Russian officials said that Major General Vladimir Petrovich Frolov was killed in combat in Ukraine.

Russian officials also stated that there had been 23,677 deaths of Ukraine military personnel so far. This was the first time that Russian officials had made public claims regarding this death toll.

**17 April 2022**

Russia stated that it had destroyed an ammunition factory near Brovary in the Kyiv region, using high-precision, air-launched missiles.

**18 April 2022**

Putin bestowed an honorary title on the 64th Motor Rifle Brigade accused by Ukraine and by the international community of committing war crimes in the town of Bucha, giving them the title of Guards for their defense of the "motherland and state interests" and praising the "mass heroism and valor, tenacity, and courage" of its members.

The city of Lviv was hit by five missiles according to Regional Governor Maksym Kozzytskyy. Three of the missiles damaged military infrastructure installations and one hit a tyre shop, causing several civilian deaths.

Zelenskyy announced that Russia had begun an offensive in the Donbas region.

**19 April 2022**

Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, said that Russian forces had seized the city of Kreminna and that Ukrainian troops had withdrawn from the city.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that "another phase" of the invasion had begun.

**20 April 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry said that Russian forces had hit 1,053 Ukrainian military facilities overnight and destroyed 106 firing positions.<sup>419</sup>

Ukraine accused Russia of bombing a hospital sheltering 300 people in the city of Mariupol.

**21 April 2022**

Putin declared victory in Mariupol in spite of remaining Ukrainian holdouts at the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works. In a televised meeting, Russian Minister of Defence Sergei Shoigu said that it would take three or four days to clear the plant; however, Putin said that such an operation would be "impractical" and ordered a blockade of the plant instead. Prime Ministers Pedro Sánchez of Spain and Mette Frederiksen of Denmark visited Ukraine to meet with Zelenskyy.

**22 April 2022**

Major General Rustam Minnekayev, the deputy commander of Russia's Central Military District, admitted that the aim of the "second phase" of the country's invasion of Ukraine was to fully seize Donbas and Southern Ukraine, and to establish a land corridor with Transnistria, a Russian-occupied breakaway republic which is internationally recognized as being part of Moldova. He added that there was "evidence that the Russian-speaking population is being oppressed" in Transnistria, without providing further detail into his accusations. The Ministry of Defence of Ukraine criticized this and accused Russia of imperialism.

A Ukrainian Antonov An-26 transport plane crashed in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. The pilot died and two other people were injured. The administration said initial information indicated the plane hit an electricity pole, but some Russian reporters suggested in social media posts that Ukrainian forces had accidentally downed the plane with MANPADS.

Ukrainian officials acknowledged that Russia had taken control of 42 small towns and villages in Eastern Ukraine.

### **23 April 2022**

According to the Defense Ministry's Intelligence Directorate of Ukraine, Ukraine's Armed Forces hit a Russian command post near Kherson in southern Ukraine, allegedly killing two Russian generals and wounding one.

A Russian missile strike hit Ukraine's southern port city of Odessa. Anton Herashchenko, an adviser to the minister of internal affairs of Ukraine, said that at least one missile had landed and exploded, and residential buildings were hit. Officials said at least six people had died. Russia confirmed the attack.

### **24 April 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that its high-precision missiles struck nine Ukrainian military targets overnight, including four arms depots near Kharkiv where artillery weapons were stored. It also said that its missile and artillery forces destroyed four more depots in the same region, and hit a facility producing explosives for the Ukrainian army near Dnipropetrovsk.

Ukrainian officials said that Russian forces had conducted airstrikes on the besieged Azovstal Iron and Steel Works to try to dislodge the Ukrainian troops inside.

### **25 April 2022**

Russia stated that it struck Ukrainian military installations and the Kremenchuk Oil Refinery near the Dnipro River. The Russian Defence Ministry said that high-precision long-range weapons destroyed six railway stations near Krasnoe, Zdolbuniv, Zhmerynka, Berdychiv, Kovel, and Korosten, through which foreign weapons and military equipment were supplied to the Ukrainian troops in Donbas. Russia announced a ceasefire around the steelworks to allow civilians to leave, but a senior Russian diplomat declared that "a general ceasefire is not a good option at the moment, because it will give Ukrainian forces the chance to regroup and to stage more provocations". However, the Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister said that no agreement on a corridor had been reached for the evacuation of civilians from the Azovstal steel plant.

Several explosions reportedly occurred at the State Security Ministry in the breakaway Moldovan region of Transnistria, the Interior Ministry said on its Telegram channel. Ukraine's Defence Ministry said the incident was a "planned provocation" by Russia itself to instill "panic and anti-Ukrainian sentiment".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin took a train from Poland to meet Ukrainian officials, including Zelenskyy, in Kyiv.

### **26 April 2022**

UN Secretary-General António Guterres made a three-day trip to Russia and Ukraine amid criticism for the limited role played by the United Nations in the crisis. Guterres had a "frank discussion" with Foreign Minister Lavrov and met with Putin.

### **27 April 2022**

Russia stated that a series of blasts hit targets in Russian provinces bordering Ukraine. Russian officials also reported a fire at an ammunition depot in the region and that a Ukrainian drone had been intercepted.

### **28 April 2022**

Ukraine's military said that Russia was "increasing the pace" of the invasion, while Putin promised "lightning-fast" strikes on anyone who interfered with Russia's goals.

Russia began ordering the occupied city of Kherson to use rubles as currency.

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that Russia had destroyed six Ukrainian arms and fuel depots. The Ministry also said that Russia had hit 76 Ukrainian military facilities.

Russia-backed separatist forces in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk Oblast said that they had arrested more than 100 Ukrainian troops suspected of being involved in crimes.

Two powerful blasts were heard in the Russian city of Belgorod. Ukraine did not directly accept responsibility but described the incidents as payback and "karma" for Russia.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres met with Zelenskyy and visited Borodyanka, Bucha, and Irpin, where he said: "The war is evil. And when one sees these situations our heart, of course, stays with the victims". As he went back to Kyiv, one missile reportedly struck the lower floors of a 25-storey residential building, injuring at least 10 people and killing one, according to Ukrainian officials. Dmytro Kuleba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, called the Russian missile strikes in Kyiv a "heinous act of barbarism".

### **29 April 2022**

Roman Starovoyt, the governor of Russia's Kursk region, said that mortars were fired at a checkpoint in the village of Krupets. He added that the Russian border guards and military responded with retaliatory fire.

### **30 April 2022**

Russia stated that it had destroyed 389 military facilities in Ukraine overnight, including 35 control centres and 15 arms depots.

The Ukrainian military said that Russia had conducted a missile strike on the Odesa Airport, damaging the runway and rendering it unusable. Odessa's regional governor, Maksym Marchenko, stated that Russia had used a Bastion system in Crimea; the Russian Defence Ministry said that it had used high-precision Onyx missiles.

### **1 May 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that its air defence systems had shot down two Ukrainian Su-24M bombers over the Kharkiv region overnight.

### **2 May 2022**

Local authorities in the Odessa region said that a Russian rocket strike hit a strategically important bridge across the Dniester estuary.

