



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing

April 17 – 23

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17.04

- During the **G7 Nuclear Energy Forum** in Sapporo Forum Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Japan, and France made a decision to create an **alliance to oust Russia from the international nuclear energy market** as soon as possible. This is said on the official English government website. As stated, the agreement must set the ground *"to oust Putin from the nuclear fuel market totally" and "cut off another means of financing his barbaric attack on Ukraine."*
- The **German** Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs has asked the European Commission to impose **restrictions on Russia's civilian nuclear sector** as part of the next package of sanctions. The Ministry of Economy of Germany claimed that including the nuclear sector in the next package of sanctions against Russia will take some time, but noted, that such measures should be imposed during the transition period
- A court in Iran sentenced ten Iranian servicemen in the case of the **downing of a Ukrainian UIA plane over Tehran** in 2020, which **killed 176 people**. The Tor M-1 air defense system commander, from which the plane was shot down, was sentenced to 13 years in prison, and nine other servicemen were sentenced to 1 to 3 years in prison. The International Coordination and Task Coordination Group for the victims of UIA flight PS752 called the trial in Iran "fictitious", and **considered the investigations and sentences biased and opaque**.
- **Slovakia** handed over all **13 MiG-29 fighters** to Ukraine, the country's Defense Ministry said.
- Foreign Affairs Ministers of G7 countries in the meeting in Japanese Karuizawa have agreed to **strengthen control over adhering to anti-Russian sanctions** and to react better on arms supplies by third countries to Russia.
- Premier Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal informed that **Canada** will transfer to Ukraine Russian **AN-124 aircraft** (known as "Ruslan") and **other assets of the enemy**.

18.04

- During the last week, **Germany** has transferred the Patriot **anti-aircraft missile system** to Ukraine along with the missiles to it. Also, Germany transferred 16 Zetros **trucks** and 2 border guard **vehicles**, the German governmental site says.
- In April **Poland** sent proposals to the European Commission for a new, eleventh package of European Union **sanctions against Russia**, mentioning, in particular, restrictions on **imports of Russian oil and gas**. Warsaw proposes, among other things, to stop the import of Russian oil through the northern branch of the Druzhba pipeline, which goes to Germany and passes through Poland. The current EU sanctions do not apply to pipeline oil. The Polish side also proposes a **complete ban on imports of natural gas from Russia**, in particular liquefied natural gas, and **diamonds**, as well as to limit cooperation in the field of nuclear energy – the latter, as known, was openly supported by Germany and Lithuania.
- **Japan** became the first country to allocate money in the amount of **\$23 million for military risk coverage** while **investing** in Ukraine, informs Premier Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal.

19.04

- **Germany** will provide Ukraine with another **€111 million for reconstruction**, informed the State Secretary on Development Issues Flasbarth. The funds will primarily be directed to **housing for internally displaced persons**, as well as to repair and equip kindergartens, schools, and hospitals, the Ministry for Reintegration noted.
- **USA** announced a new **military aid package of \$325 million**. It will include in particular, additional ammo for HIMARS, artillery shells, small arms ammunition, aviation ammunition, maintenance equipment, and more, the Pentagon said.
- **Cyprus** government announced the establishment of a national body on the issues of **implementing sanctions against Russia**.
- Patriot anti-aircraft missile systems from the United States, the Netherlands, and Germany arrived in Ukraine. Germany also handed over to Ukraine the second of four promised IRIS-T SLM anti-aircraft missile systems.
- President Joe Biden has extended the ban on Russian vessel traffic in U.S. ports.

