



Transatlantic Dialogue Center

Weekly briefing **December 26 – January 3**

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27.12

➤ **German Foreign Minister Annalena Berбок** denies the possibility of maintaining 'normal relations' with Russia, which has carried out a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. said the German Foreign Minister. She stressed that the West will continue to *"We must be clearly aware that there can be no normal relations with this Russia. Like many Russians, we want to see a peaceful and democratic Russia that is not a threat to its neighbors,"* tighten sanctions against Russia as long as there is a 'brutal aggressive war and violation of international law', since 'Ukraine also defends the freedom of Europe'.

➤ **Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán** believes Ukrainians can fight as long as the U.S. supports them with weapons and money. *"If Americans want peace, then there will be peace,"* he said. Orbán reaffirmed Hungary's position that a ceasefire and then peace talks were needed in the war.

28.12

➤ **The United Kingdom** will provide the Armed Forces of Ukraine with **Sea King helicopters** as part of further support - 10 crews of the Armed Forces of Ukraine have conducted exercises. Sea King helicopters were previously used by the British Air Force and Navy, while in Ukraine they will be used for search and rescue operations.

➤ **Minister of the Armed Forces of France** Sébastien Lecornoux arrived on a visit to Kyiv. It is reported that he immediately went to the Wall of Heroes to lay a wreath on behalf of France and pay tribute to the Ukrainian soldiers who died in the battles, and testify to France's support for Ukraine.

29.12

➤ **German Economy Minister** Robert Habeck believes that Russia is on its way to military defeat in Ukraine. According to him, this is because the Ukrainian army receives weapons from Europe, NATO countries, and the United States and uses these weapons 'skillfully and strategically, wisely and heroically.'

➤ Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov said **Russia refuses to negotiate with Ukraine** according to the 'peace formula' offered by President Zelenskyi. At the same time, the Russian minister says that Kyiv is not ready for dialogue.

➤ **British Defence Minister** Ben Wallace said Britain would allocate **£2.3 billion to help Ukraine in 2023**.



30-31.12

➤ The British government said that **Britain has donated** more than **1000 VALLON** metal detectors and **100** bomb disposal kits to Ukraine **to help clear minefields** and make the restored area safe. These deliveries are the latest as part of the ongoing support that the UK provided to Ukraine throughout 2022 and which will continue in 2023.

➤ **NATO Secretary General** Jens Stoltenberg called on Germany and other allies to continue supplying weapons to Ukraine. *"It may sound paradoxical, but military support for Ukraine is the fastest way to peace,"* said Stoltenberg.

➤ **Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal** says that the third batch of Starlink terminals from Poland arrived in Ukraine, which will be installed in Invincibility Centres and at important facilities. The Prime Minister did not specify the number that arrived and how many terminals Ukraine will receive under this package.

➤ Chernihiv border guards received **Canadian combat armored vehicles** of the Roshel brand. As of the beginning of December, hundreds of them are supplied to Ukraine as assistance from international partners.

01 - 02.01.2023

➤ **NATO Secretary General** Stoltenberg believes that Russia is preparing a new wave of the offensive, and also urges not to underestimate the impact of mobilization carried out in the Russian Federation. He believes that Ukraine has not yet felt all the consequences of the so-called 'partial mobilization' that took place in Russia in the autumn. *"We'll be there for you no matter what. We will help you until the victory,"* he assured.

➤ **Israel's** newly appointed Foreign Minister Eli Cohen said Israel would start 'talking less publicly' about the Russia-Ukraine war. He declined to comment on Ukraine's provision of defensive weapons and said Ukraine would continue to receive 'significant humanitarian assistance.'

➤ Poland's ambassador to the UN, Krzysztof Szczerski, believes that **attempts** by *Western countries to preserve the face of the President of the Russian Federation will ultimately destroy the international order* developed after the Second World War. In early December, French President Emmanuel Macron said that the West should consider how to meet Russia's need for security guarantees if Putin agrees to negotiations to end the war in Ukraine.

