

Humanitarian aspect:

As of the morning of August 12, 2022, more than 1067 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation. **The official number of children who have died stayed unchanged at 361, and the number of wounded increased to 706.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, the temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

31 women from Azovstal remain in Russian captivity, said Iryna Vereshchuk, Minister for the Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine. Among the female captives are not only the military personnel of the Azov regiment, but also military doctors, employees of the Border Guard Service, the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other units. "Now it is important to attract the attention of the world community. For its part, the Ukrainian side will do everything possible for everyone to return home," the Vereschuk said.

At night, Russian shelled three districts of **Kharkiv**, the city mayor, Ihor Terekhov, said. Four missiles, preliminarily identified as S-300, were fired from Belgorod. The Ukrainian air defense shot down another 2 Kalibr missiles. The educational facility was damaged. During the past day, the Russian occupiers shelled the Chuguyiv, Kharkiv, Izyum and Loziv districts of the Kharkiv oblast.

Up to 40 enemy shells targeted **Marganets, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**. Three people were injured, two of them are in hospital. Among those hospitalized is a 12-year-old boy. In the city, 4 high-rise buildings and several private ones were damaged. The shelling hit a local factory, a printing shop, a shop and a cafe.

The mayor of **Kramatorsk**, Oleksandr Honcharenko, reported 11 rocket attacks on the city this night. During the day of August 12, Russians again shelled Kramatorsk. The head of the Donetsk Regional Military Administration (RMA), Pavlo Kyrylenko, reported two people killed and 13 wounded. As a result of the shelling, at least 20 houses were damaged. The RMA head appealed to the local residents with a request to evacuate from the region.

Russian forces shelled **Zaporizhzhya** on the evening of August 12. Infrastructure facilities were destroyed, and a fire broke out. It is known about one wounded woman, said the RMA head Oleksandr Starukh.

Occupied territories

In occupied **Mariupol**, they are preparing for a "show-trial" of captured Ukrainian soldiers. The Russian invaders are going to use the Philharmonic theater as a "court" building, and the prisoners will be kept in "medieval-style" cages. In addition to the cages, Russian occupying forces

are building a special bunker-garage for receiving police vans that will transport Ukrainian POWs. This building did not exist before the war and build solely for the so-called "tribunal", according to the mayor's adviser Petro Andryushchenko.

A car with the Russian collaborator Askar Laishev, the illegitimate "head" of the Vehicle Registration office of the temporarily occupied **Starobilsk**, was blown up. The Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Russian Federation reported that the occupier received about 90% of burns.

As a result of the explosion in **Melitopol**, collaborator Oleg Shostak was injured, according to the [legally elected] mayor of Melitopol, Ivan Fedoriv. Shostak is a henchman of the Balitsky traitor and one of the leaders of the "United Russia" election headquarters.

There is a very high threat level at the **Zaporizhzhya NPP**; the Ministry of Internal Affairs is preparing for any scenarios up to the evacuation of the population. "There is no control over the actions at the ZNPP. Today, the station is actually not only in the hands of the enemy, but also in the hands of inexperienced specialists who can really let a tragedy [happen]. All this is assessed as the highest threat level, " the Minister of Internal Affairs, Denys Monastyrsky, said.

Operational situation:

The 170th day of the strategic air-ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbas") continues. The enemy is concentrating its efforts on establishing full control over the territories of the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts, maintaining the temporarily captured areas of the Kherson Oblast and parts of the Kharkiv, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv Oblasts, creating favorable conditions for resuming the offensive in certain directions, and blocking Ukraine's maritime communications in the Black Sea.

The enemy continues to carry out air and missile strikes on military and civilian objects on the territory of Ukraine. The enemy's aviation group supports the actions of the ground groups, concentrating their main efforts in the Donetsk direction.

The enemy forward presence actions aimed at restraining Ukrainian units are ongoing. The implementation of additional measures to strengthen the protection of the section of the Ukrainian-Russian border in the Bryansk region is noted. The task is carried out by BTGs from the 752nd motorized rifle regiment of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 488th motorized rifle regiment of the 144 motorized rifle division, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 15th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 79th motorized rifle regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division.