Ukraine stated that its Bayraktar drones sank two Russian Raptor patrol boats near Snake Island. The Ukrainian Defence Ministry also released aerial thermal camera footage showing explosions on two small military vessels.

### **3 May 2022**

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, the governor of Sumy Oblast, said that Russia had shelled three villages in the region overnight, with no reported casualties.

### **4 May 2022**

Ukraine stated that Russian troops had entered the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works complex after launching an all-out offensive on the area. However, Russia denied this.

The Russian military said that it had used sea- and air-launched precision guided missiles to destroy electric power facilities at five railway stations across Ukraine, while artillery and aircraft also struck troop strongholds and fuel and ammunition depots.

### **5 May 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that its missiles destroyed aviation equipment at the Kanatovo airfield in Ukraine's central Kirovohrad region, and a large ammunition depot in the southern city of Mykolaiv.

### **6 May 2022**

Ukraine said that the Russian frigate *Admiral Makarov*, part of the Black Sea Fleet, was hit by a Ukrainian Neptune anti-ship cruise missile, setting the ship on fire. *Dumskaya*, a Ukrainian-state news site, said Russian forces had sent helicopters to rescue the crew of the ship. Ukrainian presidential adviser Anton Herashchenko stated that Russian navy ships stationed in Crimea were sent to help the *Admiral Makarov*. On 7 May, the adviser to the Office of the President of Ukraine Oleksiy Arestovych said that the report was a "misunderstanding", and that the vessel attacked near Snake Island was actually a Serna-class landing craft.

Oleh Synyehubov, the governor of the Ukraine's Kharkiv region, reported multiple shelling attacks, one of which caused a fire that nearly destroyed the Hryhoriy Skovoroda Literary Memorial Museum.

### **7 May 2022**

Russia stated that it had destroyed a large stockpile of military equipment from the United States and European countries near the Bohodukhiv railway station in the Kharkiv region. It also said that it had hit 18 Ukrainian military facilities overnight, including three ammunition depots in Dachne, and that Russian aircraft had shot down several Ukrainian aircraft near Snake Island: a Sukhoi Su-24, a Su-27 fighter jet, three Mil Mi-8 helicopters and two Bayraktar TB2 drones; the Ukrainian lead vessel of the 47 ton Centaur-class, DSHK-1 *Stanislav*, was also said to be destroyed.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of Luhansk Oblast, said that Russia dropped a bomb on a school in the village of Bilohorivka. Two people were killed, and 60 others were feared dead. In addition, he said that according to preliminary information, shelling in the village of Shypilovo had destroyed a house, and 11 people remained under the building's debris.

Ukraine stated that it had used a Bayraktar TB2 drone to strike a Russian Serna-class fast-landing craft docked at Snake Island. It also said that it had destroyed a Forpost reconnaissance and strike UAV over Odessa.

Ukraine confirmed that Colonel Ihor Bedzay, the deputy head of the Ukrainian Navy, was killed when his Mi-14 was shot down by a Russian Su-35.

**8 May 2022**

Serhiy Haidai said that Ukrainian forces withdrew from Popasna.

Haidai also said that Russian forces tried multiple times to cross the Siverskyi Donets River using a pontoon bridge, in order to encircle Sievierodonetsk. He said that local forces had destroyed speed boats and helicopters and "ruined Russian boat bridges three times". He added that in repeated attacks, Ukrainian troops had "eliminated approximately 70 units of Russian heavy weapons and equipment", disrupting attempts to cross.

Russian shelling hit Sumy Oblast again, damaging a historic Jewish cemetery in Hlukhiv.

**9 May 2022**

A shopping mall and two hotels were hit by Russian missile strikes near Odessa, causing multiple casualties.

**10 May 2022**

American Defense Intelligence Agency Director Scott Berrier said that both sides were "at a bit of a stalemate", with neither side making advancements in the south or east.

Ukraine repulsed a Russian attempt to cross the Siverskyi Donets River, causing tens of Russian equipment losses and hundreds of casualties.

**11 May 2022**

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Moscow-controlled Kherson Military-Civilian Administration, said that there would be a request to make the Kherson region a full-fledged constituent of the Russian Federation.

Sloviansk mayor Vadym Lyakh said that Russian missiles hit two districts in Sloviansk.

Russia reportedly lost "the better part of two or more Russian army battalions" (including over 70 armored vehicles) attempting to cross the Siverskyi Donets River for the second time in 24 hours.

**12 May 2022**

Russia stated that its forces hit two ammunition depots in the Chernihiv region. It also said that it had destroyed a Ukrainian S-300 air defence missile system in the Kharkiv region and a radar station near Odessa. Russia further stated that it had shot down a Ukrainian drone near Snake Island. It was also reported that Russian forces had seized Rubizhne.

Ukrainian officials said they had damaged the Russian logistics support ship *Vsevolod Bobrov*. It was later reported that the ship suffered major fire damage on the night of May 11–12 close to Snake Island.

**13 May 2022**

Lloyd Austin and Sergei Shoigu held telephone talks for the first time since the start of the invasion.

**14 May 2022**

Ukraine's general staff said that the Russians were withdrawing from Kharkiv and focusing on guarding supply routes.

Russia dismissed Ukraine's assertion it had damaged the Russian logistics support ship *Vsevolod Bobrov* in the Black Sea and showed photos of what it said was the vessel with no signs of damage.

### **15 May 2022**

Ukraine said that it had launched a counter-attack against Russian forces near Iziium.

NATO Deputy Secretary General Mircea Geoana said that the Russian invasion was "losing momentum" and that "Ukraine could win this war".

The UK MoD said that Russia had likely lost one third of its forces deployed since February.

Ukrainian forces stated that they had reached the Russian border after advancing from Kharkiv. Zelenskyy said that the Russian forces were at a "dead end".

Ukraine stated that its forces destroyed 11 Russian aerial targets, including two cruise missiles, seven Orlan-10 UAVs, one Ka-52 helicopter and one Mi-28 helicopter.

### **16 May 2022**

The Ukrainian military reported that Russian troops had destroyed or damaged 23 houses in Donbas.

Russia's Defence Ministry said that its forces shot down a Su-25 aircraft near the settlements of Yevhenivka in the Mykolaiv region, another Su-25 near Velyka Komyshuvakha in Kharkiv, and a Su-24 near Snake Island.

Mykolaiv Mayor Oleksandr Senkevych stated that Russia had shelled a residential area in Mykolaiv, setting a store and a car on fire, while also damaging a gas pipeline.

### **17 May 2022**

Ukrainian forces surrendered to Russian and DPR troops and were evacuated from the Azovstal plant, marking the likely end of the Siege of Mariupol. Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Malyar said, "Thanks to the defenders of Mariupol, Ukraine gained critically important time to form reserves and regroup forces and receive help from partners. And they fulfilled all their tasks. But it is impossible to unblock Azovstal by military means." 211 soldiers were evacuated via a humanitarian corridor to Olenivka, a town in the DPR. Another 260 soldiers, including 53 seriously wounded, were taken to a hospital in the DPR town of Novoazovsk.