- ✓ Russians continue to conduct full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine. Russian troops do not abandon their plans to reach the administrative border of the Donetsk region. Russians focus their main efforts on **maintaining offensive capabilities and replenishing losses**, particularly at the expense of mobilized personnel. In order to exert pressure on the Ukrainian leadership and civilian population, the Russians carry out air and missile strikes, as well as artillery **shelling of critical infrastructure** and civilian homes, thereby violating the norms of International Humanitarian Law, laws, and customs of warfare. In Volyn, Polissia, Siversk, and Slobozhanske's directions, the situation remains without significant changes, the enemy maintains a **military presence in the border areas**, and no signs of the formation of offensive groups of the enemy were detected.
- ✓ In other areas, the occupant forces are defending the previously occupied borders, focusing their efforts on deterring the actions of the Ukrainian Defense Forces, while shelling the positions of Ukrainian troops and civilian objects along the entire contact line.

26.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On the night of December 26, the airfield of the Russian strategic aviation in the city of Engels, Saratov region, became the object of an air attack - for the second time in a month. After the explosion, a fire broke out. In the morning, the Russian Defense Ministry reported that an unmanned aerial vehicle launched from Ukraine had been shot down over the airport, and the explosions and fire were just the consequences of falling debris. Now it is known for sure that three servicemen were killed, and the Russian Defense Ministry assures that the aircraft was not damaged. ➤ In an interview with the Ukrainian edition of Liga.net, the Chief of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov said that radical changes at the front are not expected yet. <i>"There are a number of objective reasons for this. Russia is now in a deadlock, and the only place where it is still "trying to try" to attack is Bakhmut. There are no particular successes in this direction. Since August, the Russians have been constantly saying that Bakhmut is almost captured. As you can see, it is already the end of December. The only place where they are trying to concentrate their forces is a little north of Bakhmut and in the direction of Zaporizhzhia,"</i> the Chief Intelligence Officer of Ukraine noted.
28.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Russia lost 620 military personnel over the day, most of them in the Bakhmut and Lyman directions. Since February 24, the total losses of the Russian Federation amounted to more than 103,000 people, the General Staff reported. ➤ Since September, Ukrainian air defense has shot down more than 420 Russian missiles and 430 kamikaze drones - Armed Forces of Ukraine. ➤ Russians have evacuated their command from Kreminna, Luhansk region, but it is too early to talk about de-occupation of the city, says Serhiy Cherevatyi, spokesman for the Eastern Group of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Kreminna is an important strategic settlement for the Luhansk region, its liberation will allow the Ukrainian Armed Forces to keep under fire control most of the roads of the Luhansk region. It also opens the way to other major cities of the region - Severodonetsk, and Lysychansk. ➤ A PMC "Patriot", which competes with the "Wagnerites", was spotted in the Donetsk region. It is reported to be controlled by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu.
29.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On December 29, Russians carried out another missile attack on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine. The Air Defense Forces of Ukraine managed to shoot down 54 missiles and 11 attack drones. ➤ Russian troops continue to accumulate equipment and forces in Luhansk. For several months, Russian troops have been creating large trenches and field fortifications in the Luhansk region, which could support a planned decisive Russian attack", - said analysts of the Institute for the Study of War.
30.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ukrainian Armed Forces have advanced more than 2.5 km to Kreminna, Luhansk region, the General Staff reports. <i>"Our soldiers continue offensive actions in this area."</i> ➤ As a result, the Armed Forces have already liberated 1,884 settlements from the occupiers. The Ukrainian authorities came immediately after the defenders: restoring the infrastructure, electricity, water, and gas supply, providing humanitarian aid, restoring public services, and cash payments, said Deputy Head of the OP Kyrylo Tymoshenko. In addition, he published other results of the year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 15,199 infrastructure facilities have been restored, and the same number is in the process [of restoration]; ➤ protection of 297 energy facilities has been organized, specialists work 24/7; ➤ protective constructions are being arranged on the border with Belarus - anti-vehicle and anti-personnel barriers, mine-blast barriers, and reinforced concrete sections.

