

**Humanitarian aspect:**

As of the morning of August 21, 2022, more than 1,094 Ukrainian children are victims of full-scale armed aggression by the Russian Federation, Prosecutor General's Office reports. **The official number of children who have died increased to 373, and the number of wounded children increased to more than 721.** However, the data is not conclusive since data collection continues in the areas of active hostilities, the temporarily occupied areas, and liberated territories.

According to the Security Service of Ukraine, only one out of 20 Russian missile strikes at Ukraine hits a military object, and the rest hits civilian infrastructure.

Around 3:00 a.m. on August 21, the anti-aircraft missile unit of the Ukrainian Southern Air Command destroyed two Kalibr cruise missiles over the sea fired by the Russian military from the Black Sea. Three more cruise missiles hit a granary in the territory of one of the agricultural enterprises in **Odesa Oblast**. There are no reported casualties, Odesa Military Administration spokesman Serhii Bratchuk said.

In **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**, the Russian forces again shelled Nikopol and Kryvy Rih districts. There were no casualties in the Nikopol district; one house was destroyed, and 19 were damaged. A school and a power line were also damaged. More than 3,000 people are without electricity. In Marhanka, the power line is damaged, leaving 2,200 residents without electricity. In the Myrivska amalgamated community, 5 houses were destroyed. In the Kryvy Rih district, the Russian forces shelled the Apostolivska and Zelenodolska neighbourhoods; no victims or destruction were reported.

In **Kharkiv Oblast**, the Kharkiv district was shelled at night. As a result, university and private houses were damaged. Two people were injured.

In Kharkiv Oblast, an **extended curfew is being introduced on Independence Day from 7:00 p.m. on August 23 to 7:00 a.m. on August 25** due to an increased threat of provocations by the Russian occupiers in the coming days, press service of the Kharkiv Oblast Military Administration reported.

In **Donetsk Oblast**, 4 people died and 2 were wounded in the last 24 hours. Active hostilities continue as well as shelling of residential areas. The Avdiivka Coke Chemical Plant, residential sector (4 residential buildings), and power lines were damaged. The region remains without gas and partly without water and electricity. Evacuation continues.

Another train with evacuees from Donetsk Oblast arrived in Kropyvnytskyi. Among them were citizens with reduced mobility, women with children and the elderly, the State Emergencies Service reported. The report did not specify the number of evacuees.

In **Mykolaiv Oblast**, the city of Mykolaiv was shelled at night. An industrial enterprise and city suburbs were hit. No casualties were reported. Shelling continues. The day before, a rocket attack on a five-story residential building in Voznesensk injured 14 people, including three children. Currently, three adults and two children are in hospital. About five one-story buildings were also damaged.

On the evening of August 21, Russian forces shelled the Zelenodolyya amalgamated community in **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast**. The head of the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Military Administration, Valentyn Reznichenko, said that a 59-year-old woman died and six people were injured, including a 9-year-old boy.

### **Occupied territories**

The [legally-elected Ukrainian] Mayor of **Melitopol**, Ivan Fedorov, said that on August 21, a woman who tried to leave the occupied territory for the territory controlled by Ukraine died in a traffic queue in Vasylivka, Zaporizhzhya Oblast. Fedorov emphasized that the number of deaths recorded in the evacuation convoys has already exceeded a dozen.

The Russian occupation authorities declared the "abandoned" enterprises owned by Ukrainian citizens who did not register them with the Russian tax office to be ownerless and decided to give them to new owners "whom we consider worthy of managing these enterprises", the head of the **Kherson Oblast** occupation "administration" Sergey Yeliseev told the Russian Interfax news agency. To avoid restrictions, he said, [business] owners must re-register with the tax office, open bank accounts, and be transparent to the occupying authorities.