### **18 May 2022**

The Melitopol regional administration stated that a Russian armoured train carrying troops and ammunition overturned in the region, causing the ammunition to detonate.

Russian forces secured full control over Mariupol.

### **19 May 2022**

Russia said that it was using a new generation of powerful laser weapons in Ukraine to burn up drones.

### **20 May 2022**

Rocket strike on the Lozova Palace of Culture building

Russia hit the Palace of Culture building in Lozova in the Kharkiv region with missiles. Zelenskyy condemned the attack, describing it as "absolute evil" and "absolute stupidity".

Russia said that it had almost completely captured Luhansk Oblast.

### **21 May 2022**

Russia stated that it had used sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles to destroy a large consignment of weapons and military equipment supplied to Ukraine by the United States and Europe. Russia also said that it had struck fuel storage facilities near Odessa. It also stated that it shot down two Ukrainian Su-25 aircraft and 14 drones.

### **22 May 2022**

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy extended the country's martial law for three months through to 22 August 2022.

Russia said that it hit Ukrainian forces with airstrikes and artillery in the Mykolaiv and Donbas regions, targeting command centres, troops, and ammunition depots.

Russia's RIA news agency reported that Andrei Shevchik, the mayor of Enerhodar, who was appointed by Russia after occupying the town, was in intensive care after being injured in a blast.

### **23 May 2022**

Denis Pushilin, the leader of the Donetsk People's Republic, said that the Ukrainian fighters who surrendered at the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol would face a trial in the separatist region. However, he did not specify what charges the fighters would face.

### **24 May 2022**

Kirill Stremousov, the deputy head of the civil-military regional administration of Kherson, said that a request would be made to Russia to set up a military base in Kherson. He added that a Russian military base was essential for the security of the region and its inhabitants.

Ukraine stated that Russian forces had launched an all-out assault to encircle Ukrainian troops in the twin cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, which are situated on the east and west banks of the Siverskiy Donets river respectively.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, the head of the Donetsk regional military administration, said that Russian forces had taken control of the town of Svitlodarsk in the eastern Donbas region and that Ukrainian forces had withdrawn in order to regroup.

President Zelenskyy said that 50–100 Ukrainian soldiers were being killed per day. He also stated that the previous week, 70+ soldiers were killed in a single attack on a military base near Kyiv. Ukraine stated that it had shot down retired Major General Kanamat Botashev flying a Su-25 using a Stinger missile. It was unknown if he was in service, or was a private military contractor.

### **25 May 2022**

State Duma of the Russian Federation passed a law that allows for the recruitment of older soldiers. A note accompanying the proposed law read: "For the use of high-precision weapons, the operation of weapons and military equipment, highly professional specialists are needed. Experience shows that they become such by the age of 40-45."

Russian forces were reported to be shelling Sievierodonetsk with mortars. Ukraine said that 6 people were killed.

### **26 May 2022**

Ukraine stated that Russia was conducting offensive operations across multiple sectors of the front, with efforts focused on establishing full control over the village and rail hub of Lyman, as part of alleged preparations for a renewed assault on Sloviansk. The village of Ustynivka, south of Sievierodonetsk, was reportedly assaulted in an effort to improve Russian positions in the area. Russian forces were also reported to be continuing attacks near the Lysychansk-Bakhmut road, with assaults on Komyshuvakha, Lypove, and Nahirne. Assaults were also reported around Avdiivka, and near the village of Zolota Nyva. Additionally, Russian forces were reported to be resuming offensives to establish full control over Kherson Oblast, with assaults against the village of Tavriyske to the south of Mykolaiv, and Mykolayivka to the south of Kryvyi Rih. Shelling was also reported against civilian and military targets across the front.

### **27 May 2022**

Ukrainian officials stated that ~90% of the buildings in Sievierodonetsk had been damaged.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that Russian forces were "continuing to chew through ground", adding that they were making slow, but palpable progress. Following requests by Ukraine for the US and UK to provide them with Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), Johnson stated that these would enable Ukrainians to defend themselves against Russian artillery, and that "that's where the world needs to go."

Ukraine said that one of its MiG-29s shot down a Russian Su-35 during an aerial dogfight over the Kherson region, at approximately 2:00 p.m. local time.

Ukraine stated that it had shot down a retired Russian pilot, Colonel Nikolai Markov, who was reportedly flying an Su-25 over the Luhansk region.

### **28 May 2022**

Serhiy Haidai said that Ukrainian forces near Sievierodonetsk may have to retreat from the oblast in order to not be surrounded and captured by Russian forces.

Russia captured Lyman in the Luhansk Region. Lyman is important as it has road and rail bridges that cross the Siverskyi Donets River.

President Zelenskyy said that the situation in Ukraine was very difficult, especially in the Donbas and Kharkiv regions.

### **29 May 2022**

The Institute for the Study of War said that Russian forces had suffered "fearful casualties" at the Battle of Sievierodonetsk, but that Ukraine had also lost forces. Governor Haidai stated that the Lysychansk-Bakhmut road was the last one connecting Sievierodonetsk to the outside, and that it was expected to be the focus of continued attacks by the Russians, as they attempted to complete a pincer maneuver.

President Zelenskyy visited Kharkiv, marking his first official visit outside the Kyiv region since the start of the war. Ivan Fedorov, the mayor of Melitopol, stated that a bomb blast had occurred in the region, injuring two people.

### **30 May 2022**

Serhiy Haidai said that Russian troops had entered the outskirts of Sievierodonetsk, amid heavy fighting.

The US announced that it would not send Ukraine MLRS systems that fire missiles with a 185-mile range, capable of striking well into Russia. Former Russian President Dimitri Medvedev said the decision was "reasonable". The US noted that it was still considering sending shorter-range (20–40 mile) MLRSes.

### **31 May 2022**

Ukraine stated that it had a limited counteroffensive in the northern part of the Kherson Oblast. Russian forces reportedly launched a number of assaults during the previous 48 hours against Ukrainian positions near the Inhulets River, apparently without either side making progress.

### **1 June 2022**

The United States agreed to send the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (M142 HIMARS) to Ukraine on the assurance from the leaders of Ukraine that it would not be used against targets in Russia. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that this move was "pouring fuel on the fire."

Ukraine said that a nitric acid tank in a chemical factory in Sievierodonetsk was hit by Russian bombardment, forcing people to stay indoors.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said that Germany will supply Ukraine with modern surface to air missiles to protect cities from Russian air attacks.

Mykolaiv Regional Governor Vitaliy Kim stated that Russian forces had started blowing up bridges near Kherson as "they were afraid of a counterattack by the Ukrainian army".

### **2 June 2022**

The United States Cyber Command confirmed that it was conducting cyber operations on behalf of Ukraine. General Paul Nakasone, the commander of USCYBERCOM, said, "We've conducted a series of operations across the full spectrum: offensive, defensive, and information operations."

President Zelenskyy said that as of 2 June, Russia controlled 20% of Ukrainian territory, which is equivalent to almost 125,000 square kilometres.

