



# Transatlantic Dialogue Center

## Weekly briefing

**December 19 – 25**

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# International support

19.12

- **The United Kingdom of Great Britain** has announced a new package of military support for Ukraine that primarily includes artillery ammunition. The future supply of weapons will take place under the 250 million pounds worth contract. It will guarantee the constant supply of extremely important artillery ammunition to Ukraine during 2023.
- According to the Speaker of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry, Nikolenko, as of now the **US** is not using **lend-lease** for transferring military aid to Ukraine. They are using other programs to save the Ukrainian budget in the future.
- **The Canadian Government** is planning to confiscate \$26 million of Russian oligarch's Roman Abramovich funds that were arrested according to the sanctions. Canada is planning to use this money to rebuild Ukraine.

20.12

- According to Fedorov, the Minister of Digital Transformation, Ukraine will receive another batch of more than **10 000 Starlink terminals**. "Elon Musk will continue to support Ukraine", said the Minister.
- Head of EU diplomacy **Josep Borrell** met with Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, and stressed the need for an immediate **end to Russia's military support** and internal repression in Iran.
- The Ukrainian State budget received a **\$2 billion grant from the United States**. The funds will be used to pay pensions, fund salaries for civil defense workers, and pay for services under the medical guarantee program.
- **The Economist** named Ukraine the **country of 2022** for the heroism of the people and resistance to the aggressor. *"In normal times, picking The Economist's country of the year is hard. Our writers and editors usually begin with a freewheeling debate in which they spar over the rival claims of half a dozen shortlisted nations. But this year, for the first time since we started naming countries of the year in 2013, the choice is obvious. It can only be Ukraine"*, The Economist wrote.

21.12

- **The US** will provide \$1.85 billion in military aid to Ukraine as part of a major package that will include Patriot air defense systems and precision-guided munitions for fighter jets for the first time.
- **President Zelenskyi** arrived in the US **to meet President Joe Biden**. During a press conference in Washington, DC, Biden ordered \$1 billion to allocate for Ukraine's defense needs, including training of military personnel. The US President said that he shares Zelenskyi's vision of a just peace and that Washington's and its allies' task is to continue helping Kyiv to win on the battlefield.
- **Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán** promises to maintain the approach in the next year as well, under which Hungary will remain as far away from the war in Ukraine as possible. *"Europe is already drifting towards war. He who supplies weapons is ankle-deep in it, he who trains soldiers is waist-deep in it, he who trains an entire warring country is up to his ears in war,"* he said, expressing hope that Europe will not find herself "up to its neck in war". Orbán also repeated his ridiculous thesis that peace in Ukraine would be best achieved by negotiations between Russia and the USA.

22.12

- During Ukrainian President **Zelenskyi's speech in Congress**, he thanked the USA for help and called for unified actions against Russian aggression. Congress applauded him 21 times with standing ovations.
- The United States is increasing **sanctions against the Wagner** Private Military Company. The US Department of Commerce has announced new restrictions on technology exports for the Russian PMC Wagner in order to further limit its military capabilities due to its participation in the war against Ukraine.
- **French President Macron** considers it unlikely that Ukraine will join NATO, because of Moscow. He also noted that Ukraine needs to be given security guarantees in the process of deciding to end the war, but Russia would also need such guarantees.
- At the Libava training ground in the Czech Republic, the first group of **Ukrainian servicemen completed their training**, as part of the European Union **EUMAM mission**. It is expected that during 2023, four more groups of Ukrainian servicemen, numbering about 800 people, will arrive in the Czech Republic, the first of which should start training already in January.
- **Finance ministers of G7** countries announced their intention to send up to \$32 billion in budget support to Ukraine and, if necessary, increase this amount.
- **The US Senate** approved a budget of almost \$45 billion for aid for Ukraine and its allies. Key spending items include up to \$14.5 billion for the transfer of existing reserves of military equipment to Ukraine by presidential decision, \$9 billion for the purchase of military aid for Ukraine, and \$13.37 billion in financial support.

23.12

- **Stoltenberg** emphasizes that the Kremlin's actions indicate Russian plans to renew the offensive on Ukraine, and invitations for peace talks are just attempting to buy some time for preparations.
- **Biden** signed the US defense budget for next year with a record USD 858 billion, which includes USD 800 million of military support for Ukraine.

25.12

- **"The UK** has donated over 900 generators to Ukraine and has sent approximately 15,000 sets of extreme cold weather kits to the Ukrainian Armed Forces including cold weather clothing, heavy duty sleeping bags, and insulated tents. We anticipate a further 10,000 cold weather kits will be delivered by Christmas," the Ministry of Defence (UK) noted.