Losses of the Russian army from 26.12.2022 to 04.01.2023	
Liquidated personnel	7670
Tanks	30
IFVs	98
Artillery systems / MLRS	60/8
Anti-aircraft warfare systems	3
Aircraft / helicopters	1/4
UAVs	138
Vehicles & fuel tanks	124
Special equipment	4



<p>31.12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On New Year's Eve, Russia launched another missile attack on Ukraine. „On December 31, the Russians launched missiles exclusively from the Caspian Sea for the first time. Probably, it is more difficult for them to deliver supplies to the Black Sea coast. This suggests that keeping logistics under fire control on the left bank [of Ukraine] is quite successful,” said Natalia Humeniuk, head of the Joint Press Center of the Defense Forces of Southern Ukraine. ➤ Another large exchange of prisoners was carried out. 140 Ukrainians are returning home. 82 soldiers of the Armed Forces, 15 from the Territorial Defense Forces, 22 from the National Guard, 11 from the Navy, and 10 from the State Border Guard Service. 132 men and 8 women. In total, 1596 people were returned from enemy captivity in 2022. In particular, 1464 servicemen and 132 civilians were liberated from Russian captivity. ➤ Russians continue to suffer losses. It was confirmed that on December 31 the Ukrainian Armed Forces fired at enemy manpower and military equipment near Chulakivka, Kherson region. The enemy losses amounted to about 500 servicemen wounded and killed.
<p>01.01.23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On January 1, 2023, the units of the Defence Forces of Ukraine fired upon the personnel of the Russian occupiers near the settlement of Fedorivka, Kherson region, the number of enemy losses is to be clarified.
<p>02.01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Russian Defense Ministry said that Ukraine hit a "temporary deployment point of one of the Russian units" in occupied Makiivka, Donetsk region, with HIMARS on the night of January 1, killing 63 soldiers. The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine has not commented on this information yet. Earlier, former commander of the so-called "DPR" militants Girkin said that the strike on the Russian military deployment point detonated an ammunition depot and destroyed "almost all" equipment located there: <i>"The number of dead and wounded goes into many hundreds"</i>. ➤ "Further and more": Chief of the Defense Intelligence of Ukraine Kyrylo Budanov announced new strikes on Russian territory. At the same time, he refused to confirm Ukraine's involvement in the attacks on Russian air bases but promised to tell them about it after the war. When asked about the strikes on Crimea, he replied: "Crimea is the territory of Ukraine, so we can use any weapon". Earlier Budanov said that the next year will bring joy and victory to Ukraine and the change of power to Russia. Good news, according to the head of the National Intelligence Service, should be expected in the second half of 2023.
<p>03.12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On December 2, the Russians carried out 6 missiles and 52 air strikes, and 77 attacks from multiple rocket launchers. All 6 missiles and 30 air strikes were carried out by the occupiers against civilian infrastructure. In addition, all 27 UAVs "Shahed-136" used by the enemy were shot down by the Ukrainian Defense Forces. ➤ Russian forces, trying to take full control of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, focus their efforts on conducting offensive actions in the Bakhmut direction. They are making attempts to improve the tactical situation at the Lyman and Avdiivka directions, reinforcing the grouping at the Novopavlivka direction at the expense of units redeployed from the Kherson direction.

✓ During the week, Russians carried out **144 missiles and 214 air strikes**, and more than **577 attacks from MLRS**.

Attack on December 29

On the morning of December 29, Russia launched its **tenth massive missile attack** on Ukrainian energy infrastructure. Russia struck from different directions with air- and sea-launched cruise missiles from strategic aircraft and ships.

Air defense **destroyed 54 out of 69 missiles**. Air defense was working over Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Poltava, Odesa and Lviv, Sumy, Mykolaiv regions. Critical infrastructure was hit in Kharkiv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions.