In the Sumy Oblast, the enemy shelled civilian and military infrastructure in the areas of Vorozhba, Mezenivka, Pavlivka, and Bilopylla, as well as near Logy in the Chernihiv Oblast. The enemy continues to intensify the aerial reconnaissance by UAVs.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Belarus reported that the explosions at the Zyabrivka airfield, which the Russian Armed Forces use, were caused by an engine fire that occurred during an inspection of the vehicle after repairs. At the same time, an adviser to the leader of the Belarusian opposition announced at least eight explosions near the airfield.

Subjects of the Russian Federation continue to form regional "volunteer" battalions. The "Baron Korf" communications battalion and the "Saint Innocent" battalion are being formed in the Khabarovsk Territory. The battalions are recruiting anyone between the ages of 18 and 50 and will provide a one-time payment of 250,000 rubles for signing a short-term contract for a period of 6 months to 3 years.

The Russian military continues to take measures to replace losses among junior officers in Ukraine. The former sergeants are appointed to the positions of platoon commanders after completing short-term officer courses. At the same time, the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine reports that 60% of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation consist of volunteers. There is a tendency to compensate for the lack of prepared reserves with volunteer formations of worse quality.

RF attempts to involve citizens of other countries to participate in hostilities against Ukraine. It is reported that about 13 thousand Belarusians, consisting of active and former military personnel and law enforcement officers, have agreed to participate in the war against Ukraine.

In the Russian Federation, law enforcement agencies are investigating the strategic failure of the invasion of Ukraine. 30-40% of the generals and officers involved in planning the "special military operation" have been investigated, and the officials have been removed from their duties.

The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low. In connection with large losses, forced mobilization measures continue in the temporarily occupied territories of Luhansk oblast, from where up to 8,000 people are planned to be drafted.

According to information verified by *Bellingcat Insider*, Russian servicemen and their families filed complaints to the military prosecutor's office. Most cases are regarding the Russian Armed Forces military command, which, after having induced conscripts to participate in hostilities by deception or coercion, hid the information from the families of Russian soldiers and did not provide food and medical care [to the military personnel]. There are cases when Russian commanders ordered soldiers to start an assault without [necessary] equipment, refused to withdraw them from a combat zone, and did not inform relatives of soldiers about their death. A separate section covers the complaints of residents of the occupied Luhansk and Donetsk regions, who accuse the Russian troops of looting, trespassing, and shelling civilian infrastructure.

Kharkiv direction

- *Zolochiv-Balakleya section: approximate length of combat line - 147 km, number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 10-12, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 13.3 km;*
- *Deployed enemy BTGs: 26th, 153rd and 197th tank regiments, 245th motorized rifle regiment of the 47th tank division, 6th and 239th tank regiments, 228th motorized rifle regiment of the 90th tank division, 1st motorized rifle regiment, 1st tank regiment of the 2nd motorized rifle division, 25th and 138th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army, 27th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Tank Army, 275th and 280th motorized rifle regiments, 11th tank regiment of the 18th motorized rifle division of the 11 Army Corps, 7th motorized rifle regiment of the 11th Army Corps, 80th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 14th Army Corps, 2nd and 45th separate SOF brigades of the Airborne Forces, 1st Army Corps of so-called DPR, PMCs*

The enemy shelled the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the areas of Lebyazhe, Sosnivka, Ukrainka, Dementiivka, Pytomnyk, Ruski and Cherkasky Tyshki, Shevelivka, Protopopivka, Verkhniy Saltiv, Tsyrukun, Stara Hnylytsia, Husarivka, Korobochkyne, Udy, Rydne, Prudyanka, Slatyne, Nove, Ruska Lozova, Petrivka, Peremoha, Baranivka, Chepil, Odnorobivka, Pechenihy, and Slobozhanske, and carried out airstrikes near Rtyschivka and Verkhniy Saltiv.

On the night of August 10 to 11, Russian troops used S-300 anti-aircraft missiles to attack civilian infrastructure in the city of Kharkiv.