<b>19.12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ On the night of December 18-19, the Russians again attacked Ukraine with Iranian kamikaze drones. In total, more than 35 drones were launched. The Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in cooperation with other components of the Defense Forces of Ukraine, destroyed 30 drones. Units of anti-aircraft missile forces, fighter aircraft and mobile fire groups were involved in combat operations.</li> <li>➤ On December 19, in the city of Starobilsk, about 100 wounded Russian servicemen were brought to the surgical department of the regional hospital, which is equipped as a military hospital. Due to the significant losses of the Russian troops, the occupation authorities continue to repurpose hospitals in Luhansk oblast into military hospitals. This happened to local medical institutions in Bilovodsk and Markiovka.</li> <li>➤ Head of the Joint Coordination Press Center of the Defense Forces of the South of Ukraine, Natalia Humeniuk, Russians can be ousted from Melitopol, repeating the history of Kherson. "Basically, everything repeats itself, in the same scenario, we already know how it will end," she said.</li> </ul>
<b>20.12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Towards Bakhmut and Avdiivka, the enemy continues to conduct assault operations, firing from tanks, mortars of barreled and rocket artillery at the positions of the Ukrainian military in the areas of 30 settlements. Currently, Bakhmut remains the hottest point of the front.</li> <li>➤ President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a working trip to Donetsk oblast, where he met with the Ukrainian military defending the city of Bakhmut.</li> <li>➤ The Head of State visited the forward positions of one of the mechanized brigades, whose personnel are confronting the enemy on the approaches to the city. The President heard the commander's report on the operational situation, logistics and proposals for further actions.</li> </ul>
<b>22.12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The enemy continues to suffer losses. As of December 22, Russia has lost more than 100,000 personnel and more than 3000 tanks.</li> <li>➤ On December 22, in Zaporizhzhia oblast, the Defense Forces destroyed 2 artillery systems with ammunition. More than 70 enemy servicemen were injured. Information on the occupiers' death toll is being clarified.</li> </ul>
<b>24.12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Over the past day, the Russian occupiers launched 3 missile and 10 air strikes, namely on civilian infrastructure in Donetsk oblast. The enemy also carried out 62 attacks from multiple launch rocket systems, as a result of which civilian objects in the city of Kherson were damaged, and there were civilian casualties.</li> <li>➤ Units of the Defense Forces of Ukraine repulsed the occupiers' attacks in the areas of 10 settlements of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts. During the day, Ukrainian aviation inflicted 13 strikes on buildups of personnel, weapons and military equipment and a strike on the positions of the enemy's anti-aircraft missile system. The downing of 9 enemy UAVs of various types was confirmed. Units of the missile forces and artillery of the Defense Forces of Ukraine hit 2 control points, 2 ammunition depots, and 11 buildups of the invaders' manpower.</li> <li>➤ Chief of the Defence Intelligence of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov gave an interview with The New York Times. Here are the key points of the conversation:</li> <li>➤ Now there are no signs of a new Russian offensive across the Belarusian border, as it was in February and March. The presence of Russian troops on the territory of Belarus is either routine exercises or distracting maneuvers.</li> <li>➤ Russia not only buys drones from Iran (Moscow denies this), but also tries to persuade Tehran to sell it ballistic missiles. According to Budanov, Iran has not yet agreed to sell the missiles, fearing even tougher sanctions.</li> <li>➤ The contract between Russia and Iran for the supply of drones was signed in the summer, it provided for the supply of 1700 drones and is gradually being implemented - Iran supplies Shahed drones in batches.</li> <li>➤ Regarding Bakhmut:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ For Russia, this is only an ideological and media issue. This is the reason why Wagner units are trying so fanatically to capture this city - they need to show that they are a force, and they can do what the Russian army could not. We clearly see and understand this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>25.12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ British intelligence believes that Russia is likely to have limited long-range missile strikes on Ukrainian infrastructure to about once a week due to the limited availability of cruise missiles. It was also noted that Russia has been building up its armed forces in Ukraine since October, but the lack of ammunition is likely to limit the Russian advance.</li> <li>➤ The Russians are transferring military equipment and personnel from Russia in the direction of Berdiansk and Melitopol. Part of the military equipment and manpower of the occupiers was transferred to Manhush and included in the columns formed in Mariupol. Part of the manpower on trucks with small-caliber guns was moved from the village Urzuf by road over the sea in the direction of Berdiansk.</li> <li>➤ The Armed Forces of Ukraine targeted the headquarters of the occupiers in the Zabaryny district of the Kherson region. A meeting of officers of the Southern Military District of the Russian Armed Forces was held there. Up to 70 occupiers were injured. The number of dead is being clarified.</li> </ul>