19.04

- **EU** is preparing a new **aid package** of €100 million for the farmers of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria, and also will take "preventive measures" for Ukrainian grain, stated President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen in response to the request from those 5 countries. What preceded it:
 - **Poland** has suspended the **import of Ukrainian grain** at least until July and later announced a ban on importing Ukrainian agriculture products to the country. Then Ukraine and Poland agreed on the resumption of product transit: it will work on the night of April 21.
 - After Poland, **Hungary** has announced the suspension of the import of Ukrainian grain until June 30.
 - The **European Commission** has called the **decisions** of Poland and Hungary **unacceptable**, emphasizing that it is important to coordinate such issues inside the EU.
 - From April, 19 **Slovakia banned the import** of grain and some food products **from Ukraine**, saving the opportunity of transit in third countries. **Bulgaria** is also expected to make a similar decision.
 - **Romania** is not yet prohibiting the import of Ukrainian grain but will impose additional security measures and monitoring of cargo that is transiting through the country.
 - After Russia blocked Ukrainian seaports, alternative supply routes have been launched from Ukraine – "solidarity routes" through the territories of EU neighbor countries. The EU canceled duties on the import of Ukrainian goods, resulting in which European farmers starting to suffer losses.

20.04

- **Denmark**, together with **the Netherlands**, will transfer **14 Leopard 2 tanks** to Ukraine, Danish Foreign Minister Rasmussen has said. Deliveries are expected in early 2024. The Leopard 2 is in addition to the 100 Leopard 1 tanks previously announced by the Danish government.
- **NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg** has **visited Kyiv**, where he met with President Zelenskyi. This is his first visit to Ukraine during a full-scale war. At a joint press conference, Stoltenberg said that "Ukraine's place is rightfully in NATO" and supported Zelenskyi's peace plan. They also discussed the next meeting in the Ramstein format, the NATO Vilnius Summit, on which special attention will be paid to Ukraine's membership in the Alliance, as well as security guarantees for Ukraine on its way to NATO.
- **Switzerland**, following the European Union, imposed **sanctions against PMC Wagner** and RIA "FAN" media owned by Russian Yevgeny Prigozhin.
- **Estonia** will provide Ukraine with a batch of **155mm shells** as part of an EU initiative to supply Ukraine with one million artillery ammunition, as well as night vision devices and ammunition, Estonian Defense Minister Pevkur has said.
- **Slovenia** will join the project of joint procurement of **artillery ammunition** for Ukraine.
- European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič, while in Kyiv, announced an additional **€55 million in humanitarian aid** to Ukraine amid Russia's full-scale invasion.

21-22.04

- **Canada** is providing Ukraine with a new package of military assistance totaling about \$29 million, including a contribution to a NATO trust fund to provide Ukraine with essential fuel supplies, sniper rifles, and ammunition.
- **Latvian Defense Minister Ināra Mūrniece** announced the decision to **transfer to Kyiv all Stinger man-portable anti-aircraft missile systems** available to the Latvian side.
- The Group of Seven (**G7**) countries are discussing the possibility of expanding the sanctions regime against the Russian Federation, including a **ban on almost all exports to Moscow** - Kyodo. The corresponding decision can be made during the G7 summit, which will be held in May in Hiroshima.
- **Portugal** will transfer **5 armored rescue and medical vehicles** to Ukraine, Defense Minister Carreiras said following the meeting in the Ramstein format.



Military positions

- ✓ The Russian Federation continues to ignore international humanitarian law, strikes, and fires not only at the positions of Ukrainian troops but also at the civilian infrastructure of populated areas, terrorizing civilians.
- ✓ The main efforts of the Russian forces are focused on conducting offensive actions in the Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka, and Shakhtarsk areas. The city of Bakhmut remains at the epicenter of hostilities.
- ✓ The operational situation in the Volyn and Polissya directions has not changed significantly. Certain units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Belarus continue to perform tasks in the areas bordering Ukraine. Some units of the territorial troops of the armed forces of the Russian Federation continue to be on the territory of the Republic of Belarus.
- ✓ In the Chernihiv and Kharkiv directions, the enemy has still been keeping a certain number of his troops in the Bryansk, Kursk, and Belgorod regions bordering Ukraine.
- ✓ The enemy keeps conducting defensive operations in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson directions.
- ✓ The probability of further missile and air strikes on the entire territory of Ukraine stays high.