Kramatorsk direction

- *Balakleya - Siversk section: approximate length of the combat line - 184 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17-20, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.6 km;*
- *252nd and 752nd motorized rifle regiments of the 3rd motorized rifle division, 1st, 13th and 12th tank regiments, 423rd motorized rifle regiment of the 4th tank division, 201st military base, 15th, 21st, 30th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Combined Arms Army, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 3rd and 14th separate SOF brigades, 2nd and 4th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 2nd Army Corps, 7th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 1st Army Corps, PMC*

Most Russian attacks are carried out by the forces of private military companies, probably due to the continued degradation of units of the Russian Armed Forces.

Enemy shelling was recorded near Karnaukhivka, Mazanivka, Velyka Komyshevakha, Dovhenke, Nova Dmytrivka, Hrushuvakha, Virnopillia, Bohorodychne, Shnurky, Kurulka, Krasnopillia, Dolya, Zalyman, Nortsivka, Siversk, Hryhorivka, Serebryanka, Verkhnyokamyanske, and Pryshyb, and an enemy airstrike at Zalyman.

The enemy attacked in the direction of Verkhokamianske and Ivano-Daryivka, but was defeated and retreated. They also unsuccessfully tried to advance near Hryhorivka, but were driven back to their original position.

The enemy is trying to replenish the loss of personnel and equipment.

Donetsk direction

- *Siversk - Maryinka section: approximate length of the combat line - 235 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 13-15, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 17 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 68th and 163rd tank regiments, 102nd and 103rd motorized rifle regiments of the 150 motorized rifle division, 80th tank regiment of the 90th tank division, 35th, 55th and 74th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 41st Combined Arms Army, 31st separate airborne assault brigade, 61st separate marines brigade of the Joint Strategic Command "Northern Fleet", 336th separate marines brigade, 24th separate SOF brigade, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 15th, and 100th separate motorized rifle brigades, 9th and 11th separate motorized rifle regiment of the 1st Army Corps of the so-called DNR, 6th motorized rifle regiment of the 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LNR, PMCs*

The enemy is trying to break through the defense of the Ukrainian troops and occupy advantageous lines for the development of the offensive in the direction of Kramatorsk and Bakhmut. To constrain the actions and prevent the transfer of the Ukrainian units to other directions, they carry out strikes on the units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces along the line of contact.

Russian troops shelled Pisky from TOS-1A heavy flamethrower systems; i.e. Russians continued to use strategic-level weapons to achieve tactical goals of capturing small villages, almost destroying them to the ground and subsequently declaring them under Russian control.

The enemy fired from tanks and artillery at the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces near Avdiyivka, Bakhmut, Bakhmutske, Bilohorivka, Vershyna, Vesela Dolyna, Vesele, Vodyane, Zaytseve, Kodema, Kostyantynivka, Krasnohorivka, Kurdyumivka, Maryinka, Netayliv, Alexandropol, Opytne, Pereizne, and Pisky. The enemy carried out airstrikes near Avdiyivka, Bakhmut, Bakhmutske, Vyimka, Vodyane, Zaytseve, Ivano-Daryivka, Maryinka, Soledar, Spirne and Yakovlivka.

The enemy advanced from Horlivka to Zaitseve, and unsuccessfully attacked in the areas of Ivano-Daryivka, Vyimka, Bakhmut, Vesela Dolyna, Kodema, Spartak, and Maryinka; they were forced to retreat.

The enemy tried to break through the defenses of the Ukrainian troops and advance in the directions of Yakovlivka, Bakhmutske, Zaytseve, Vershyna, and Dacha, but suffered losses and withdrew. After regrouping, they resumed the attack on Kodema, where hostilities are ongoing.

Fighting continues near the village of Pisky.

