



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

April 10 – 16

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International support

10.04

- Poulsen, Minister of Defense of Denmark, said that CAESAR howitzers should arrive in Ukraine within the next month. Now the Ukrainian soldiers are training on them in Denmark. **Denmark transfers all of its CAESAR (19 units) to Ukraine.** Poulsen also announced that they plan to deliver about 100 repaired Leopard 1A5 tanks within six months, which Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands have pledged to hand over to Ukraine. The first tanks should be sent by summer.
- The **German Ministry of Defense** announced the transfer of a new **package of military aid** to Ukraine. According to the information on the German government's website, Germany handed over a Leopard 2-based Dachs engineering vehicle, 8 Zetros trucks, 8 mobile antenna systems, 8 reconnaissance drones, and 23,520 40mm grenade launcher ammunition.

11.04

- Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution at the Federal Chancellery in **Austria**, confirmed that the President of the Russian Federation, **Vladimir Putin, will be arrested if he is in the country.**
- The Ministry of Defense of **Bulgaria** discusses the **transfer of MiG-29 fighter jets** to Ukraine only within the framework of **'triangular agreements'**, i.e. on the condition that the country will receive modern combat aircraft in return. The ministry emphasized that they did not conduct negotiations on the free provision of Bulgarian fighter jets, because such a decision could undermine the country's defense capabilities.
- Anita Anand, **Canadian Minister of Defense**, announced the transfer of a **new package of military aid** for Ukraine. Anand said that 21,000 assault rifles, 38 machine guns, and over 2.4 million rounds of ammunition are donated. Information about the transfer of military aid to Ukraine was also confirmed by Justin Trudeau during a briefing with Denys Shmyhal, Ukrainian Prime Minister. Also, **Canada** introduced **new sanctions** against 34 companies and 14 citizens of the Russian Federation, there are representatives of the Wagner PMC among them too.
- It is announced that the **eleventh meeting** of the Contact Group on Ukraine's Defense of the **Ramstein format** will be held on the Air Force Base in Germany on **April 21, 2023**. Lloyd Austin, Head of the US Defense Ministry, will lead a personal meeting of the Contact Group. Air defense systems remain the priority of the Ukrainian delegation at Ramstein-11.
- Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister of Defense of Denmark did not rule out that Western countries will decide by the summer whether they will **transfer Western fighter jets**, in particular F-16, to Ukraine. He clarified that Denmark is not going to do it alone. A collective agreement is needed.

12.04

- In response to the video of a **Ukrainian prisoner of war being beheaded**, Peter Pavel, President of the Czech Republic, said that if the video's authenticity is confirmed it would **put Russia alongside ISIS fighters**. Urmasu Reinsalu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, after the video was published, called on the International Olympic Committee not to allow Russians to **participate in the Olympic Games**. Charles Michel, President of the European Council, said that he would make every effort to make the criminals who brutally executed a Ukrainian soldier **accountable** for their crimes.
- The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced the introduction of **new sanctions against Russia**. A **number of intermediaries** from Turkey, Hong Kong and the UAE, who help Russia import electronics, quadcopters and other foreign goods for the defense industry to circumvent sanctions, have come **under the restrictions**. Sanctions have also been applied to the International Investment Bank (IIB) registered in Hungary.
- The investment arbitration tribunal with administrative support by the Permanent Court of the Arbitration in the Hague ordered Russia to pay \$5 billion in compensation to the largest Ukrainian oil and gas company Naftogaz for losses caused by the seizure of assets of Naftogaz Group companies in Crimea in 2014.

12.04

- Margarita Robles, Spanish Minister of Defense, said that **Spain** planned to send **six Leopard 2A4 tanks** to Ukraine in the coming days, with the final shipments expected to arrive by the end of April. In addition to tanks, Spain will provide Kyiv with **20 more armored personnel carriers**.
- **France blocks** the decision to **allocate 2 billion euros** under the European Peace Facility (EPF) to support the Ukrainian Armed Forces. It is about the decision to **purchase ammunition for Ukraine**, which was adopted at the EU summit in March. According to some diplomats, lobbying by defense companies may be behind France's decision.
- Reuters, referring to one of the published 'secret documents of the Pentagon', reports that **Serbia** is the only country in Europe that refused to impose sanctions against Russia, but at the same time **agreed to supply weapons to Ukraine** or has already sent them. The document also states that Serbia has the political will and military capability to provide weapons to Ukraine in the future.