<b>Losses of the Russian army from 19.12.2022 to 25.12.2022</b>	
Liquidated personnel	<b>3770</b>
Tanks	<b>24</b>
IFVs	<b>47</b>
Artillery systems / MLRS	<b>43/8</b>
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	<b>1</b>
Aircraft / helicopters	<b>2/3</b>
UAVs	<b>57</b>
Vehicles & fuel tanks	<b>56</b>
Special equipment	<b>4</b>



✓ During the week, Russians launched **34 missiles and 109 air strikes**, as well as more than **467 MLRS attacks**.

## Kyiv and Kyiv oblast

On the night of December 19, air defense forces shot down 18 of 23 kamikaze drones over Kyiv oblast. Debris damaged a roadway in the Solomianskyi district, windows of a high-rise building in the Shevchenkivskyi district and 9 private houses. Three people were wounded.

## Kherson and Kherson oblast

Russian invaders keep shelling Kherson and Kherson oblast. During the week Russians shelled the oblast over 370 times. There are 11 dead and 34 wounded, including a 6-year-old child in serious condition. In Kherson, an educational institution, a hotel, private and apartment buildings, a critical infrastructure facility, an educational institution, the building of the Kherson Regional State Administration, a river port, a shipyard were hit. The occupiers also shelled the village of Havrylivka of the Novooleksandrivka territorial community with Hrad. A school, a college, a village council, an outpatient clinic and a house of culture were damaged. There were no casualties.

On December 24, Russians committed another terrorist crime - they shelled the center of Kherson with Hrad MLRS. It is known about 10 dead and 58 wounded, 18 of them are in serious condition. The occupiers hit the market, a shopping center, residential and administrative buildings, vehicles.

## Sumy oblast

The occupants fired mortars at Znob-Novhorod and Seredyno-Buda communities. The workshop of the local lyceum was burning, three cars, a tractor, a bus, and a private house were damaged. On December 22, the enemy dropped explosives from a quadcopter on the border of the Krasnopillia community.

## Mykolaiv oblast

The enemy shelled the water area of Ochakiv and Kutsurubsk communities with MLRS. The shelling of Ochakiv wounded 5 people, including a 10-year-old boy, a mother and a child. 16 residential buildings were damaged.

## Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

Occupiers shelled military infrastructure in Temyrivka, Chervone, Novoandriivka, Mali Shcherbaky and Plavni with rocket and cannon artillery. The shelling damaged civilian infrastructure and private houses in Orikhiv, Huliaipole, Vasylivka, Zaporizhzhia, Polohy regions and the Stepne community.

## Dnipro and Dnipropetrovsk oblast

Russians continue to terrorize Dnipropetrovsk oblast. As a result of shelling in Nikopol region and Chervonohryhorivka, Myrove, Pokrovsk, and Marhanetsk communities, private houses, gas pipelines, power lines were damaged, a water pumping station was de-energized, a children and youth sports school, a lyceum, an art school, and administrative buildings were damaged. An 8-year-old girl was injured in Marhanets.

## Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

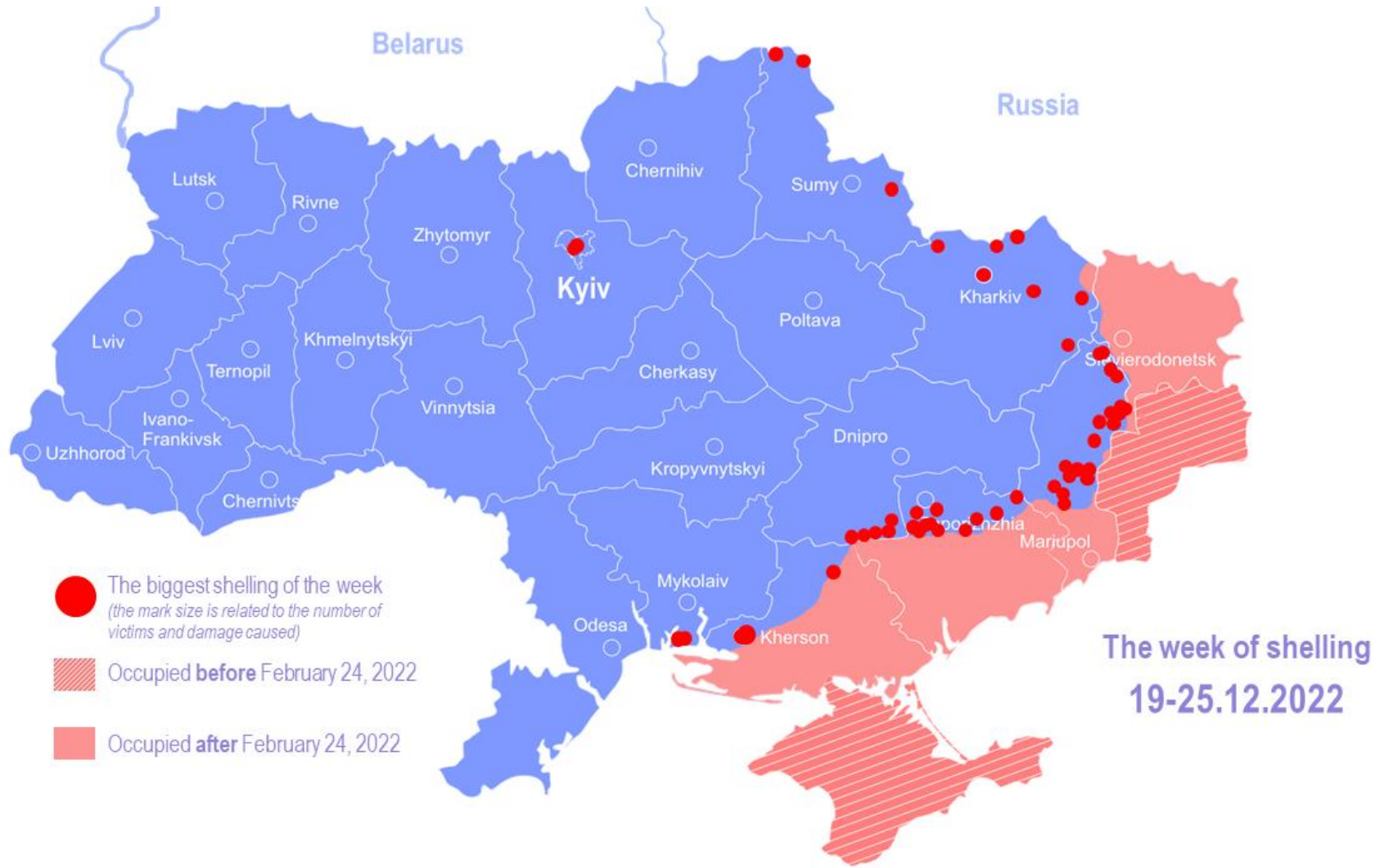
The enemy continues shelling the settlements of the oblast located near the border with the Russian Federation and the contact line. Kharkiv, Chuhuiv, Izium, Bohodukhiv and Kupiansk regions are under fire. A large-scale fire broke out at a civilian industrial infrastructure facility in Izium. In Vovchansk, 5 people were wounded, a residential building destroyed and the facility of the Central Regional Hospital damaged. A fire broke out in the administrative building of a civilian enterprise in Kupiansk as a result of hostile shelling. On December 22, there was an enemy missile attack on Kharkiv.

## Donetsk oblast

Towards Volnovakha, sporadic shelling of Vuhledar and Bohoiavlenka continues. Towards Donetsk, there was shelling of Marinka and the outskirts of Kurakhivka, Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Novoselydivka, Kostiantynopolske, Ocheretyne and Kurakhivka communities. Private houses and infrastructure facilities were destroyed. Bakhmut suffered the most. Siversk, Paraskoviivka, Dalia Dyliivka, Kostiantynivka, Yakovlivka, Chasiv Yar are also under fire. Multi-storey and residential buildings, a school, a kindergarten, power lines were damaged. There are wounded and dead. Towards Lysychansk, Torske and Zarichne of the Lyman community and Siversk community were shelled.



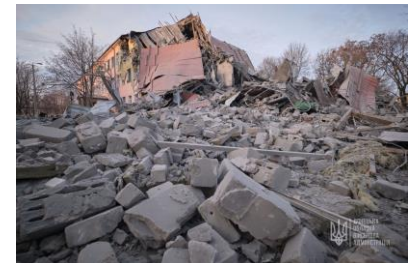
# This week shelling



Kyiv region



Kherson city



Donetsk region

# Humanitarian crisis

19.12

- During Saturday and Sunday, 7 ships with 182,000 tons of agricultural products left the ports of Greater Odesa under the "**grain initiative**" for the countries of Africa, Asia, and Europe.
- About 3% of consumers remain **without heating**, as a critical infrastructure object was damaged, after the morning attack of enemy drones in **Kyiv**. The situation in the energy system of Ukraine remains difficult, **emergency shutdowns** are in effect in the city of Kyiv, Kyiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv and Cherkasy oblasts.
- the Minister of Culture of Ukraine Oleksandr Tkachenko reports that the Russian occupation administration is set **to dismantle the Khan's Palace in Bakhchysarai**, an architectural monument. *"They are dismantling the roof and ensemble of colored stained-glass windows of the Golden Cabinet, replacing the old roof with modern building materials. In other words, they are erasing the national memory with a new building,"* he said.