- Over Kyiv, air defense shot down all 16 missiles that were directed at the city. Missile fragments fell in four districts of Kyiv, civilian infrastructure was damaged. Three people were injured in the Darnytskyi district, among them a 14-year-old girl. 21 private houses in the Kyiv region were damaged. A medical facility in the Fastiv district was damaged by debris.
- In Kharkiv, there was a hit in the Sloboda district. Four MLRS attacks were registered in the region. Critical infrastructure was hit.
- In the Lviv region, there were two hits on the power substation.
- Air defense shot down 21 missiles over the Odesa region. The fragments of one of the missiles hit a residential building, there were no casualties. However, there were hits to energy infrastructure facilities.
- Russians hit one of the energy facilities in the Ivano-Frankivsk region.
- In Kherson, the Regional Cardiology Dispensary was damaged as a result of shelling. Two people were injured during the attack

Donetsk oblast

Occupiers were shelling along the entire frontline. Druzhkivka and Kramatorsk, which are far from the frontline, were hit: the Ice Arena was destroyed, and buildings of the Academy of Science, bus station, church, residential buildings, and outbuildings were damaged.

In the Volnovakha sector, Vuhledar and Novoukrainka, Bahatyr of Velykonovosilkivska community, Vodyane, Prechystivka and Bohoyavlenka came under fire.

In the Donetsk sector, Russians were most active in shelling Kurakhove, Maryinka, Krasnohorivka, Dalne, Ostrovske, Hostroho of the Kurakhove community, Avdiivka and Ocheretyne community.

In the Horlivka sector Chasovoyarska, Soledarska and Toretska communities, Bakhmut, Ivanivske, Chasovyi Yar, Soledar, Kostyantynivka, Ivanopil, Oleksandro-Shultyno, Blahodatne came under fire. A boarding school, a cinema, a dormitory, high-rise buildings and private houses were damaged to varying degrees. There are wounded and dead.

In the Lysychansk sector, there was the shelling of Serebrianka of the Severska community, Torske, Dibrova, Lyman, Teren, and Zarichne of the Lyman community, Pereizne of the Zvanivka

Kyiv and Kyiv oblast

On December 30, at night, Russians attacked Kyiv with **7 kamikaze drones**. 2 of them were shot down on the approach to the capital, and 5 - over the capital. The falling debris **damaged a residential building** and a non-residential building in the Holosiivskyi district.

As a result of the **night attack of drones** on January 2, a critical infrastructure facility and private houses were damaged in the region.

Sumy oblast

During the week, the occupiers shelled with artillery and mortars the villages of Volfyne, Pavlivka, Pokrovka, Maiske, Sereidyno-Budska, Shalyhynska, Krasnopilska and Myropilska communities. There were no casualties.

Mykolaiv oblast

Russians continue shelling the water area and port zone of the Ochakivs and Kutsurubka communities. A warehouse was destroyed, residential and multi-story buildings, an enterprise, and an infrastructure facility were damaged.

Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast

Russians shelled the border areas of the Kharkiv region with artillery, tanks, mortars and other weapons. In the Kupiansk direction, the Russians shelled the areas of Novomylnsk, Tavilzhanka, Dvorichna, Lyman Pershy, Vilshana, Kupiansk, Kucherivka, Orlianka, Kurylivka, Kyslivka, Kotlyarivka, Tabaivka, Pershotravneve. Vovchansk and other settlements of Chuhuiv and Kharkiv districts are also under constant fire. Outbuildings and houses were damaged.

Chernihiv oblast

On the night of December 31, the enemy attacked one of the military camps in the region with Iskander. There were no casualties. A woman was killed by an enemy shell in Semenivka. Populated localities and outskirts of Lypivka and Yelino were shelled with artillery and mortars.

Zaporizhzhia and Zaporizhzhia oblast

Occupants shelled civilian and military infrastructure near Olhivske, Zaliznychne, Orikhove, Novoandriivka, Huliaipole, Chervone, Mali Shcherbaky, Stepove, Shcherbaky, Charivne, near Zaporizhzhia, Orikhiv, Huliaipole, Vasylivka and Polohiv districts. There are dead and wounded. Russians also shelled Ukrainian positions along the entire contact line with tanks and rocket artillery.