In **Nova Kakhovka**, Kherson Oblast, the occupying authorities detained Iryna Dubas and Oksana Yakubova, the directors of the city lyceums No. 3 and No. 2, Nova Kakhovka Mayor Volodymyr Kovalenko said. Liliya Gryshagina, who previously headed another school and now cooperates with the occupation authorities, complained that the two directors did not transfer all of their lyceums' property to the new [occupation] authorities. They were arrested following her complaint.

430 miners of the once leading Dovzhanska-Capitalna coal mining enterprise of **Donbas** were mobilized to reinforce the Russian infantry, the head of Luhansk Oblast military administration, Serhii Haidai, said.

In the captured city of **Vovchansk in Kharkiv Oblast**, the occupying authorities installed a bust of Lenin at the Vovchan Lyceum No. 1 and plan to make 62 first-graders wear red soviet pioneer ties for September 1. The move was initiated by the Russian party "United Russia". Russian language lessons would take at least 180 minutes per week, the "History of Ukraine" classes would be replaced with the "History of the Russian Federation", and Ukrainian literature would be taught in Russian as part of the "Foreign Literature" course. The plans were announced by the occupation authorities of Vovchansk.

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### **Operational Situation**

*It is the 179th day of the strategic air and ground offensive operation of the Russian Armed Forces against Ukraine (in the official terminology of the Russian Federation – "operation to protect Donbas"). 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, Zaporizhzhya, and Mykolaiv Oblasts, creating favorable conditions for resuming their offensives 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 in Ukraine.

The Russian forces fired mortars at Pushkari in Chernihiv Oblast and Myropillya and Pavlivka in Sumy Oblast. They continue to deploy separate units from the Western Military District in the border areas of the Russian Bryansk and Kursk Oblasts to constrain the units of the Ukrainian Defense Forces.

The transfer of air defense equipment of the Russian Armed Forces to the territory of the Republic of Belarus is noted. The threat of Russian missile launches and air strikes from the territory and airspace of the Republic of Belarus persists. No formation of a strike grouping of the [combined] Belarus and Russian Armed Forces has been noted.

**The morale and psychological state of the personnel of the invasion forces remain low.** The Russian propaganda continues to lie, making up nonexistent victories and justifying the crimes of its army and mercenaries.

#### **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 Russian forces shelled the areas of Prudyanka, Ruski Tyshki, Shestakove, Pischane, Pechenihiy, Karasivka, Velyki Prohody, and Chernyaky with barrel and rocket artillery, carried out airstrikes near Mospanove, Stary Saltiv, Husarivka, Prudyanka, and Verkhniy Saltiv. They conducted aerial reconnaissance near Velyki Prohody, Ruski Tyshki and Zolochiv.

In the Chuhuyiv area, the Russian military tried to suddenly break through to the Malynivka-Stara Hnylytsia line with forces of up to two BTGs (probably from the 138th and 25th separate

motorized rifle brigades of the 6th Combined Arms Army). They attacked in two sections - from Chkalovske to Nova Hnylytsia and Hrakove and from Mykolaivka in the direction of Korobochkyne and Pushkarne. Initially, the Russian troops managed to advance partially from the starting lines, but the advanced units were soon stopped and pushed back in the Hrakove area and to the north of Mykolayivka. In the Mykolayivka area, the Russian military was forced to retreat all the way to the starting lines.

### **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*

Enemy artillery shelling was recorded in the vicinity of Shevelivka, Krasnopillya, Dibrivne, Nortsivka, Sulyhivka, Dolyna, Asiivka, Husarivka, Chepil, Protopopivka, Dovhenke, Siversk, Hryhorivka, Verkhokamyanske, Ivano-Daryivka, Kramatorsk, Rozdolivka, Spirne, Zvanivka and Raihorodok. The enemy launched an airstrike near Zalyman and Ivano-Daryivka.

The Russian forces conducted an unsuccessful reconnaissance attack in the direction of Pasika - Bohorodychne.

The Russian forces attacked in the directions Brazhkivka – Novodmytrivka, Sulyhivka – Novodmytrivka, Brazhkivka – Virnopillya, Dovhenke – Kurulka, Berestove – Ivano-Daryivka, Spirne – Ivano-Daryivka and Mykolaivka – Vyimka. The attacks were repulsed in all directions.