### **3 June 2022**

Serhiy Haidai stated that Ukrainian troops engaged in a block-by-block fight for the city of Sievierodonetsk and managed to push back Russian forces by 20%.

### **4 June 2022**

Alexander Bogomaz, the Governor of Russia's Bryansk region, said that Ukrainian forces carried out strikes on a village in the region.

Russia stated that it shot down a Ukrainian military transport plane carrying weapons and munitions near Odessa.

Zelenskyy said that Russian artillery hit Sviatohirsk Lavra, an early 17th-century Ukrainian Orthodox monastery in eastern Ukraine, engulfing its main church in flames. Russia denied involvement and accused Ukrainian troops of setting fire to the monastery before pulling back.

It was reported that a private airfield in Ukraine's Kharkiv region was hit by a missile strike, damaging planes and destroying several hangars.

Putin did an interview on the Rossiya-1 TV channel. He was asked about possible "deliveries of long-range missiles to Kyiv". He replied, "If they are supplied, we will draw appropriate conclusions from this and use our own weapons, of which we have enough, in order to strike at those facilities we are not targeting yet." He also commented on the supplies of M270 MLRS and M142 HIMARS, saying, "We understand that this supply of advance rocket systems from the United States and some other countries is meant to make up for the losses of this military equipment. This is nothing new. It doesn't change anything in essence." President Putin further stated that Russia was finding Ukrainian weapons and "cracking them like nuts".

Ukraine said that a Russian missile flew "critically low" over a large nuclear power plant.

### **5 June 2022**

Ukraine said that it had killed the commander of the 29th Combined Arms Army, Lieutenant General Roman Berdnikov. Additionally, the death of Major General Roman Kutuzov was confirmed by Russian state television.

### **6 June 2022**

The Ukrainian Army stated that it had pushed back Russia's Black Sea Fleet to a distance of more than 100 kilometres from Ukraine's Black Sea Coast.

### **7 June 2022**

The website of the Russian Ministry of Construction, Housing and Utilities was hacked. Attempts to open the website through an internet search led to a "Glory to Ukraine" sign in Ukrainian.

### **8 June 2022**

Up to 100 bodies found in the ruins of high-rise buildings in Mariupol were transported to morgues and landfills, a mayoral aide said Wednesday, according to The Associated Press. Petro Andryushchenko described the removal of the bodies as an "endless caravan of death" in a post on Telegram.

The Chief Rabbi of Moscow, Pinchas Goldschmidt, fled Russia after declining to publicly support the war in Ukraine.

### **9 June 2022**

Serhiy Haidai said that Russian forces controlled most of the city of Sievierodonetsk, with Ukrainians holding ground in its industrial zone.

### **10 June 2022**

Ukraine stated that it had nearly exhausted its supplies of artillery ammunition, using 5,000-6,000 rounds daily, and was now reliant on the West to resupply them. Ukraine stated that it is losing 100-200 soldiers per day. Ukraine also said that Russia fires 60,000 rounds and rockets daily. Ukrainian Intelligence stated that Russia had pulled out of storage T-62 tanks, 152 mm artillery pieces, landmines from the 1950s and other "MLRS" systems.

Dmytro Zhyvytsky, the Governor of Sumy Oblast, said that Russian troops struck villages in the region with kamikaze drones and a quadcopter. He stated that no one was injured and a house was damaged.

According to a Russian news outlet, Ukrainian forces sank their own anti-submarine corvette Vinnytsia.

### **11 June 2022**

President Zelenskyy said that Ukraine had launched airstrikes in the southern region of Russian-occupied Kherson.

The UK MoD stated that Russia is using anti-ship missiles, like the Kh-22, against ground targets. It added that such missiles "are highly inaccurate and therefore can cause severe collateral damage and casualties."

### **12 June 2022**

The Russian Defence Ministry stated that it used Kalibr cruise missiles to destroy a large depot with Western weapons in Ukraine's Ternopil region. It also said that it shot down three Ukrainian Su-25s near Donetsk and Kharkiv.

### **13 June 2022**

Serhiy Haidai stated that the last of the three bridges connecting Sievierodonetsk to the rest of Ukraine had been destroyed. He said that the residents left in the city were facing "extremely difficult conditions". He further added that Russian forces controlled 80% of the city.

### **14 June 2022**

Russian-backed separatists said that five were killed and twenty-two were wounded as a result of the Ukrainian shelling of Donetsk.

### **15 June 2022**

Mikhail Mizintsev, head of Russia's National Defence Management Center, asked Ukrainian forces holed up in the Azot chemical plant in Sievierodonetsk to lay down their arms at 8:00 am Moscow time (0500 GMT) on 15 June. He added that civilians present in the plant would be let out through a humanitarian corridor.

Russia's armed forces stated that they had destroyed an ammunition depot in the Donetsk region, and an air control radar station in Lysychansk. Russia also said that it had killed 300 Ukrainian soldiers as a result of fierce fighting.

Ukrainian forces reportedly made gains in Kherson oblast.

### **16 June 2022**

Ukraine stated that it had sunk the Russian tug *Spasatel Vasily Bekh* with two Harpoon missiles.

### **17 June 2022**

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, Chief of the UK Defence Staff, said, "President Putin has used about 25% of his army's power to gain a tiny amount of territory and 50,000 people either dead or injured. Russia is failing."

President Putin spoke to investors at an economic forum in St. Petersburg about economic sanctions, saying "the economic blitzkrieg against Russia had no chance of succeeding from the

very beginning". He further said that they would hurt those imposing them more than Russia, calling them "mad and thoughtless". He said to the Russian investors, "Invest here. It's safer in your own house. Those who didn't want to listen to this have lost millions abroad."

Ukrainian Commander of the Land Forces Logistics Volodymyr Karpenko stated that the Ukrainian Army had lost between 30 - 50% of their heavy equipment.

### **18 June 2022**

The US said that it was considering doubling the number of HIMARS systems being supplied to Ukraine. Ukraine also requested long-range rockets that the HIMARS is capable of launching.

Valentyn Reznichenko, the head of the regional administration of Novomoskovsk, said that 3 Russian missiles destroyed a fuel storage depot in the eastern Ukrainian town.

According to a press release from the Australian government, the first 4 of 14 M113AS4s, donated to Ukraine by Australia, were loaded onto a Ukrainian An-24 last week.

### **19 June 2022**

The Russian Ministry of Defence stated that it hit a command post near Dnipro with multiple Kalibr missiles and that "over 50 generals and officers of Ukrainian military were eliminated in the strike".

Russian officials complained about Lithuanian restrictions on transport of rail goods between Russia and Kaliningrad. Konstantin Kosachev wrote on Telegram, "As an EU member state, Lithuania is violating a whole series of legally binding international legal acts." He also said this "incipient blockade" was affecting 40-50% of all rail goods.

The New York Times examined Russian weapons used in Ukraine and said that more than 210 of them were banned under various international treaties. It added that the majority of weapons used by Russian forces were unguided.

### **20 June 2022**

Serhiy Haidai confirmed that Russian forces captured Metiolkine on Sievierodonetsk's eastern outskirts.