13.04

- According to DPA reports with reference to the German Ministry of Defense, the German government has officially agreed to Poland's request for the **transfer of MiG-29 fighters from the GDR's stockpiles** to Ukraine.
- Mircea Geoană, NATO Deputy Secretary General, states during the First Black Sea Security Conference that **the Alliance supports Ukraine's long-term plan for Euro-Atlantic integration**.
- Valery Zaluzhnyi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, held a meeting with General Thierry Burkar, the Chief of Staff of the French Army, who arrived in Ukraine. They discussed the **need for artillery shells** and other projectiles, as well as the issue of supplying Ukraine with **air defense systems and F-16 fighters**.

14.04

- Viktor Orban, Hungarian Prime Minister, called Ukraine a **'financially non-existent country'**. He believes that as soon as Europe and the USA stop giving money to Kyiv, the war will end immediately. In reply, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine reminded that Hungary receives a lot of money from the European Union to support its economic stability. It also added that the Hungarian authorities should be grateful for the fact that against the background of unprecedented Russian aggression, Ukrainians are keeping a peaceful sky over Budapest and other European cities at the cost of their own lives.
- **All eight Leopard 2 tanks**, which **Canada** had promised to Ukraine, arrived in Poland.
- As of April 5, 2023, the Ministry of Defense of the Netherlands disclosed the list of military aid to Ukraine. It shows what has already been delivered to Ukraine and what is planned. The list includes the following:
 - T-72 tanks (45 units);
 - YPR armored tracked vehicles (196 units);
 - Fennek reconnaissance vehicles and Viking-tracked vehicles;
 - Leopard 1 tanks jointly with Denmark and Germany (at least 100 units);
 - Two Patriot SAM launchers with corresponding missiles;
 - MR-2 mobile anti-aircraft gun systems (100 units), air defense missiles and missile systems, including Stinger;
 - Baileybruggen bridge systems (15 units) and M3 pontoon systems (6 units);
 - 2 minesweepers of the Alkmaar class (to be handed over in 2025).
 - The list also includes a lot of ammunition, individual weapons, fire support systems, anti-tank weapons, drones and more. In total, aid to Ukraine is estimated at €1.2 billion.



- ✓ In spite of significant losses, the Russian forces do not abandon their plans to occupy Ukrainian territories.
- ✓ Towards Lyman, the Russian army is conducting unsuccessful offensive operations in the area south of Dibrova and near Bilohorivka.
- ✓ Towards Bakhmut, the Russian military continues to conduct offensive actions. Heavy fighting continues for the city of Bakhmut. Towards Avdiivka, the enemy carried out offensive operations in Novokalynove and Pervomaisk, without success.
- ✓ Towards Zaporizhzhia and Kherson, the Russian forces continue to conduct defensive operations.
- ✓ Towards Volyn, Polissia, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, no signs of the formation of enemy offensive groups have been detected. A comprehensive inspection of combat readiness of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus continues.