### **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 Russian forces fired tanks, barrel artillery and MLRS at the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the areas around Soledar, Yakovlivka, Zaitseve, Shumy, Zalizne, Mayorsk, Vesela Dolyna, Bakhmut, Kodema, Bilohorivka, Maryinka, Vodiane, Oleksandropil, Pisky, Avdiivka, Kurakhove,

Krasnohorivka, Sukha Balka and Nevelske. They carried out airstrikes near Zaitseve, Bakhmut, Soledar, Avdiivka, Novobakhmutivka, Maryinka, Vodyane, and Krasnohorivka. They conducted aerial reconnaissance by UAVs around Pokrovsk, Krasnohorivka, Vesele and Opytne.

The Russian military attacked in the directions Pokrovske – Bakhmutske, Semihirya – Zaitseve, Striapivka – Soledar, Pokrovske – Bakhmut, Vershyna – Zaitseve, Vershyna – Kodema, Travneve – Zaitseve, Travneve – Kodema, Hladosove – Kodema, Horlivka – Mayorsk, Spartak – Opytne, Donetsk - Pisky, Staromykhailivka - Pervomaiske, Pisky - Nevelske, Lozove - Nevelske, Staromykhailivka - Maryinka, Zalizna Balka - New York and Novoselivka - New York. The enemy continues assault in many directions.

There are at least three Russian tactical groups, consisting of a mixture of units, operating in the Bakhmut area, namely assault battalions of the Wagner/Liga PMC, rifle battalions of the mobilization reserve of the 1st and 2nd Army Corpses, and regular Russian units.

Up to three enemy BTGs are advancing north of Bakhmut, two attack Bakhmut head-on, and one BGT is in reserve. Up to three BTGs are operating in Zaitseve – Kodema, and one more BTG is kept in reserve. Thus, 6-8 BTGs were involved in the assault on Bakhmut, with another 2 BTGs in reserve. In the last two days, this grouping did not make any progress; it failed the immediate task of advancing to the frontier of the Bakhmutka River on the Bakhmut-Siversk section. Its advanced units were driven out of Vershyna by a fast counterattack of the Ukrainian Armed Forces units.

With an advantage in the number of infantry in the Avdiivka area (almost the entire 1st Army Corps, reinforced with two BTGs from the 150th motorized rifle division of the 8th Combined Arms Army of the Southern Military District and two assault battalions of the "Wagner" PMC) the Russian military, disregarding constant personnel losses, continuously storms the positions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces. During the past week, the Russian forces managed to advance south from Avdiivka in the Pisky area (the northwestern outskirts of Pisky are in the Ukrainian Armed Forces fire range), reach Opytne and gain a foothold on its southeastern outskirts. They also managed to advance 1.5 km in the Novomykhailivka area.

### **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 Russian military is trying to prevent the advance of the Ukrainian Defense Forces. It carried out artillery strikes near Burlatske, Velyka Novosilka, Velykomykhailivka, Vremivka, Vuhledar, Hulyaipilske, Dorozhnyanka, Elizavetivka, Zaliznychne, Mala Tokmachka, Malynivka, Mali Shcherbaky, Neskuchne, Novoandriivka, Novodanylivka, Novomykhailivka, Novopil, Novosilka, Olhivske, Orihiv, Pavlivka, Poltavka, Prechystivka, Stepove, Chervone, Shevchenkove, Shcherbaky. It deployed aviation near Novomykhailivka, Pavlivka, Hulyaipole, Olhivske, Chervone, Bilohirya, Zaliznychne, Mali Shcherbaky and Mala Tokmachka. It conducted aerial reconnaissance using "Orlan-10" UAVs around Zaporizhzhya. Russian forces attacked in the direction of Blahodatne - Zolota Nyva, but were forced to retreat.