17.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ During the day, the enemy carried out 34 airstrikes, launched 31 attacks from multiple rocket launchers. There are wounded among the civilian population. ➤ The enemy keeps suffering losses. So, on April 17 of this year, the enemy tried to carry out a medical evacuation from the temporarily occupied Luhansk region towards the settlement of Urazovo, Belgorod region. 14 trucks were used to transport the wounded. When attempting to cross the State Border of Ukraine into the territory of the Russian Federation, for certain reasons, the Russian side did not let the military convoy pass and turned it back. It is known that during the mentioned movement some of the enemy soldiers did not survive due to the lack of proper medical care. Another part of the seriously injured, more than 50 people, was transported to the hospital deployed on the basis of the Troitsk Central District Hospital.
18.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The head of the GUR of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov stated, the attempt of the so-called "winter-spring" offensive by the Russians failed. According to him, there is no potential for conducting a strategic offensive operation in Russia now or in the near future. "Russia has switched to a strategic defense operation to hold the captured territories and deter the Ukrainian counteroffensive," Budanov said. ➤ Analysts of the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) believe that the head of the Wagner PMC, Yevgeny Prigozhin, is likely to return Putin's favor. This is happening due to the inability of the regular troops of the Russian Federation to fulfill the tasks that Putin set before them during the winter offensive in Donbas. The ISW added that Wagner's forces are receiving reinforcements, ammunition and political recognition.
19.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ According to the commander of the Ground Forces, Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrskyi, the Bakhmut direction remains the epicenter of the Russian offensive. "The Ukrainian military restrains the onslaught of the Russian occupiers in dynamic battles in the Bakhmut area and inflicts significant losses on them." ➤ British Ministry of Defense intelligence considers Russia is likely to reduce its offensive in the Donetsk region in order to redirect forces in the direction of Bakhmut. ➤ According to the authors of the report, the number of groups around Bakhmut has become a critical issue for both sides. Ukraine wants to free up forces for the offensive, while Russia is likely looking to rebuild an operational reserve. ➤ The Russians are intensifying their shelling of southern Ukraine because they are panicking about a possible Ukrainian counteroffensive and are trying to prevent the Armed Forces of Ukraine from preparing for it. This was stated by the head of the joint coordination press center of the Southern Defense Forces Nataliya Humeniuk.
20-21.04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ British Defense Minister Ben Wallace expressed confidence in Ukraine's planned counteroffensive, but made it clear that the war will most likely continue next year, writes the New York Times. "I'm optimistic for this year for Ukraine, but I also think we should be realistic and there's not going to be a single magic wand moment when Russia collapses," he told reporters. ➤ During the day, the enemy carried out 17 airstrikes and launched 33 attacks from multiple rocket launchers on the positions of our troops and settlements. ➤ More than 40 enemy attacks were repulsed in the Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka, Marinka and Shakhtarsk directions. The fiercest battles are being fought for the city of Bakhmut. ➤ Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Malyar said that keeping Bakhmut is increasingly difficult for the Armed Forces, as the city is being destroyed by the Russian side. She also noted that Ukraine is forced to use maximum resources for defense, but also conducts active offensive operations. ➤ On April 21, the Russians used up to 12 Shahed-136/131 attack drones. The forces and means of anti-aircraft defense destroyed 8 Shaheds. The Russian Federation attacked from the north (Bryansk region).

Losses of the Russian army from 17.04.2023 to 23.04.2023	
Liquidated personnel	4350
Tanks	18
IFVs	48
Artillery systems / MLRS	42/1
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	5
Aircraft / helicopters	0/1
UAVs	63
Ships/boats	0
Vehicles & fuel tanks	72
Special equipment	13