Zaporizhzhya direction

- *Maryinka – Vasylivka section: approximate length of the line of combat - 200 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 17, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 11.7 km;*

- *Deployed BTGs: 36th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 29th Combined Arms Army, 38th and 64th separate motorized rifle brigades, 69th separate cover brigade of the 35th Combined Arms Army, 5th separate tank brigade, 37 separate motorized rifle brigade of the 36th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 429th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 136th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 58 Combined Arms Army, 46th and 49th machine gun artillery regiments of the 18th machine gun artillery division of the 68th Army Corps, 39th separate motorized rifle brigade of the 68th Army Corps, 83th separate airborne assault brigade, 40th and 155th separate marines brigades, 22nd separate SOF brigade, 1st Army Corps of the so-called DPR, and 2nd Army Corps of the so-called LPR, PMCs*

The enemy shelled the areas of Mala Tokmachka, Malynivka, Lukyanivske, Gulyaipole, Shcherbaky, Volodymyrivka, Bogoyavlenka, Novodanylivka, Orihiv, Novopil, Novosilka, Novomykhailivka, Shevchenko, Novoyakovlivka, Gulyaipilske, Velyka Novosilka, Vuhledar, Zolota Nyva, Vremivka, Burlatske, Olhivske, Kushuhum and Zaliznychne. The enemy carried out airstrikes near Vuhledar, Mali Shcherbaky, Novomykhailivka, Prechystivka, Zolotaya Nyva, and Poltavka.

The Russian occupiers suffered losses and retreated during an attempted assault in the direction of Pavlivka.

Ukrainian guerrillas are preparing to destroy the Russian occupiers and their accomplices, who are planning to hold a fake referendum in Melitopol. On the night of August 8, resistance forces blew up the headquarters of Putin's United Russia political party. Guerrillas also destroyed the service center of the Ministry of the Interior of Russia in Melitopol, where they distributed Russian passports and Russian vehicle registration documents.

Kherson direction

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zboryivka and Stanislav section: approximate length of the battle line - 252 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces - 27, the average width of the combat area of one BTG - 9.3 km;*

- *Deployed BTGs: 114th, 143rd and 394th motorized rifle regiments, 218th tank regiment of the 127th motorized rifle division of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 57th and 60th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 5th Combined Arms Army, 135th, 503rd and 693rd motorized rifle regiments of the 19th motorized rifle division, 70th, 71st and 291st motorized rifle regiments of the 42nd motorized rifle division, 51st and 137th parachute airborne regiments of the 106th parachute airborne division, 7th military base of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 16th and 346th separate SOF brigades*

The enemy conducted UAV aerial reconnaissance. After the explosions at the Saki airfield in Crimea, the intensity of the actions of Russian aviation decreased.

Ukrainian troops destroyed the command post of the 126th separate coastal defence brigade of the 22nd Army Corps in Novokamyanka.

The Ukrainian Defense Forces effectively use Russia's preparation for a counteroffensive to weaken the command of Russian troops and the logistical support of the enemy grouping in the Kherson direction.

Kherson-Berislav bridgehead

- *Velyka Lepetikha – Oleksandrivka section: approximate length of the battle line – 250 km, the number of BTGs of the RF Armed Forces – 22, the average width of the combat area of one BTG – 11.8 km;*
- *Deployed BTGs: 108th Air assault regiment, 171st separate airborne assault brigade of the 7th Air assault division, 4th military base of the 58th Combined Arms Army, 429th motorized rifle regiment of the 19th motorized rifle division, 33rd and 255th motorized rifle regiments of the 20th motorized rifle division, 34th and 205th separate motorized rifle brigades of the 49th Combined Arms Army, 224th, 237th and 239th Air assault regiments of the 76th Air assault division, 217th and 331 Air assault regiments of the 98th Air assault division, 126th separate coastal defense brigade, 127th separate ranger brigade, 11th separate airborne assault brigade, 10th separate SOF brigade, PMC*

Ukrainian troops destroyed the forward command post of the 49th Combined Arms Army in the Chervonyi Mayak area, the command and observation post of the 76th Air assault division of the Russian Airborne Forces in Ishchenka, and an ammunition depot in Barvinok. On August 6, Ukrainian troops had already attacked the 49th Combined Arms Army command post in Chornobayivka.

In order to prevent the advance of Ukrainian troops deep into the bridgehead, the enemy fired at their positions and objects of civil infrastructure in the areas of Ukrainka, Posad-Pokrovske, Lupareve, Stepova Dolyna, Novohryhorivka, Vesely Kut, Shyroke, Kobzartsi, Kavkaz, Bila Krynytsia, Lepetykha, Topolyne, Ivanivka, Potiomkine, Zoria, Oleksandrivka, Shevchenkove, Novomykolayivka, Kyselivka, Liubomyrivka, Poliana, Andriyivka, Zelenyi Hai, Berezhehuvate, Kniazivka, Tverdomedove, and Nikipol.