Josep Borrell, a diplomat at the EU, called Russia's blocking of grain a "real war crime".

In an address to the African Union, president Zelenskyy said that Africa was "a hostage" due to the blockage of grain.

### **21 June 2022**

Russia summoned the EU ambassador in Moscow over Lithuania's ban on some goods going to Kaliningrad, from Russia, by rail. The Russian foreign ministry said: "Russia reserves the right to take actions to protect its national interests", calling it "unprecedented" and "illegal".

Russia took control of Toshkivka. Twelve Panzerhaubitze 2000 were deployed to Ukraine, seven from Germany and five from the Netherlands. The Donetsk People's Republic's militia had lost 55% of its force during the fighting in the Donbas according to the UK MoD. The DPR ombudsman said that 2,128 fighters had been killed, 8,897 wounded, and 654 civilians had been killed. Ukrainian intelligence stated that since Russia has stopped sending conscripts they are relying on local fighters in what UK intelligence calls "extraordinary attrition".

### **22 June 2022**

Two drones flying from the direction of Ukraine hit a major Russian oil refinery near the border on Novoshakhtinsk.

### **23 June 2022**

Russian troops surrounded Ukrainian troops in the settlements of Zolote and Hirske.

### **24 June 2022**

Ukrainian forces were ordered to withdraw from the city of Sievierodonetska according to Serhiy Haidai: "Remaining in positions that have been relentlessly shelled for months just doesn't make sense. They have received orders to retreat to new positions... and from there continue their operations. There is no point in staying in positions which have been destroyed over several months just for the sake of staying". The head of the Hirske Community Oleksiy Babchenko announced that the whole city is under Russian control. The Russian Ministry of Defence said that they have encircled 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers in the Zolote/Hirske cauldron.

### **25 June 2022**

On June 25, 2022, Ukraine started deploying the HIMARS. According to Ukraine's General Staff, Valeriy Zaluzhnyi: "Artillerymen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine skilfully hit certain targets – military targets of the enemy on our, Ukrainian, territory".

Ukrainian military said that during this strike over 40 soldiers were killed including Colonel Andrei Vasilyev. The strike occurred on a Russian military base near Izyum. Russia acknowledges the attack but says it hit a hospital and killed 2 civilians.

### **26 June 2022**

Russia fired 14 missiles on Kyiv, some of them being X101 missiles fired from Tu-95 and Tu-160 bombers over the Caspian Sea, damaging residential buildings and a kindergarten. The strikes were the first strikes on Kyiv in three weeks, and killed one person and injured six others. According to "a source familiar with the matter", the U.S. is going to announce a medium to long air defence system for Ukraine, which the U.S. will purchase for Ukraine. The suggested system is NASAMS which will require more training for Ukrainian users. The aid package will also include more Javelin missiles, radars for counter-battery, air defence and artillery ammunition. No drones will be sent due to concerns over their vulnerable nature and valuable technology.

### **27 June 2022**

Russia launched missiles at a shopping centre in Kremenchuk with more than 1,000 people inside, killing at least 20 people. Russia reportedly denied hitting the shopping mall.

### **28 June 2022**

The Luhansk People's Republic Ambassador to Russia Rodion Miroshnik stated that Ukrainian forces began withdrawing from Lysychansk, continuing a fighting retreat towards strongholds in Siversk, Kramatorsk, and Sloviansk.

Russian forces continued to shell Kharkiv city and settlements in its vicinity. Moreover, they launched unsuccessful operations in northwest Kharkiv oblast, likely in order to prevent Ukrainian forces from reaching the Russia-Ukraine border, and to defend its positions near Izyum.

Ukrainian forces reportedly recaptured the settlements Zelenyi Hai and Barvinok north of the city of Kherson.

### **29 June 2022**

Russian troops withdrew from Snake Island overnight, allowing the Ukrainian army to recapture it in the morning. Syria recognized the independence of Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic.

### **30 June 2022**

The lower house of the State Duma passed new laws allowing the Russian prosecutor-general to shut down foreign media from countries that have banned Russian media, due to bans on Russian media over the war in Ukraine.

### **1 July 2022**

The Russian army fired three missiles on the Serhiivka settlement in Odessa Oblast of Ukraine, destroying a residential building and a recreation centre. At least 21 people were killed.

The United States government announced the 14th aid package for Ukraine worth \$820 million in total that includes:

- "Additional ammunition for High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)";
- "Two National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems (NASAMS)";
- "Up to 150,000 rounds of 155mm artillery ammunition"; and
- "Four additional counter-artillery radars."

### **2 July 2022**

Two Britons, Andrew Hill and Dylan Healy, were charged by the Donetsk People's Republic as being mercenaries, the same charge that two other Britons, Shaun Pinner and Aiden Aslin, were convicted of in June and sentenced to death for.

Russia claims to have destroyed five Ukrainian command posts in the Donbas and Mykolaiv regions.

Ukrainian partisans reportedly derailed a Russian armoured train carrying ammunition near Melitopol.

### **3 July 2022**

In Belgorod, Russia, three people were killed by Ukrainian shelling according to the local governor Vyacheslav Gladkov, who also stated that 11 apartment buildings were destroyed and 39 private residences were destroyed. These claims could not be independently verified. One of the locals said: "The missile hit residential buildings about 20 metres from my house. All the windows in our house were shattered, the doors came out of alignment." The governor of the Kursk region wrote on Telegram that "our air defenses shot down two Ukrainian Strizh drones". In Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine, mainly Kherson, there were three assassination attempts on pro-Russian officials over the last two weeks.

In early July, UK and New Zealand soldiers were training Ukrainian soldiers to use the L118 howitzer and the M270 MLRS. The number of Ukrainian soldiers trained is listed as "hundreds" and occurs in Wiltshire.

President Zelenskyy acknowledged the loss of the Luhansk Oblast saying: "If the commanders of our army withdraw people from certain points at the front, where the enemy has the greatest advantage in firepower, and this also applies to Lysychansk, it means only one thing. That we will

return thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons." The Ukrainian army said in a statement, about the withdrawal from Lysychansk: "The continuation of the defence of the city would lead to fatal consequences. In order to preserve the lives of Ukrainian defenders, a decision was made to withdraw," Sergei Shoigu, the Russian Defence Minister, informed Russian President Putin that all of Luhansk Oblast had been "liberated".

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visited Kyiv and promised sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine, banning imports of Russian gold and imposing sanctions and travel bans on 16 Russian senior politicians and oligarchs. Military assistance will include 14 M113 APCs, 20 more Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles and other military equipment. This means a total of 88 vehicles will be given to Ukraine by Australia: 60 Bushmasters and 28 M113 APCs.

#### **4 July 2022**

The Ukrainian governor of Luhansk Oblast, Serhiy Haidai, said Russian forces fighting in Luhansk were "not taking all their wounded with them" due to the heavy fighting; he also said "the hospitals are full to bursting - as are the morgues." President Putin said that Russian forces "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory ... should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

#### **5 July 2022**

Russia's State Duma started preparing legislation to convert to a war economy to be able to order companies to produce war supplies and make workers work overtime.