21.04

- ISW reported, the Russians did not succeed in encircling the Armed Forces in Mariinka. Ukrainian forces repelled Russian attacks on Mariinka and Pobieda. The settlements are located 23 and 27 km southwest of Donetsk. Russian troops also conducted unsuccessful offensives near Avdiivka: 5 km to the northeast in Kamianka, and within 15 km to the west.
- According to another British intelligence report, soft soil and spring mud in most of Ukraine will likely slow down operations on both sides. However, the Russian media exaggerate the impact of weather conditions on the plans of the Ukrainian army as part of an information campaign aimed at raising the fighting spirit of Russians and demoralizing supporters of Ukraine in anticipation of the offensive of the Armed Forces. The most important factor limiting the maneuverability of troops on the road is still the threat of landmines.
- Almost 25,000 Ukrainian soldiers are currently undergoing training in Germany, and almost nine more have already completed it and returned to Ukraine. Also, 65 operators have completed training at the Patriot complexes, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States Milli informed.
- More than 7,000 servicemen are considered missing in Ukraine. Such data are given for April 2023. According to statistics, 65% of the missing are alive and in captivity. As of February 24, Ukraine returned 2,235 Ukrainian men and women from Russian captivity.
- During the day, the aviation of the Defense Forces of Ukraine made 1 attack on the areas of concentration of personnel, weapons and military equipment of the occupiers. Units of rocket troops and artillery hit 3 enemy control points during the day.

22.04

- Over the past day, the enemy launched 3 missile strikes, and 30 airstrikes, and launched 50 attacks from multiple rocket launchers.
- In the Kupyansk direction, during the past day, the enemy made an attempt to improve the tactical position and carried out assault operations near the settlement of Lyman First, but was unsuccessful.
- In the Lyman direction, the enemy carried out unsuccessful offensive actions in the direction of Bilohorivka. Offensive actions in the direction of Avdiivka were not successful.
- In the Mariinka direction, during the past day, enemy attacks were repelled in the Mariinka area. For the previous day, in the Shakhtarsk direction, the enemy conducted unsuccessful offensive actions in the Vuhledar area.
- Over the past 24 hours, the Air Force of the Defense Forces has carried out 5 strikes on the concentration areas of the occupiers, and units of missile troops and artillery have hit 2 areas of manpower concentration, an anti-aircraft missile complex, and 2 important military objects of the enemy.

Losses of the Russian army from 17.04.2023 to 23.04.2023

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✓ During the Over the week, Russians launched **23 missile and 294 air strikes** and fired over **388 MLRS attacks**.

Kharkiv oblast

Towns and villages in Kharkiv, Kupiansk and Chuhuiv districts of the oblast were under Russian fire. In Kupiansk, Vovchansk (2 killed, 2 wounded), Petropavlivka village (1 wounded), Dvorichna village (1 wounded) and Kozacha Lopan village, private houses and outbuildings were damaged. In the village of Zelenyy Hai, an infrastructure facility was damaged.

Donetsk oblast

Russians continue shelling remote settlements in the region and along the entire frontline. On the night of 18 April, Russians shelled Sloviansk using S-300 missiles and kamikaze drones. Seven high-rise buildings, 5 private houses, an entertainment center, a business center, and cars were damaged. On 18 April, 8 people were wounded in the shelling of Ukrainka. Three high-rise buildings and 18 trade pavilions of the local central market were damaged. On the night of 19 April, Russians launched a rocket attack on Druzhkivka, causing minor damage to the hospital building.

In the Volnovakha sector, Novoukrainka, Prechystivka, Bohoyavlenka and Vuhledar came under fire from Grad multiple rocket launchers, artillery, and incendiary ammunition. Private houses and an agricultural enterprise were damaged,

In the Donetsk sector, Soloviove, Ocheretyn community, Kurakhove, Avdiivka, Hirnyk, Novooleksandrivka, Mariinka, Kurakhove and Hrodivka communities are affected. Residential buildings were damaged.

In the Horlivka sector, Kostiantynivka, Chasovy Yar, Kostiantynivka, Soledar, Illinivka and Toretsk communities, Orikhovo-Vasylivka, Minkivka, Nikiforivka, Vasiukivka, Bakhmut, Predtechyne, Fedorivka, and Viroliubivka came under fire. An enterprise, cars, multi-story buildings, private houses and a school were damaged.