10.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine carried out 8 strikes on buildups of personnel and military equipment of the Russian occupiers. An enemy Mi-24 helicopter and 6 UAVs of various types were also shot down (2 of them are attack, 4 are reconnaissance). ➤ In February 2022, 70,000 Russians invaded Kyiv oblast from the territory of Belarus. This was stated by Oleksandr Pavliuk, First Deputy Minister of Defense, who then headed the Kyiv RMA. According to him, the most critical moment of the operation for Kyiv defense was the fighting in the village of Moschun. The victory under Makariv and Moschun formed the basis of the defeat of the enemy, and the storming of Kyiv failed. Also, according to Pavliuk, the destruction of the dam on the Irpin River did not allow the Russians to bring a sufficient number of pontoons and cross to the other shore. Thus, the Russian offensive was stopped. ➤ Another assault brigade is being formed in the "Offensive Guard". It will be called "Charter" and will be part of the National Guard.
11.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nataliia Humeniuk, Head of the joint coordination press center of the Southern Defense Forces, reports that Russians are trying to move their firing positions in the south. ➤ During the day, the Air Defense Forces of Ukraine carried out 13 strikes on buildups of Russian personnel and military equipment. Also, 2 enemy Orlan-10 UAVs were shot down. ➤ Units of missile troops and artillery struck 4 areas of concentration of manpower, weapons and military equipment, as well as 2 radio electronic warfare stations of the Russian military.
12.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russian occupation forces carried out 19 airstrikes, and more than 10 MLRS attacks on the positions of Ukrainian troops and the infrastructure of populated areas. There are wounded among the civilians. ➤ The Russian army continues to concentrate its main efforts on conducting offensive actions against Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Mariinka direction. Here, the Ukrainian military repelled 34 Russian attacks. ➤ Before his visit to Washington, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal stated that the Defense Forces of Ukraine may launch a new counteroffensive not in the spring, but in the summer of this year. "We do not feel pressure from our friends and partners because of the beginning of the offensive. They understand very well: to go on a counteroffensive, you need to be ready for it 100 percent, or even more," he said. ➤ In recent weeks, Russia has been building three levels of defense zones in Zaporizhzhia oblast for about 120 km. According to British intelligence, the possible reason is that Russians are convinced that Ukraine is considering an offensive on the occupied Melitopol. At the same time, analysts add, it is not clear whether the Russian troops there have enough artillery and men for defense.
13-14.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Oleksii Hromov, Deputy Chief of the Main Operational Department of the General Staff, states that in autumn, Russia may intensify missile strikes on Ukraine. According to him, in June of this year, the Russian Federation plans to start serial production of strategic cruise missiles of the Kh-50 type, which will enable the Kremlin to intensify missile strikes. ➤ British intelligence reports that Wagner PMC mercenaries resumed the offensive through the center of Bakhmut, while Russian airborne forces took over the northern and southern flanks of the operation. The authors of the report add that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are still holding the western districts of the city, but during the previous 48 hours they were subjected to particularly intense artillery shelling from the Russian army. ➤ During the day, the aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine carried out 5 strikes on buildups of enemy manpower and equipment.

Losses of the Russian army from 10.04.2023 to 16.04.2023	
Liquidated personnel	3840
Tanks	23
IFVs	59
Artillery systems / MLRS	54/4
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	1/1
UAVs	24
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	65
Special equipment	13



✓ During the week, Russians launched **60 missile and 193 air strikes** and carried out more than **285 MLRS attacks**.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

Russian forces shelled the oblast more than 400 times - 4 killed, and 16 wounded. In Kherson, a garage cooperative, a hospital, the territory of a medical facility, a museum, an administrative building, a church, some power lines, and the port area were damaged. On 15 April, the Russian military attacked police officers in Kherson with drones, injuring two of them. Also, two police cars in Beryslav came under enemy drone fire, one officer was wounded. On the same day, two women were killed in the shelling of Kherson.

Chernihiv oblast

On 14 April, Russian aviation struck a company in the Chernihiv oblast's border area - 1 worker was wounded. There is destruction.

Donetsk oblast

Russians continue to shell both remote settlements in the oblast and the entire frontline. On the night of 10 April, they struck Druzhkivka with Smerch rockets - 2 people were wounded and 10 houses damaged. The enemy also fired two S-300 missiles at Kramatorsk, causing no casualties. On 12 April, the Russian military fired cluster munitions at Kurakhivka from Uragans, wounding 1 person. On the night of 13 April, the occupiers launched a missile attack on Sloviansk, hitting the residential sector, and damaging a school, 4 high-rise buildings and 3 private houses.

On 14 April, Russians shelled Sloviansk again, using at least 7 S-300 missiles. Five multi-story buildings, 5 private houses, a shop, a household center, a club and 3 cars were damaged. There are 15 killed (including a 2-year-old child) and 24 wounded.

Towards Donetsk, Krasnohorivka, Marinka community, Hostre, Kurakhove community, Kurakhove, Dachne, Marinka, Maksymilianivka, Ocheretyne, Avdiivka, Berestky, Soloviove, Ocheretyne community came under fire. Apartment blocks and residential buildings, the territory of an enterprise, outbuildings and shops were damaged.