According to the United States, Russia sought to acquire military drones from Iran, reporting that a Russian delegation visited Kashan Airfield south of Tehran earlier in June and on 5 July 2022 to observe drones manufactured by Iran. Iran criticised the assessment by the United States, saying that it would not supply Russia or Ukraine with military equipment during the war, instead demanding that both nations seek a peaceful resolution.

#### **6 July 2022**

Igor Konashenkov, the Russian defence ministry's chief spokesman, said that Russian air-launched high precision missiles had destroyed two U.S.-supplied HIMARS systems in Ukraine. The Ukrainian military denied the claim, calling it "nothing more than a fake." The Russian military released video allegedly showing the attack, but it could not be independently verified.

Former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev wrote on Telegram that "it would be crazy to create tribunals or courts for the so-called investigation of Russia's actions <...> These proposals are not only legally void. The idea of punishing a country that has one of the largest nuclear potentials is absurd in itself. And potentially poses a threat to the existence of humanity. <...> America brings chaos and devastation around the world under the guise of 'true democracy'". He further criticised the United States over various issues including the treatment of Native Americans, dropping atomic weapons on Japan and being a part of wars in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. "The US and it's useless stooges should remember the words of the Bible: 'Judge not, lest you be judged; so that one day the great day of His wrath will not come to their house, and who can stand?'" — concluded Medvedev.

#### **7 July 2022**

President Zelenskyy said of Western artillery: "This significantly reduces the offensive potential of the Russian army. The losses of the occupiers will only increase every week, as will the difficulty of supplying them." Russian forces appear to be recruiting veteran soldiers and conscripts more intensely, offering them contracts to serve as professional soldiers in the army for a limited time. In Chechnya, there are reports of people being kidnapped and forced to fight in Ukraine. A report, by

Stories, indicated that the brigades hardest hit by the war in Ukraine have started advertising online for soldiers, recruiting unemployed people, sometimes without any training.

It was confirmed by general Igor Konashenkov that Russian forces have paused to rest and regain their combat capabilities. Though minor ground offensives, and continuous shelling and bombing across Ukraine still continue, the majority of the Russian forces have likely begun to fortify positions and resupply troops for another major offensive in the coming weeks or months.

President Putin said to parliamentary leaders: "Today we hear that they want to defeat us on the battlefield. What can you say, let them try. We have heard many times that the West wants to fight us to the last Ukrainian. This is a tragedy for the Ukrainian people, but it seems that everything is heading towards this. Everyone should know that, by and large, we haven't started anything yet in earnest. At the same time, we don't reject peace talks. But those who reject them should know that the further it goes, the harder it will be for them to negotiate with us." Mykhailo Podolyak, the Ukrainian chief negotiator, wrote on Twitter in response: "There is no 'collective West' plan. Only a specific z-army which entered sovereign Ukraine, shelling cities and killing civilians. Everything else is a primitive propaganda. That's why Mr. Putin's mantra of the 'war to the last Ukrainian' is yet another proof of deliberate Russian genocide."

### **8 July 2022**

Russia's ambassador to Britain, Andrey Kelin, said during a media interview that Russian and pro-Russian forces were unlikely to withdraw from southern Ukraine as part of any future peace negotiations. He also vowed that Russia would "liberate" the Donbas region, and said that further Russian escalation in the war was possible if the flow of Western weapons into Ukraine "was organised in such a way that it endangers our strategic situation, our defense..."

The governor of the Mykolaiv Oblast, Vitaly Kim, claims that Russia has been using S-300 missile system in a land attack capacity. He also claimed that some 12 missiles were fired by fitting them with GPS guidance. However, this has not been verified.

### **9 July 2022**

Rockets fired by Russian forces struck an apartment building in Chasiv Yar, killing at least 48 people.

### **10 July 2022**

Iryna Vereshchuk, the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and the Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories, urged Ukrainian refugees "waiting out the war" inside Russian territory to immediately return to Ukraine or evacuate to European Union countries, warning that an "iron curtain" was impeding their ability to flee. She claimed the Russians had already begun setting up "filtration camps" on its borders to Estonia to prevent Ukrainians from leaving Russia for the EU. She also reassured Ukrainian refugees in Russia they would not be considered collaborators and were entitled to government assistance.

Paul Urey, a British national being held by the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), died while in custody. He claimed to be working as aid worker when he was arrested at a checkpoint near Zaporizhzhia on 25 April. He suffered from type 1 diabetes and needed insulin. The Human Rights Ombudsman of the DPR, Daria Morozova, said on social media that Mr Urey had been suffering from "diabetes and respiratory, kidney and cardiovascular issues". She also commented: "On our part, despite the severity of the alleged crime, Paul Urey was provided with appropriate medical assistance. However, given the diagnoses and stress, he passed away on July 10."

### **11 July 2022**

Oleh Kotenko, the Ukrainian Ombudsman, claims that 7,200 Ukrainian personnel have gone missing since the start of the war, revising a previous claim of 2,000 missing. He expressed hope that these personnel, which include "National Guard, border guards and the security service" can be returned to Ukraine through prisoner swaps with Russia. Ukraine also plans to have a million strong army, however experts consider this to be more of a "rallying cry" than an actual viable military plan.

The first NASAMS system for Ukraine arrived in Poland from Norway. It appears to be a NASAMS II variant, it was delivered by a Ukrainian An-124.

The Russian-appointed head of Velykyi Burluk, Yevgeniy Yunakov, was killed by a car bomb according to TASS.

### **12 July 2022**

President Zelenskyy said that Ukraine has become an associate member of NATO's Multilateral Interoperability Program. This means that Ukraine will only implement NATO standards while contributing to the development of new standards. He claims that this is a "contribution to the development of collective security in Europe". He also said of Western supplied artillery: "The occupiers have already felt very well what modern artillery is...Russian soldiers - and we know this from interceptions of their conversations - are truly afraid of our Armed Forces." He however acknowledged Ukrainian losses: "There are victims - wounded and killed. In Donbas, offensive attempts do not stop, the situation there does not get easier, and the losses do not get smaller."

The Ukrainian spokesman for the Odessa region claims to have killed the chief of staff for the 22nd Army Corps, Major General Artyom Nasbulin, during a strike near Kherson by a HIMARS rocket. Ukraine also claims the death of some five Colonels in the same strike. Russian forces confirmed the strike but denied the death of the officers claimed by Ukraine. They claimed that the Ukrainian rocket hit a warehouse that contained chemicals which then exploded.

### **13 July 2022**

North Korea recognises the independence of the Donetsk People's Republic and the Luhansk People's Republic, prompting Ukraine to introduce reciprocal sanctions against the North Korean government.

The interior ministry of the LPR reports that their troops and Russian troops have entered Siversk.

### **14 July 2022**

A missile strike in Vinnytsia killed 26 people.