In the Lysychansk sector, Zvanivka, Pereizne, Siversk, Torske and Zarichne of the Lyman community came under fire. Residential buildings, a school, and a shop were damaged. There are dead or wounded in all directions.

Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

Russia continues to terrorize the oblast by shelling the settlements. Residential houses and apartments, outbuildings, garages, and storage facilities of an educational institution were damaged. In the evening of 16 April, the occupants shelled Zaporizhzhia. The buildings of a garden cooperative were damaged.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

The Russian occupiers shelled the region more than 300 times - 2 dead, 9 wounded. The Russians attacked the territory of the children's health camp of the Bilozerska community, residential areas of Kherson, a building of a critical infrastructure enterprise and the territory of a car company. On 18 April, the shelling of the central part of Kherson killed one person and injured 10. Trade pavilions were damaged.

Mykolaiv oblast

Yesterday, Russians fired mortar and artillery shells at the water area and the coast of the Ochakiv community. Private and apartment buildings in Ochakiv were damaged. There were hits to the territory of the infrastructure facility. On the night of 18 April, Russians attacked an industrial infrastructure facility in the Snihurivka community with attack drones. There were no casualties.

Other oblasts:

During the week, Russian invaders fired grenade launchers at Velykopysarivka, Bilopillia, Shalyhyne, Seredyno-Buda, and Hlukhiv communities in the Sumy region.

Russians fired at the border of the **Chernihiv region** (Mykolaivka, Leonivka and Yanzhulivka) with cannon artillery and mortars. Residential buildings were damaged. There were no casualties.

On the night of 19 April, the enemy attacked the **Odesa region** with Shahed-131/136 kamikaze drones. Air defense forces destroyed 10 out of 12. There was a hit to an infrastructure facility. There were no casualties.

On the night of 21 April, Russians shelled the community of Myrovka, **Dnipro region**, with heavy artillery. There were no casualties.

On the night of 21 April, the enemy attacked the Poltava district of the **Poltava region** with drones. Civilian infrastructure was destroyed. There were no casualties.

On the night of 21 April, the occupiers hit an infrastructure facility in the **Vinnitsia region**. The fire was extinguished. There were no casualties.