Towards Horlivka, Bakhmut, Toretsk, Kostiantynivka community, Mykolaivka, Minkivka, Vasiukivka, Rozdolivka, Soledar community, Markove, Toretsk community, Kostiantynivka, Orikhovo-Vasylivka, Fedorivka, Chasiv Yar community, Novodmytrivka were affected. Private houses, multi-story buildings, a gas pipeline, a kindergarten, an administrative building, an office building, and a grain hangar were damaged.

Towards Lysychansk, Zvanivka, Pereizne, Yampil, Lyman community, Siversk, Torske and Zarichne came under fire. Commercial buildings, private and multi-story houses were damaged.

Towards Volnovakha, Vuhledar, Bohoiavlenka, Shakhtarsk, Velykonovosilkivska community, and Novoukrainka were shelled. Private houses were damaged.

Kharkiv oblast

The enemy shelled the border and frontline settlements of Kharkiv, Chuhuiv (1 wounded) and Kupiansk regions of the oblast. Private and residential buildings were damaged in Kurylivka, Kupiansk and Vovchansk (1 wounded). In the village of Kucherivka, there were 3 wounded, and civilian enterprises were damaged. A Russian UAV crashed in the Izium region, causing a fire in a field of 10 hectares. In the village of Kindrashivka, a civilian was wounded. In Dvorichna, a volunteer who helped evacuate the population was injured.

Sumy oblast

During the week, Russian forces shelled Seredyno-Buda, Bilopillia, Velyka Pysarivka, Yunakivka, Znob-Novhorodka and Nova Sloboda communities with mortars. In Bilopillia, the premises of an enterprise were damaged and a man was wounded. On the night of 16 April, Russians carried out an air strike on the outskirts of the village of Svesa in the Svesa community, 2 people were wounded. A municipal institution and two administrative buildings were damaged.

Mykolaiv oblast

The enemy attacked the settlements of Kutsurub and Ochakiv communities. Residential buildings, cars, gas and electricity supply were damaged in Ochakiv. There were no casualties. On the night of 16 April, Russian forces shelled the Snihurivka community, killing two teenagers born in 2005. Residential buildings, an educational institution and a private enterprise were damaged. In Snihurivka, two educational institutions, a hospital, the house of culture and residential buildings were damaged. A kindergarten and a club were damaged in the Horokhiv community.