The enemy carried out airstrikes in the vicinity of Osokorivka, Andriivka, Blagodatne, Novohryhorivka, Myrne, Lozove, and Bila Krynytsia, and conducted aerial reconnaissance by UAVs.

Azov-Black Sea Maritime Operational Area:

The forces of the Russian Black Sea Fleet continue to project force on the coast and the continental part of Ukraine (through missile strikes and possible amphibious assaults) and control the northwestern part of the Black Sea. The ultimate goal is to deprive Ukraine of access to the sea and connect unrecognized Transnistria with the Russian Federation by land.

There are currently 6 Russian warships in the Black Sea, led by the Admiral Makarov frigate. 2 ships (a Buyan-M type frigate and a corvette) carry up to 14 Kalibr missiles ready for launch.

Most of the large amphibious ships entered the port of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol. Two large amphibious ships were spotted at the crossing near the port of Feodosia.

2 Russian ships are on patrol in the Sea of Azov.

All four submarines of project 636.3 are at ports in Sevastopol and Novorossiysk.

Russian aviation continues to fly from Crimea over the northwestern part of the Black Sea, and 4 aircraft from Belbek airfield (Sevastopol) were involved in the past day. This is three times less than the beginning of the week and five times less than last month. This is likely primarily due to the loss of aircraft during the explosions at Saki Airport (Crimea). Between 9 and 35 aircraft and helicopters of various types, primarily Su-30M, Su-24M, Mi-8, and a large amount of aviation weapons, were destroyed and seriously damaged (according to multiple sources) at the airfield. The total losses of the Russian Federation for destroyed military property alone can reach 1 billion dollars. The occupation authorities of Crimea give the number of victims - 1 dead and 14 wounded. According to experts, the number of dead and wounded pilots and technical personnel may be up to 200 people. However, the Russian Federation does not officially recognize the loss of servicemen and military equipment - "there are no losses."

On the morning of Friday, August 12, the fifth caravan with agricultural products left the ports of the Odesa region. It consists of the ship SORMOVSKIY 12, which left the port of Chornomorsk, and the bulk carrier STAR LAURA from the port of Pivdenny. The STAR LAURA vessel became the first of the Panamax class to leave the port since the implementation of the "grain initiative", and the third in the general list of giant ships already heading through the "grain corridor". In total, more than 63,000 tons of agricultural products were on board the two ships, marking the first time a ship loaded with wheat left the territory of Ukraine. Today, Chornomorsk and Pivdenny will also receive 2 more vessels for loading - "Brave Commander" and PETREL S. More than 40,000 tons of Ukrainian grain will be loaded on them.

Approximate operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 12.08

Personnel - almost 43,200 people (+200);

Tanks - 1,849 (+3);

Armored combat vehicles - 4,108 (+8);

Artillery systems - 975 (+1);

Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 261 (0);

Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 136 (+2);

Vehicles and fuel tanks - 3,021 (+3);

Aircraft - 232 (0);

Helicopters - 193 (0);

UAV operational and tactical level - 778 (+6);

Intercepted cruise missiles - 185 (0);

Boats / ships - 15 (0).

Ukraine, general news

According to the results of a sociological study by the "Rating" group, 98% of Ukrainians believe in victory in the war with Russia.

Ukraine calls on the entire civilized world to prevent the trial of Ukrainian defenders in Mariupol, which the occupiers announced. In a joint statement, Ukraine's security and defense forces demand to immediately send representatives of the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross to the places where Ukrainian prisoners of war are held, first of all, Olenivka. The operation to rescue 2,500 Mariupol Defenders was the only possible option to save their lives. All Ukrainian state institutions are working to return the Defenders of Mariupol and everyone who is in captivity. Meanwhile, the Russian Federation does not adhere to obligations and neglects agreements.