### **Kherson direction**

- *Vasylivka–Nova Zburyivka 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 operational situation is unchanged.

### **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*

The Russian forces fired tanks, barrel and rocket artillery in the areas around Mykolaiv, Ukrainka, Oleksandrivka, Stepova Dolyna, Lymany and 15 more villages. They carried out airstrikes near Olhyne, Zarichne, Novohryhorivka, Bila Krynytsia, Tavriyske, Lozove and Andriivka, and conducted aerial reconnaissance with UAVs.

The Russian military attacked in the direction of Vasylyk – Blahodatne. It has captured the southern outskirts of Blahodatne, and hostilities continue.

#### **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 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 12 Russian warships and boats in the Black Sea, headed by the "Admiral Essen" frigate. 2 ships (a frigate and a Buyan-M type corvette) and one project 636.3 submarine carry up to 20 Kalibr missiles ready to launch.

On August 20, Russians launched 5 Kalibr cruise missiles: 4 were shot down by the Ukrainian Air Defense Forces, and one missile hit a civilian object in Mykolaiv Oblast.

Most large amphibious ships are in the ports of Novorossiysk and Sevastopol for replenishment and scheduled maintenance. There are no signs of preparation for an amphibious assault. Two large amphibious ships are in transit between Crimean ports.

A missile corvette (with 8 Moskit missiles) is in a firing position near the western coast of Crimea.

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

Russian aviation continues to fly from Crimean airfields Belbek and Gvardiyske over the northwestern part of the Black Sea. 5 aircraft from the Crimean Air Group of the Russian Federation were involved in the past day. Saki airfield is not operational after the explosions.

On the morning of August 21, another explosion was recorded in Sevastopol. There were no signs that the air defense system of the Russian Federation was used.

It was established that the attack on the Black Sea Fleet headquarters of the Russian Federation in Sevastopol on August 20 was carried out by a civilian SkyEye 5000mm Pro UAV. This drone can carry up to 20 kg of cargo, reach speeds of up to 150 km/h and stay in the air for up to seven hours. At the same time, it can be freely bought on the Internet. Extensive footage shows that the drone was not shot down by the Russian military, which contradicts the official statement of the occupying "authorities" that the UAV was allegedly shot down just above the roof [of the Black Sea Fleet headquarters].

#### **Operational losses of the enemy from 24.02 to 21.08**

Personnel - almost 45,200 people (+300);

Tanks – 1,912 (+5);

Armored combat vehicles – 4,224 (+12);

Artillery systems – 1,028 (+10);  
Multiple rocket launchers (MLRS) - 266 (0);  
Anti-aircraft warfare systems - 141 (0);  
Vehicles and fuel tanks – 3,143 (+6);  
Aircraft - 233 (0);  
Helicopters - 197 (0);  
UAV operational and tactical level - 806 (+3);  
Intercepted cruise missiles - 190 (0);  
Boats / ships - 15 (0).

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### **Ukraine, general news**

Ukraine braces itself for Independence Day and National Flag Day (August 24 and 23, respectively). President Zelenskiy said Russia may do something inhumane and terrible and advised caution. Therefore, employees of government institutions located in the Government Quarter in Kyiv are recommended to work remotely from home from August 22 to 26, sources in the government institutions told the media.

In Kropyvnytskyi, the head of the Kirovohrad Oblast Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine, Oleksandr Nakonechny, was found dead with gunshot wounds. An investigation into his death has been launched. According to the investigation, on August 20, around 10:25 p.m., the lieutenant colonel's wife, who was at home at the time, heard the sound of a gunshot and found the body of her husband with a gunshot wound in one of the rooms.