Russia started a "volunteer mobilisation": 85 federal areas thereof, including Crimea and Sevastopol, are expected to recruit 400 men per region by the end of the month. Those who sign a six month contract get "3,750 to 6,000 US dollars per month". Some regions are now offering a bonus of US \$3,400. The Wagner Group also started recruiting prisoners. As of 14 July, President Putin signed into force a number of laws including the recent "special economic measures". These include forcing private companies to take government contracts as well as allowing the Russian government to "temporarily reactivate mobilization capacities and facilities" while "unlocking state reserve material assets". The government can now also change the work conditions of employees, such as increasing hours worked, unilaterally.

### **15 July 2022**

Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the international community to recognise the Russian Federation as a "terrorist state".

The US House of Representatives passed an amendment that set aside \$100 million to train Ukrainian pilots on US fighters. Representative Adam Kinzinger said; "Last night the House passed my bipartisan Ukrainian Fighter Pilots Act, which authorizes the training of Ukrainian fighter pilots in the U.S. I urge the Senate to get this critical legislation to the President's desk. Slava Ukraini!"

Ukraine claimed that Russia was using the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station to store and fire weapons from the plant.

### **16 July 2022**

During an inspection of troops at an unnamed "command post" in the Donbas, Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu ordered troops to escalate their operations "in all operational directions" in Ukraine, suggesting that the Russian army is probably putting an end to the reported "operational pause" along front lines.

Mikhail Mizintsev, chief of Russia's national defence control centre, said during a briefing that over the last 24 hours, "28,424 people, including 5,148 children" have been evacuated from the Donbas and other parts of Ukraine to Russia. In total since Feb 24, some "2,612,747 people, of which 412,553 are children" have been evacuated to Russia. Ukrainian authorities haven't been involved in these evacuations, and both US and Ukrainian officials regard it as forcible deportations.

### **17 July 2022**

The Chief of UK Defence Staff, Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, said that the Russian army has lost 50,000 soldiers killed or wounded, along with nearly 1700 tanks and nearly 4000 fighting vehicles, a loss of more than 30% of Russia's ground forces; morale is also an issue for Russian soldiers.

The Ukrainian President proposed to dismiss Ivan Bakanov, the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine, and the Prosecutor General of Ukraine Iryna Venediktova; up to 60 employees of both agencies have been collaborating with Russian forces.

### **18 July 2022**

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Ukraine can inflict "significant losses" on Russian forces due to Western weapons. The commander of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, said: "An important factor contributing to our retention of defensive lines and positions is the timely arrival of M142 HIMARS, which deliver surgical strikes on enemy control posts, ammunition and fuel storage depots."

Russian forces have reinforced their position in Southern Ukraine. The Ukrainian army claims that Russian forces were now trying to hide "behind the civilian population."

President Putin spoke about Western sanctions and how they are putting a "colossal amount of difficulties" on Russia however cutting the country off in the modern world is "impossible". Russia would "competently look for new solutions."

Ukraine claims to have repulsed multiple attacks by Russian forces in the Donetsk region.

The UK MoD said Russian forces face "a dilemma between deploying reserves to the Donbas or defending against Ukrainian counterattacks in the south-western Kherson sector."

### **19 July 2022**

Alexander Bogomaz, governor of the Russian territory of Bryansk, claimed that the village of Novye Yurkovichi was shelled from Ukrainian territory; no casualties reported.

The Ukrainian parliament voted to dismiss the Prosecutor-General Iryna Venediktova, and the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine Ivan Bakanov; other intelligence officials have also been fired including the deputy chief.

The Antonivka Road Bridge was damaged by Ukrainian rocket fire.

### **20 July 2022**

Syria formally broke off diplomatic ties with Ukraine.

In its 16th aid package the US government will announce the supply of additional HIMARS systems, rockets and artillery shells to Ukraine.

According to Interfax, Russian officials claim a second day of rocket attacks on the Antonivka Road Bridge. Some rockets were intercepted, however 11 rockets struck, seriously damaging but not closing it to traffic.

The US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, estimates that Russian forces have gained 6–10 miles of territory over the last 90 days in the Donbas.

### **21 July 2022**

UK Secretary of Defence, Ben Wallace, announced the UK will send "50,000 artillery shells, counter-battery radar systems and hundreds of drones" and "scores" of artillery guns over the coming weeks. MI6 chief, Richard Moore said that Russia's ability to spy has been reduced by "half".

Ukraine claimed to have done enough damage to stop Russia from using the Antonivka Road Bridge to transport ammunition.

The CEO of Metinvest, the company that owns the Azovstal iron and steel works, accused Russia of taking £500 million worth of steel from Ukraine, which has been exported to a number of countries in Africa and Asia. Some of the steel had already been paid for by European countries, including the UK.

### **22 July 2022**

The US announced a new aid package, which includes 580 Phoenix Ghost drones.

Lithuania lifted the ban on the transportation of sanctioned goods to Kaliningrad, from Russia, by rail over Lithuanian soil.

According to sources on the Ukrainian side, Ukrainian forces surrounded about 1,000 to 2,000 Russian soldiers near Vysokopillia in the Kherson Oblast.

### **23 July 2022**

On 23 July, less than a day after signing a grain export deal with Ukraine, Russia launched Kalibr missiles at the Odesa sea trade port. According to Ukraine, two of the four missiles were intercepted. Russian officials told Turkey that Russia had "nothing to do" with the missile strike. The next day, Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman of the Russian Ministry of Defence, confirmed the strike, claiming that it destroyed a Ukrainian warship and a warehouse of Harpoon anti-ship missiles.

**24 July 2022**

Russian's Defence Ministry claims to have destroyed 100 HIMARS missiles in a strike on Dnipropetrovsk. Reuters couldn't independently verify this claim.

**25 July 2022**

Alexander Bastrykin, head of the Russian Investigative Committee, has ordered the court to open over 1,300 charges against 92 members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine involved in "crimes against the peace and security of humanity". "Mercenaries" from NATO countries are also suspected.

Slovakia is considering transferring its 11 Mig-29s to Ukraine when they are grounded in August, if it can get replacement aircraft from NATO.

**26 July 2022**

Russian forces reportedly captured the Vuhlehirska Power Station, the second biggest power plant in Ukraine, on the approach to Bakhmut. Ukraine confirmed the capture the next day.

A fire at an oil depot in Donetsk city has been blamed on Ukrainian artillery, according to the DPR-appointed mayor of Donetsk, Alexey Kulemzin.

Ukraine has received six British Stormer HVM anti-aircraft missile launchers.

Ukraine claims to have struck the Antonivka Road Bridge again with HIMARS rockets.

The US is prepared to treat wounded Ukrainian soldiers at their Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. This is the first time such treatment has been approved for Ukrainian soldiers at military instead of civilian hospitals.

**27 July 2022**

The Antonivka bridge has been closed to civilians. A spokesman for Ukrainian Armed forces said that they are not aiming to destroy the bridge. According to the BBC, Western officials described the bridge as "completely unusable" and UK officials said that Kherson city is now "virtually cut off from other occupied territories". Russian forces are compensating by the use of pontoon bridges and ferries. A railway bridge nearby was also damaged.

Ukrainian advisor Oleksiy Arestovych has said that there is a "massive redeployment" of Russian forces to the Kherson region.