20.12

- The condition of the **energy system** in Kyiv has practically not changed over the past day: less than half of consumption needs are satisfied, and there is no question of returning to the schedules. Currently, **80% of the oblast remains without electricity** in Kyiv oblast. The Prime Minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal, has warned that Russia may attack Ukraine's energy facilities again in the nearest future so that Ukrainians spend New Year's Day in darkness, therefore the government is going to triple the number of Invincibility Centres to 15,000.
- The Russian invaders in the occupied territories of Ukraine create so-called "youth movements" to expose Ukrainian children to propaganda, and also **recruit teenagers to militaristic groups** «Yunarmiya» (youth army).
- The number of **destroyed cultural infrastructure facilities** has increased exponentially over the past six months. The Russians destroyed most cultural clubs (47% of the total number of those that suffered losses). 1,132 objects of cultural infrastructure were damaged, excluding monuments of cultural heritage. Almost a third of them were completely destroyed.
- Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets said that three more children who were separated from their parents by the Russians during the temporary occupation of Kharkiv Oblast were returned to Ukraine. To-date, 13,613 Ukrainian children have been deported to Russia.

21.12

- Currently, the situation with **electricity supply** in Ukraine is most difficult in Kyiv, as well as in the central and frontline regions, because of damage to grids and equipment: **60% of transformers have been destroyed due to Russian attacks**.
- Ukrposhta asked other national postal operators to allow sending generators and charging stations from their post offices to Ukraine tax-free.
- The WHO reports that **every fourth Ukrainian may have mental disorders** due to the war. These range from anxiety and stress to more severe conditions such as PTSD. The number of appeals is increasing after 10 months of the full-scale war.

22.12

- Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal announced that Ukrainian authorities do not plan to evacuate residents of major cities to rural areas in case of a blackout. Recovery from the most difficult complete blackout, according to the estimates by energy experts, takes from seven to ten days. The Ministry of Energy of Ukraine stated that if there are no new massive attacks from the Russian Federation, Ukraine will stabilize the energy system by the summer.
- According to Dmytro Lubinets, Human Rights Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada, Russia sometimes deliberately takes out **Ukrainian prisoners of war** allegedly for exchange, and then returns them to the colony and says that Ukraine refuses to exchange them. Lubinets emphasized that the Ukrainian side did not refuse a single person offered by the Russian side for exchange.
- In the temporarily Russian-occupied Mariupol and its surroundings, at least **10,300 new graves** have been counted by the Associated Press since March.
- The Ministry of Veteran Affairs reported that the **number of veterans**, their family members and families of fallen soldiers among the citizens of Ukraine after the end of the Russian aggression will make up 10%.
- The situation with the **energy supply** in Kyiv remains difficult, so emergency shutdowns of consumers are currently continuing. The supply of power to consumers is the main problem at the moment.
- Yuliia Svyrydenko, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine said that the shift of businesses to power generators could cause **inflation** to increase by 1-2 percentage points in 2023.

23.12

- More than a million Ukrainians received **winter aid** from the **UN Refugee Agency**, of which almost 300,000 received cash payments. According to the humanitarian organization website, the winter assistance program has already covered more than 1 million people in Ukraine. More than 800,000 people received basic necessities (blankets, thermoses, heaters, clothes); cash payments - almost 300,000 people; materials for repairs and insulation of houses - more than 12 thousand people.
- As part of the YeRobota program, the government is allocating UAH 400 million to provide grants to entrepreneurs.
- The ruins of the Drama Theater in Russian-occupied Mariupol, on which the Russian army dropped a bomb on March 16, 2022, are being demolished. Inside the drama theater, there was a bomb shelter in which about 1,000 civilians were hiding. The rear and central parts of the theater will be completely dismantled, that is, only those parts of the building that prove the bombing will be dismantled. In this way, the **Russians destroy the traces of war crimes** committed against the civilian population of the city.
- Kyiv oblast is among the leaders in the number of **carbon monoxide poisonings**. About 370 cases were recorded in November alone. During the first week of December, about 100 cases were registered, the largest number of cases was recorded in Lviv, Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts.