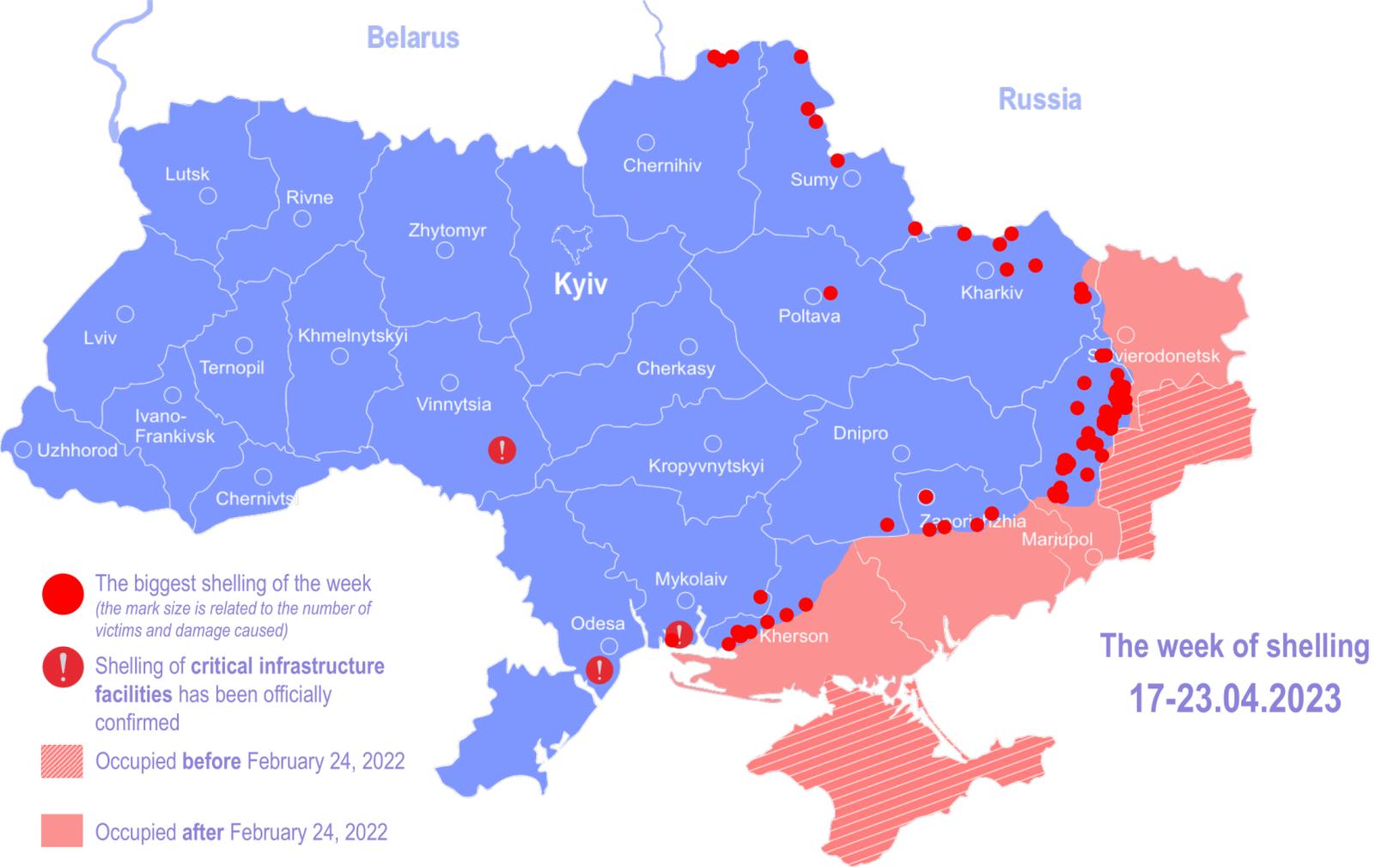


This week shelling and strikes

Odesa oblast



Donetsk oblast



Humanitarian crisis

17.04

- Former Russian prisoners who were recruited by the Wagner PMC have **confessed to killing POWs, civilians and children in the towns of Bakhmut and Soledar**. A video containing testimonies from ex-commanders Azamat Uldarov and Oleksey Savichev was recently published by Gulagu.net, the Russian project against corruption and torture, as part of its ongoing investigation. In the video, the Russians admitted to shooting over 20 Ukrainian children and teenagers, as well as detonating an explosive in a pit where more than 50 wounded prisoners of war and Russian military personnel who had refused orders to kill Ukrainians were being held. Oleksey Savichev's testimony is particularly disturbing: *"She's screaming, she's a little child... She's five or six years old, and I fired a control shot, you know, a control shot... I carried out the order with this hand, I killed the children. What we were doing when we entered Soledar and Bakhmut... We were ordered to clear and kill everyone. We went and killed everyone - women, men, pensioners, and children, including the little ones - five-year-olds."*
- The head of the Kharkiv regional military administration has announced the **possibility of a forced evacuation** from two settlements in the Derhachi community **due to constant shelling** and the need to remove children and their families from dangerous areas.
- In **Melitopol**, Zaporizhzhia oblast, the occupation authorities are **seizing the property of local residents** who have not paid their utility bills to enemy cash registers, according to Mayor Ivan Fedorov. The mayor also reminded that **more than 500 residents of the city are being held in torture chambers** by Russian occupiers and are being abused. Additionally, after each explosion in the city, the occupiers increase their measures against local residents. For saying "Glory to Ukraine" or expressing any other pro-Ukrainian sentiment, they impose a fine of 30,000 RUB or detain and torture the person. Ivan Fedorov also noted the increasing number of **abductions** of local residents. According to him, the Russian occupiers kidnapped three people and sent them to the Lefortovo Detention Centre in Moscow. The Russians have also established a fake court in the region.
- According to the National Police, five children and their parents were evacuated from Krasnohorivka, Donetsk oblast, in one day. It was noted that every trip to Krasnohorivka poses a risk to the lives and health of police officers, as the **front line is several kilometers away**, and the road to the city is shelled by the occupiers. Earlier reports indicated that **42 children remained in Krasnohorivka** because their parents refused to evacuate despite the heavy shelling.