On the International Day of Remembrance and Commemoration of Victims of Terrorism, First Lady Olena Zelenska unveiled the "Closed Eyes" project dedicated to Ukrainians who died during the Russian-Ukrainian war in 2014-2022. She stressed that Russia's constant bombing of peaceful Ukrainian towns and villages, targeted shelling of shopping centers, hospitals and schools, torture and murder in the occupied territories are nothing but terrorism. According to Zelenska, "there are many definitions of terrorism. However, first and foremost, it is the killing of innocent people to intimidate the rest of society or community. This is exactly what Russia is constantly doing." The "Closed Eyes" project aims to compile a complete martyrology of the civilian victims of the Russian-Ukrainian war to preserve the memory of the Ukrainians who died.

### **International diplomatic aspect**

Russia blames Ukraine for blowing up a car with the daughter of "Putin's ideologist" Oleksandr Dugin, which exploded near the village of Velyki Vyazomy in the suburbs of Moscow. She was a propagandist in her own right and wrote for the Russian propaganda outlets RT and Tsargrad. She is also one of the authors of the forthcoming "Book Z" about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

It might be that her father was a primary target, but he took a different car.

Dugin's ideas influenced Vladimir Putin and other members of the Russian elite and rank and file of fascists, monarchists and alike fighting in Ukraine. Dugin is infamous for calling for the genocide of Ukrainians. However, many experts believe Dugin's influence on the Kremlin is significantly overblown.

Ukraine wouldn't have risked its precious assets and capabilities to kill either or both. It could have been much better to bring them to justice in a tribunal. Their death wouldn't stop their ideas from contaminating the brains of Russians. The Russian fascism will be defeated on the battlefields of Ukraine and in the cognitive space. Mykhailo Podolyak, the adviser to the head of the Ukrainian President's Office, emphasized that Ukraine was not involved in the bombing.

Nevertheless, Russian propagandists, including the head of the so-called DPR Denis Pushylin, accused Ukraine of it. Russian propagandists, such as Margarita Simonian, demanded strikes on decision-making centers in Kyiv in response. "Kyiv will shudder," an article on Tsargrad said. In the same material, the propagandists published the coordinates of the buildings of the SBU, the Ministry of Defense, the President's Office, etc. At the same time, several other versions emerged. One is the National Republican Army which claimed to take responsibility for the bombing and said its goal was to overthrow Putin's regime. Another one concerned the money allocated for the propagandists working for Russia in Europe that Dugina reportedly stole.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz told the press that he blamed Vladimir Putin for launching an attack on Ukraine for "completely absurd" reasons. [Prior to Russia's full-scale war] he rejected Putin's accusations of NATO being a threat and assured him that Ukraine's membership in the Alliance "won't happen in the next 30 years". The German political elites continue to hold erroneous views on Russia and disregard the core security interests of others. Berlin's position on NATO membership failed twice – four months after the Bucharest summit, Russia invaded Georgia and illegally occupied 20% of its territory. In 2022 Germany was unable to stop further Russia's invasion of Ukraine with its assurances to hold Ukraine in the grey zone. However, Angela Merkel, a former Chancellor, stated that she didn't regret blocking the Membership Action Plan for Ukraine and Georgia back in 2008. Olaf Scholz has not stated any changes in Germany's position.

Aleksandar Vucic, the President of Serbia, called on NATO to "do their job" in Kosovo, or he says Serbia itself will move to protect its minority in the breakaway province. Two Russian and one Ukrainian citizen were detained on suspicion of trying to get to a military site in Albania. It might be a sign of preparation by Russia and Serbia for a conflict in Kosovo. Earlier this month, there were clashes between ethnic Serbs and Kosovars in Kosovo. The Serbian officials used belligerent rhetoric, threatening war. The Kremlin has been expanding its activities and influence in the Balkans in recent years, trying to undermine NATO and the EU stance there. Alexander Dugin was one of the proponents of more aggressive policies in the region based on exploiting pan-Slavic and orthodox ideologies. A conflict in the Balkans would be a massive blow to the regional stability that would affect political dynamics on the continent and might draw NATO into direct conflict.

Latvians joined the race to donate Ukraine a Bayraktar UAV and collected €510,000 in just four days.

The German government has approved the sale of 255 Vulcano precision-guided artillery shells to Ukraine.

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