Dnipropetrovska oblast

Occupants continue to terrorize the Dnipropetrovsk region. Nikopol district suffers the most. They shelled the Myrivska and Marhanetska communities, targeting them with about two dozen shells.

In the Chervonohryhorivska community a dozen private houses and outbuildings, a shop, gas pipelines, power lines and solar panels were damaged.

In the Kamianske district, fragments of a downed munition fell on a private enterprise. There was a fire.

In Nikopol, high-rise buildings and private houses were damaged, as well as a hospital, a bank, two pharmacies, a hotel, shops, and a power line.

Kherson and Kherson oblast

Russians **shelled** the settlements of the Kherson region **more than 330 times** during the week. They hit a critical infrastructure enterprise, warehouses, a medical facility, a kindergarten, a bakery, private and apartment buildings. There are dead and wounded civilians. On December 27 in Kherson Russians shelled the maternity ward of the hospital where two children were born. Before the attack, doctors managed to complete a cesarean section.

On January 2, Russians attacked the city center of Beryslav in Kherson region – they shelled the city market. Presumably, they fired from a tank from the temporarily occupied Kakhovka. 5 wounded, and three of them are in serious condition.



«Happy» New Year: how Ukraine celebrated the beginning of 2023

On the afternoon of December 31, Russia massively shelled Ukraine again. Russians **attacked civilian infrastructure** in different regions of Ukraine. Russians **launched more than 20 cruise missiles**.

The launches were from the Caspian Sea and land-based missile systems. Air defense forces destroyed 12 missiles: six in the Kyiv region, five in the Zhytomyr region, and one in the Khmelnytskyi region.

- An elderly man was killed in Kyiv. 22 people were wounded, three of them in serious condition. 14 victims were hospitalized, among them a journalist from Japan. Private houses, a hotel, a stadium, and a school were damaged. Also academic buildings, a sports complex, and dormitories of the National University of Kyiv were damaged as a result of missile attacks.
- In the Khmelnytskyi region, seven people were injured and one person died as a result of the attack.
- Six people were injured in Mykolaiv. Two residential buildings were completely destroyed, and 12 residential buildings were damaged.
- In Zaporizhzhia 2 private residential buildings were partially destroyed, and about 8 more were damaged. One man, two women (one of them pregnant), and a child born in 2008 (in serious condition) were injured.
- On New Year's Eve, 32 out of 32 kamikaze drones were shot down near Kyiv.
- More than five thousand people used the Kyiv Metro as a shelter on New Year's Eve
- On January 1, Russians shelled the building of the regional children's hospital in Kherson, 1 person was killed and 1 wounded. About 7 arrivals were recorded, and more than 700 windows were broken. The occupants also shelled Chornobaivka. They shelled exclusively civilian objects – a gym, a boiler house, a kindergarten, a building of the Administrative Service Center, and a local outpatient clinic.

Kyiv, 31.12



Kherson, 1.01, children's hospital



- 13-year-old boy Yaroslav from the Kherson region came under fire twice on New Year's Eve. It happened first on 31 December, when Russians attacked the village of Naddniprianske near Kherson. While Yaroslav and his sister were returning home, their location was shelled. The boy suffered from the Russian attack for the second time on 1 January, when the Russian army shelled the Kherson Regional Children's Clinical Hospital. He was in a serious condition in the intensive care unit when his room's windows were smashed by the explosions.