President Zelensky introduced draft laws on the extension of martial law and mobilization to the Ukrainian Parliament. The text of the bills is not yet publicly available.

International diplomatic aspect

As a sort of sickening irony, Russia called an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council concerning the situation at the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant, which Russian troops illegally grabbed in March. While Russian reckless actions pose a direct threat to the globe, its Ambassador to the UN accused Ukraine of “criminal attacks on nuclear infrastructure ... pushing the world to the brink of nuclear catastrophe”.

“The many consequences of this conflict, including the situation at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, will only end when Russia ends its war. Today the United States demands particularly urgent action to address the nuclear risks posed by Russia’s latest moves. This must be done through the work of the IAEA and a return of full control of the Zaporizhzhia facility to Ukraine,” US Ambassador Bonnie Jenkins replied to the Russian diplomat.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on both sides to halt all fighting near the nuclear plant. IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi called on both sides to immediately allow atomic experts to assess damage from the shelling and evaluate safety and security at the NPP, where the situation had “been deteriorating very rapidly”.

Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN Sergiy Kyslytsya recognized “the representative of terrorist Russia in the permanent seat of the Soviet Union. The representative of the state that extends their terrorist practices to the worst-ever level in the history of humankind, threatening the world with nuclear disaster”. He reiterated Ukraine’s demand that Russia allows an IAEA-led mission immediately and unconditionally, demine the facilities of the Nuclear Power Plant and remove Russian military personnel and their weaponry.

Before the full-fledged Russian invasion and seizure of Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhya NPPs, governments across the globe were focused on preventing possible terrorist attacks on nuclear facilities. Russia became the first state actor to seize a nuclear power plant forcefully, took more than 100 personnel as hostages, switched remote control systems, blackmailed the world, mined its facilities, and recklessly used the plant as a launching pad for its artillery.

Besides using the station as a fortress and shelling Ukrainian towns across the river from its territory, Russia has three major goals. First, it wants to make the IAEA recognize Moscow's control and authority over the nuclear power plant, legitimizing its illegal seizure. Second, Moscow voiced plans to redirect generated electricity to the illegally annexed Crimea. Third, it wants to cut off the rest of Ukraine from the electricity supply. The latter would severely blow Ukraine as Zaporizhzhya NPP can generate up to 6,190 MW.

While representatives of Ukraine, the US, France, the UK, Ireland and Albania put all blame on Russia and called upon it to return the control of the station to Ukraine, Chinese and Indian Ambassadors chose a different tone. They were talking vaguely about "both sides" and possible "agreements" in the light of the grain deal that had been reached recently. They sounded as if Russia's actions posed a mere threat only to Ukraine. The willingness to support or at least not alienate Moscow outweighed the fear of a possible nuclear catastrophe of an unprecedented magnitude. Though Russia showed no restraints in its actions in Ukraine that constitute numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity, Beijing and New Delhi tend not to notice the level of escalation and its further spiralling. Such behaviour might encourage the Kremlin's thinking of the possible employment of an ultimate weapon that China and India will bitterly regret after.

The Russian Ambassador justified his accusations against Ukraine with the infamous Amnesty International report. Facing fierce criticism, this time, AI decided to react promptly. "Russia is using a nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine as an army base. The allegations we are receiving directly from Enerhodar, the town adjacent to the nuclear plant, speak volumes about the terrible impact of Russia's militarization is having on civilians," tweeted AI.

It's highly unlikely that Russia would behave with restraint on the nuclear power plant, thus endangering humankind. The reckless actions might lead to an unintended incident with devastating consequences. The US leadership needs to directly talk to Chinese and Indian counterparts to convince them to influence Vladimir Putin before it's too late. While the international community needs to put pressure on Russia, including more sanctions and restrictions, it also needs to start contingency planning.

The US and their allies, along with Ukraine, need to work out a counterterrorist operation of Special Operation Forces to prevent a global nuclear disaster. It's also high time to call Russia not just a state sponsor of terrorism but a nuclear terrorist state.

Centre for Defence Strategies (CDS) is a Ukrainian security think tank. We operate since 2020 and are involved in security studies, defence policy research and advocacy. Currently all our activity is focused on stopping the ongoing war.

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