According to US congresswoman Elissa Slotkin, who serves at the United States House Committee on Armed Services, Democrats and Republicans support sending Ukraine long-range ATACMS missiles.

**28 July 2022**

Ukrainian soldiers and officers fighting in Donetsk have offered anecdotal evidence of a significant reduction in Russian artillery fire. Several groups of former Western soldiers have been providing informal basic training to Ukrainian recruits.

**29 July 2022**

An explosion occurred at Olenivka prison, killing, according to RIA, 40 captured Ukrainian POWs and wounding 75. Ukraine's General Staff stated that the strike was committed by Russia to hide the

torture and executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war. The claim is now of over 50 Ukrainian POWs killed, including captured members of the Azov Regiment at Mariupol. Russia claimed the prison was hit with HIMARS missiles and offered fragments of the rocket as proof. Ukraine is asking the UN and Red Cross to investigate.<sup>719</sup> The Red Cross has asked Russian officials for access to the Olenivka prison camp, but no response has been received.

Germany will donate 16 bridge-laying Biber tanks: six this year, starting in the autumn, and ten next year.

US Department of Defense officials are reconsidering giving Ukraine US-made fighter jets and training pilots, the main change the officials cite is how HIMARS rockets are reducing the number of Russian SAMs systems. The department won't consider training Ukrainian pilots until a "platform" can be agreed upon and is also still wary of Russian air defences. The NASAMS is still in the contracting phase.

Russian forces have built a pontoon bridge underneath the superstructure of the Antonivka bridge to help shield it from attack; it carries both civilian and military traffic.

### **30 July 2022**

President Zelenskyy, during his nightly address, has ordered the evacuation of civilians from Donetsk due to the fighting.

### **31 July 2022**

Russia has accused Ukraine of a drone strike on the HQ of the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol. Injuring five and cancelling Navy Day celebrations. The drone has been described as "homemade" and carrying a "low-power" explosive device.

## **G. BRIEF CAUSES, CONSEQUENCES AND LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE CONFLICT**

### **Russia's Invasion of Ukraine**

Russia signed an order to officially recognise the independence of two separatist regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine.

- Russia launched an all-out attack on Ukraine through land, air and sea.
- The attacks by Russia are considered as the biggest attack by one state against another in Europe since the Second World War.

### **Russia's Reasons for the invasion**

Russia's President Mr. Putin declared that he has ordered "a special military operation" to protect people, including Russian citizens who had been subjected to "genocide" in Ukraine, "for this we will strive for the demilitarisation and denazification of Ukraine".

The chief reasons for Russian aggression are discussed below.

- **Economic Factors**
  - Russia, considering the economic significance of Ukraine, sought Ukraine's membership in the **Eurasian Economic Community (EAEC)**, which is a free trade agreement that came into being in 2015.
  - With its huge market and advanced agriculture and industrial output, Ukraine was supposed to play an important role. But Ukraine refused to join the agreement.
- **Geo-Political and Strategic Factors**
  - Russia claims that the eastward expansion by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which they call "**enlargement**", has threatened Russia's interests and has asked for written security guarantees from NATO.
  - NATO, led by the U.S., has planned to install missile defence systems in eastern Europe in countries like Poland and the Czech Republic to counter Russia's intercontinental-range missiles.

### **Violations of International Laws by Russia**

- **The UN Charter**
  - It demands the states to avoid using force or threat of using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.
- **The UN General Assembly Resolution 3 (1974)**
  - The resolution defines aggression as the use of armed force by a state against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another state.
  - Also, allowing one's territory to be used by another state for aggression against a third state, would qualify as an act of aggression.
  - Hence, Belarus can also be held responsible for aggression as it has allowed its territory to be used by Russia for attacking Ukraine.

- Aggression is also considered an international crime under customary international law and the Rome statute establishing the International Criminal Court.

## **Consequences of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine**

### **On Russia**

- The US termed the action of Russia on Ukraine as aggressive and as a result, introduced strong additional sanctions with new limitations on what can be exported to Russia.
- Several banks of Russia have been sanctioned along with restrictions on transactions of 13 major state-owned enterprises in Russia.
- The United Nations Secretary-General at a Security Council meeting asked Russia to stop the attack on Ukraine and to “give peace a chance.”
- The United Nations General Assembly condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and called upon Russia to unconditionally withdraw its troops.

### **On the Rest of the World**

- **Rise in oil prices** – Oil prices surged to over a seven-year high of \$103 a barrel. The Brent crude rose to \$103.78 a barrel, the highest since August 14, 2014.
- **Influx of refugees** – The UN Refugee Agency said that more than 874,000 people have fled Ukraine since Russia’s invasion and the figures are rising exponentially.
- **Food supply** – Russia and Ukraine are among the top five international exporters for many important cereals and oilseeds such as wheat, sunflowers and corn.
- **Shortage of semiconductor chips** – Ukraine supplies rare gases used in the production of semiconductor fab lasers, and Russia exports rare metals like palladium to make semiconductors. Hence the conflict worsened the global chip crisis.

### **Way Forward**

The US along with other western countries is expected to revive the peace process through diplomatic channels in mitigating the tensions between Ukraine and Russia which would be a time-consuming process. Experts recommend more dialogues between the west and Russia that exert emphasis on the issue surrounding Ukraine.

Ukraine should approach and focus on working with its Normandy Format allies, France and Germany, to persuade the Russian government to withdraw assistance for its proxies and allow for the region’s gradual safe reintegration into Ukraine.

The Russian military expansion in Ukraine can be prevented on the geo-economic grounds that will hamper its trade in the region especially with the Nord Stream pipeline that can carve out a way of resolving the ongoing crisis as pointed out by an expert. Ukraine’s internal disturbances need to be addressed to revive the Minsk II agreement for the development of peace in the region and dissolve the ongoing tensions.

## **H. THEMES TO CONSIDER**

1. Legality of Conflict
2. Weaponisation of Economic Tools

3. Supply Chain Crunches
4. Energy Crises and attached dilemmas
5. Shifts in Global Order
6. Food and Humanitarian Crisis
7. Way forward to address immediate needs arising out of Crisis
8. Role of NATO and EU
9. Role of the Third World Countries
10. Reparations and Political solutions

*(Please note that the above mentioned themes are just pointers to get you thinking, it would be appreciated if the delegates come up with even more nuanced themes to deliberate upon taking a lead from the above mentioned ones.)*

## **I. SUGGESTIVE READINGS**

*(Note: This list is non-exhaustive and delegates must not restrict themselves to these links solely.)*

<https://news.un.org/en/search/Security%20Council%20Ukraine>

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/world/europe/ukraine-maps.html>

<https://daily.jstor.org/ukraine-russia-and-the-west-a-background-reading-list/>

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/international-law-and-russian-invasion-ukraine>

<https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/russia-ukraine-crisis-market-impact>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/longer-term-impact-ukraine-conflict-and-growing-importance-civil-side-war>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/ukraine-war-and-us-national-strategy-need-credible-global-force-posture-and-real-plans>

\*\*\*\*\***THE END**\*\*\*\*\*