This week shelling

Zaporizhzhia



Kyiv



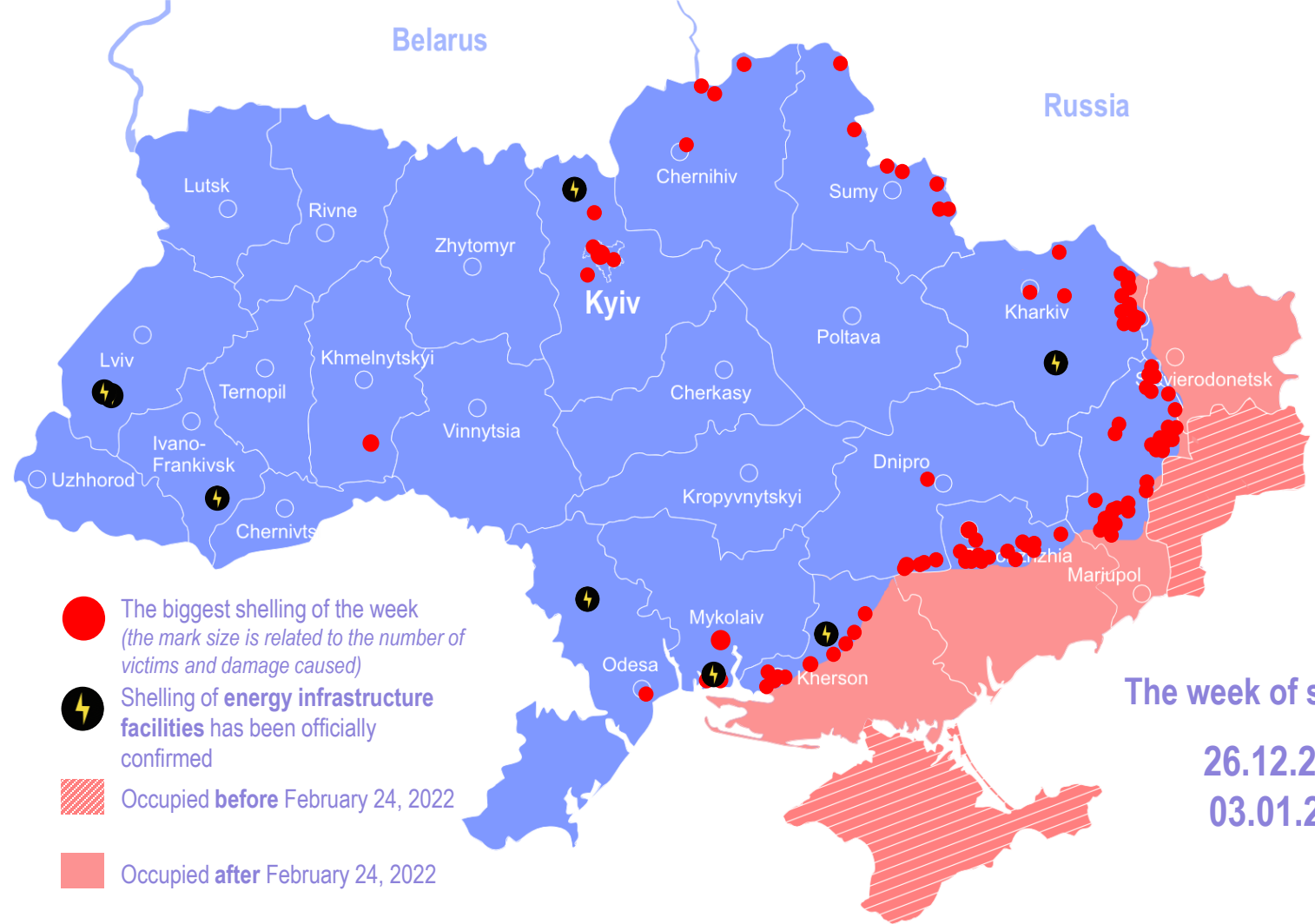
Kurakhove, Druzhkivka, Donetsk oblast



Dnipropetrovska oblast



Chernihiv oblast



- The biggest shelling of the week (the mark size is related to the number of victims and damage caused)
- ⚡ Shelling of energy infrastructure facilities has been officially confirmed
- Occupied before February 24, 2022
- Occupied after February 24, 2022

The week of shelling
26.12.2022-
03.01.2023

Humanitarian crisis

26.12

- Within the eRobota initiative for Ukrainian businesses, 626 entrepreneurs will receive microgrants totaling UAH 148.3 million (~\$3.6 mln), and 1,419 new jobs will be created.
- As of December 26, the **power shortage remains significant**. Due to exceeding consumption limits, emergency shutdowns were introduced in Kyiv and 5 oblasts.