Zaporizhzhia oblast

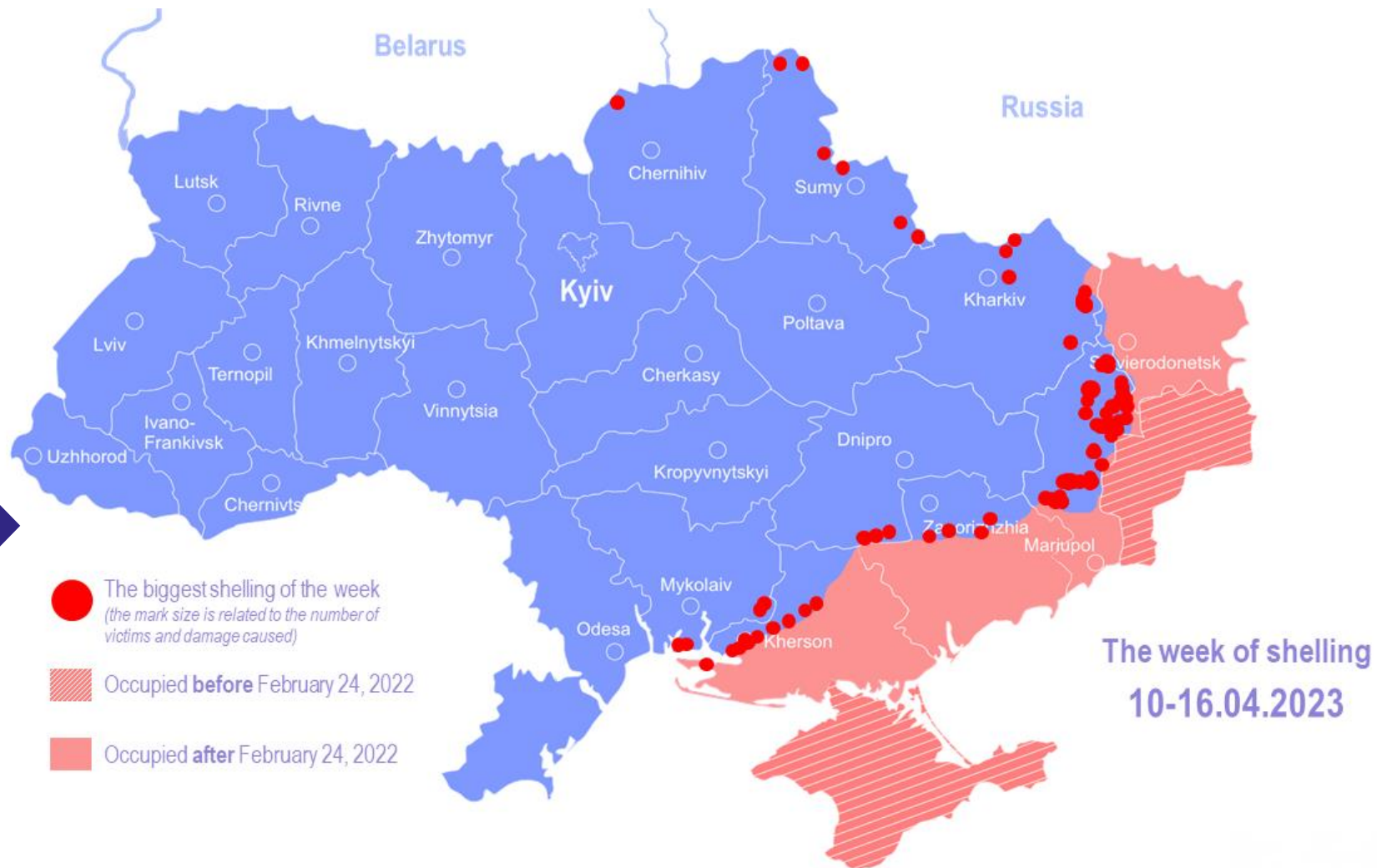
The shelling of Vasylivka and Polohy regions of the oblast continues. Houses, outbuildings, and an educational institution were damaged. On 11 April, Russian Su-35 aircraft carried out air strikes on the towns of Orikhiv and Huliaipole in Zaporizhzhia oblast.

Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Russian troops continue to terrorize the oblast. They fired cannon artillery at Marhanets and Myrove communities. There were no casualties. On 12 April, Russian forces shelled Nikopol, injuring 4 people. 13 private houses were damaged. On 16 April, Nikopol was shelled again. They hit the church with heavy artillery, resulting in 2 wounded: a 57-year-old man and a 38-year-old woman. Five residential buildings, two cars, and several power lines were also damaged.



This week shelling and strikes



Dnipropetrovsk oblast



Donetsk oblast



Humanitarian crisis



10.04

- The areas in the **Cherkasy and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts**, as well as in the government-controlled part of **Zaporizhzhia oblast**, which were subject to the Priority Mine Action Plan, have been **fully inspected**. In regions where military operations are ongoing, the list of priority demining areas includes territories located no closer than 20 km from the line of active hostilities.
- The **outpatient clinic** in Makariv (Kyiv oblast), which was destroyed by the Russian soldiers a year ago, has been **rebuilt**. The medical facility was restored jointly by the Ministry of Health, the KSE Foundation (the charity fund of the Kyiv School of Economics), the Kyiv Regional Military Administration, and numerous Ukrainian and international benefactors.
- According to the National Resistance Centre, Russian authorities are conducting a **census of the existing housing stock** in the temporarily occupied territories of Luhansk Oblast, particularly in Starobilsk, to **identify abandoned apartments**. The main goal of the aggressor is to settle representatives of the Russian occupation forces.
- In accordance with the order of Serhii Aksionov, head of the occupied Crimea, cooperation between **military commissariats** and **schools for military and patriotic education** of children should be strengthened in Crimea.
- The head of the Presidential Office has announced that Ukraine has successfully **returned 100 military servicemen from Russian captivity**. These individuals had been defending Mariupol, Azovstal, Hostomel, Chonhar, Zmiinyi Island, Zaporizhzhia NPP, Chornobyl NPP, etc. Some of them sustained serious injuries. According to the Coordination Centre, the group of returned captives consists of 80 male and 20 female defenders, including 24 National Guardsmen, 22 border guards, 22 Navy representatives, 21 Armed Forces servicemen, and 11 territorial defenders. The youngest individual among the rescued is 19 years old.
- Ukraine conducted a **rescue mission to bring 24 children**, taken from Kherson oblast, **back from Russia**. Upon their return, they were greeted by Oleksandr Prokudin, Head of the oblast. Volunteers from Save Ukraine were involved in the rescue mission, described as one of the most challenging they have ever undertaken. According to the volunteers, the Russian authorities **interrogated the children for 13 hours** and forced them to appear in a propaganda report.
- Iryna Vereshchuk, Deputy Prime Minister, has announced that Ukraine is going to **establish an international coalition to facilitate the return of Ukrainian orphans from Russia**. Organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and UNICEF may act as intermediaries.
- In one of the settlements of the Beryslav community in Kherson oblast, a twenty-year-old man and a girl attempted to go out into the bay by boat when they were immediately attacked by the Russians. An explosive grenade was dropped from a drone causing serious injuries to them. They were subsequently hospitalized.