18.04

- According to Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, **86% of Ukrainian soldiers** who returned from Russian captivity said they had been **subjected to direct physical torture**. *"We open our own proceedings for each returned soldier, record facts that again confirm the ill-treatment of prisoners of war... This, by the way, was found not only by us but also by the UN Human Rights Mission. They have approximately the same figures."*
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has **confirmed 8,534 deaths and 14,370 injuries of civilians in Ukraine** as a result of Russia's full-scale invasion. The casualty figures may be much higher, as information from some areas where intense fighting is ongoing is delayed.
- As part of the humanitarian food program **Grain from Ukraine**, the Negmar Cicek vessel **delivered 30,000 tons of wheat** to the Port of Salif in the Republic of **Yemen**. The shipment of Ukrainian grain to Yemen was supported by the UN World Food Program (WFP), as well as financial assistance from the governments of the United States, France, and Spain, the Office of the President of Ukraine reported.

18.04

- The General Staff reports that the Russian army is **mining** the territory of the temporarily occupied Kherson oblast, in particular, the **waters of the Konka and Dnipro rivers**, leading to cases where local residents die trying to get to the water. The mayor of Enerhodar also reported similar actions taking place around the city earlier.

19.04

- Russia wants to **transfer more than 26,000 children from the occupied territories** of Ukraine and bring them to 631 summer camps in Russia that are run by educational organizations and provide childcare services, according to Deputy Prime Minister Tatiana Golikova.
- Since the beginning of 2023, more than 22,000 people have been evacuated to safe regions by **evacuation trains**. Most of them are people with limited mobility and families with children, according to the press service of Ukrzaliznytsia. *"Currently, evacuation trains are running regularly from Pokrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson and will continue to run as long as necessary."*

20.04

- Ukraine signed an agreement with the European Union on a **Civil Protection Mechanism**. It concerns the formation of a **joint security environment** and makes Ukraine a full participant in the system of international coordination assistance and response to any consequences of emergencies - Minister of Internal Affairs of Ukraine Ihor Klymenko. He also reported that during Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, **rescuers saved 4,000 Ukrainians and retrieved 1,700 bodies from the rubble** caused by Russian attacks. The rescuers also managed to extinguish 15,000 fires caused by Russian shelling.
- Deputy Minister of Defense Hanna Maliar has stated that the invaders are intensifying their attempts to **impose Russian aggressive ideology** on the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, with a **focus on young people**. A powerful propaganda campaign has been launched to encourage schoolchildren from the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories to voluntarily attend specially-equipped camps in the temporarily occupied Crimea.
- The Russian invaders have resumed operations at quarries near occupied Mariupol for the extraction of granite. The stolen granite is being shipped to both Russia and Crimea. Russia's stated intentions to "use the construction waste for roads" have turned out to be false.

21.04

- A **demining machine** based on a crawler-mounted excavator has been **developed in Kryvyi Rih**, Ukraine. Equipped with special attachments to neutralize mines, it will be utilized in the humanitarian demining of fields.
- Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) present at the Zaporizhzhia NPP have heard shelling almost every day this week. This was reported by the IAEA press service.
- Deputy Defense Minister of Ukraine Hanna Maliar said that Ukraine has released **2,235 people** from Russian captivity since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, nearly 20% of whom **were considered missing**, despite the lack of confirmation or evidence of their captivity. Among those released were military personnel, border guards, National Guard members, sailors, and employees of the State Special Transport Service.
- The Cabinet of Ministers has simplified the procedure for wounded soldiers to travel abroad for treatment. They can now obtain a referral from the medical facility where they are undergoing treatment or rehabilitation.