27.12

- The 20 wealthiest Ukrainians lost more than \$20 bln during the full-scale war, among them 'new' businessmen working in hi-tech prevail.
- In the occupied Ukrainian territories, the Russians began to arrange the **so-called 'integration' of religious organizations**, intending to keep only the Kremlin-controlled churches.
- At the presentation of the Financial Stability Report, First Deputy Head of the NBU, Kateryna Rozhkova, noted that despite its recovery in Q2, **Ukraine's economy remains depressed**. This year, **GDP will fall by about a third**, and in 2023 it will grow more slowly than expected due to blows to energy infrastructure.
- The power outage has become a new challenge for the smooth operation of banks because of additional operating losses that may exceed UAH 300 million.
- In Ukraine, 22,000 Starlink terminals were used in 2022, and 80% of the liberated cities are partly with the restored Internet. Ukraine is among the countries with the largest number of Starlinks. Over 22,000 terminals were received due to the initiative of the Ministry of Digital Transformation.
- The Luhansk RMA informs that Russian invaders are **forcing** residents of the temporarily occupied Luhansk oblast **to apply for Russian citizenship for children**, blackmailing them with dismissal from work or deprivation of social payments.

29.12

- President Volodymyr Zelenskyi has signed laws introducing preferential import of Starlink and generators to Ukraine.
- The occupation authorities of Mariupol, represented by collaborator Kostiantyn Ivashchenko, regularly publish information about the humanitarian aid that the city allegedly receives. In contrast, the current Mariupol City Council published photos indicating a **humanitarian crisis** in the occupied city. These photos show a large crowd of people queueing for food.
- Russian missile attacks on Thursday morning **left 90% of Lviv without electricity**.

30.12

- As a result of damage from the shelling on December 29, the backup power line of the Zaporizhzhia NPP was cut off. The NPP continues to receive electricity to cool its reactors from the only active 750 kV external power transmission line. It is the only remaining line out of four that existed before the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine. Also, IAEA experts reported that they heard the sounds of loud explosions from several hundred meters from the object, near the water channel connecting the nearby Zaporizhzhia TPP with the Dnipro River.
- The situation with the electricity supply in Kyiv is stable – the capital is returning to the schedules of stabilization power outages.
- In total, Russia carried out nine massive missile attacks in 2022, mainly aimed at the energy infrastructure of Ukraine: October 10 and 11; November 15 and 23; December 5, 14, 16, 19 and 29. As of 12:00 on December 30, 164 strikes were carried out, 609 missiles and 95 drones were fired. The effectiveness of Ukrainian air defense is 76.4%.

31.12

- On December 31, academic buildings, a sports complex, and dormitories of **the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv were damaged** as a result of missile attacks. This time, the damage caused by a rocket crash will be several times higher than those experienced by the University during a massive attack in the center of Kyiv on October 10. Despite the tough New Year's Eve, on January 1, dozens of teachers and students of the University came out to clean up the consequences of the damage caused.
- According to a survey done by the sociological group Rating, more than 60% of respondents noted that the **financial situation in their families worsened** in 2022 due to employment problems and reduced incomes, as a result of the war. 35% also say that their health condition is declining. 94% of the respondents rated the prices for basic goods and medicines as the worst.

01.01.23

- Since the beginning of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, **15 million tons of grain have been exported from the ports of Ukraine**. Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said that *"thanks to the work of the Joint Coordination Center established in Istanbul, more than 15 million tons of food were safely sent from the Ukrainian port to countries that need it.."*
- The number of Ukrainian refugees has hardly changed due to the energy terror of the Russian Federation, as was analyzed at Opendatabot. At the same time, in October, when the blackouts began due to the shelling, Ukrainians began to **return less actively**. Thus, in October, for the first time in the last five months, the number of those who left exceeded the number of those who returned by 16.3K people. Before that, from May to September, more people returned to Ukraine than left). The Cabinet of Ministers predicts that about 1.8 million refugees will return home in 2023.