11.04

- Russians have reportedly turned nature reserves seized in Ukraine into hunting grounds, mines, and tank parking lots. According to Andrii Yermak, Head of the President's Office, **twenty nature reserves in Ukraine are currently under Russian occupation**.
- In Kyiv oblast, there are still **195 unidentified individuals** who were **killed during the occupation**. Additionally, 279 people are still missing. Andrii Niebytov, Head of the regional police, notes that 15 mass graves and three torture chambers have been identified over the course of the year.



11.04

- In the temporarily occupied **Mariupol**, the Russian forces demolished a monument to the world-famous artist, **Arkhip Kuindzhi**, whose museum was looted at the beginning of the full-scale war. The Mariupol City Council condemned the act, stating that the monument was erected back in 1984. This is yet another instance of Russians' **destruction of the city's cultural heritage**.

12.04

- A video of the torture and beheading of a Ukrainian prisoner of war by Russian soldiers was posted on the internet. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called the footage shocking, and it was not the only one – **the Office documented 15 executions of Ukrainian prisoners of war over the year**. There have also been cases of Ukrainian soldiers being used as human shields, the deaths of two wounded due to lack of medical care, and torture. Nabila Massrali, the EU spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, called the video “another reminder of the inhumanity of Russian aggression” and stated that Russia’s actions completely disregard international law.
- Dmytro Lubinets, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, said he had sent letters to the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross regarding the video of the Ukrainian soldier's execution. The ombudsman demands that the UN Human Rights Committee considers this issue separately and that it should be recorded separately in all reports of international organizations.
- The Wall Street Journal reports that **Russians are massively deforesting the occupied territories** of Ukraine. This is recorded by satellites, law enforcement agencies of Ukraine, and the Defence Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. **The wood is exported to Russia** for sale, and the occupiers use it locally to build military positions.
- Pavlo Kyrilenko, Head of Donetsk Regional Military Administration, stated that more than 1.1 million people have been evacuated from Donetsk oblast since the start of the full-scale invasion. The evacuation of civilians is still ongoing. Pavlo Kyrilenko stressed that since 24 February 2022, there has not been a single day without deaths or injuries in the oblast.

14.04

- The Ministry of Reintegration reports that Ukraine has returned the bodies of 82 fallen defenders.
- Russian occupants are continuing to turn **Zaporizhzhia NPP** into a military base by **mining the territory around the plant**. These actions cannot but have consequences. A Russian mine exploded near the turbine room of the fourth power unit of Zaporizhzhia NPP. Europe's largest nuclear facility continues to suffer from the arbitrariness of the Russian military.
- The Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine has urged residents of Donetsk oblast who had previously evacuated to safer regions to refrain from returning home so far.

15.04

- The deputy mayor of Ochakiv said that up to **8,000 hectares of forest were burned in the Kinburn Spit reserve**, and all living things were destroyed. The reserve had a unique flora and fauna that could not be found anywhere else in Ukraine. It is not yet possible to record environmental crimes committed by Russians on the territory of the spit due to the temporary occupation.