



MALCONTENT NEWS RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR SITUATION REPORT



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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grateful for the foundation’s work to assess and verify territorial control changes and their permission to provide maps for our Situation Report.

Contents

SUMMARY – DAY 260	3
DAILY ASSESSMENT	3
TODAY’S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP	6
KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV	7
DNIPROPETROVSK & ZAPORIZHIA	14
DONBAS REGION	17
SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK	17
NORTHEAST DONETSK	23
LUHANSK	27
KHARKIV	31
CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION	32
KYIV REGION	33
BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION	33
WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE	34
RUSSIAN FRONT	34
THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS	34
RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS	35
WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS	35
GEOPOLITICAL	37
ECONOMIC	37

SUMMARY – DAY 260

It has been 3,166 days since the occupation of Crimea on February 27, 2014.

The big news is in Kherson, where the Russian withdrawal continues, and there is a lot of uncertainty. Russian forces have withdrawn from approximately 20 settlements at the time of publication. Russian troops have probably retreated further back. Ukraine's advance is likely slowed by roads being heavily mined and destroyed bridges.

DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. We assess Russia will conduct a fighting retreat from Kherson that will become increasingly chaotic and will be completed by November 30.
2. We assess that when liberation west of the Dnipro is complete, Ukrainian officials will discover that Russian troops committed significant war crimes and atrocities.

3. We assess that neither belligerent will institute a winter pause and believe that significant offensive operations will continue unabated.
4. We maintain that President Putin's inner circle is actively targeting Russian Minister of Defense Sergei Shougi for dismissal and replacement due to continued military failures in Ukraine.
5. We assess there is virtually no chance of Russian forces will blow up the Nova Kakhovka Dam.
6. We maintain that the Russian navy's presence in the Black Sea has become irrelevant, with missile carriers reluctant to patrol beyond the immediate coast of Sevastopol.
7. We maintain terror attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure will continue across Ukraine despite the significantly reduced number of attacks over the last week.
8. We assess that the Russian military within Ukraine is combat ineffective and is only capable of mounting effective defensive operations.
9. We maintain that the Private Military Company Wagner Group is spread too thin due to its expanding role in the Donetsk oblast and the revelation of crippling battlefield losses.
10. We maintain that Ukraine holds the battlefield initiative, forcing Russian troops to remain in a defensive posture.

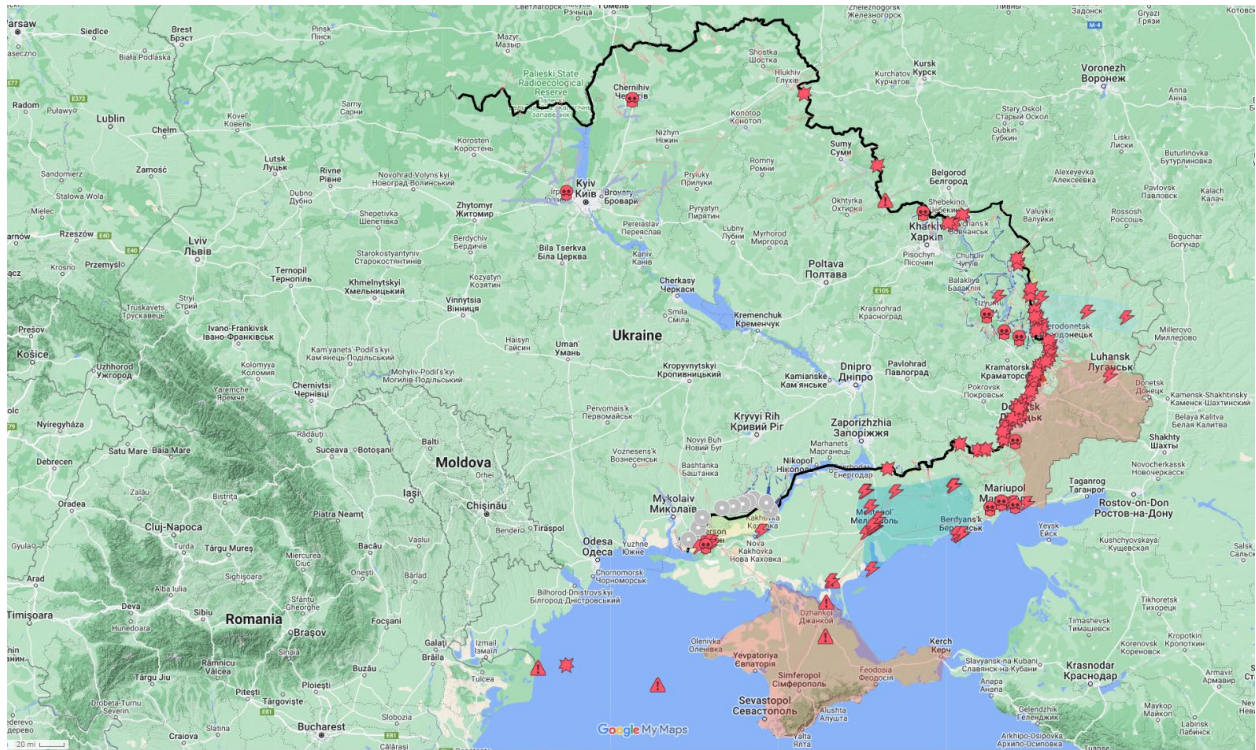


11. We maintain that Russian forces in Belarus remain a credible threat for an invasion of western Ukraine, but we now assess the possibility has pushed further out to the next 60 to 90 days.

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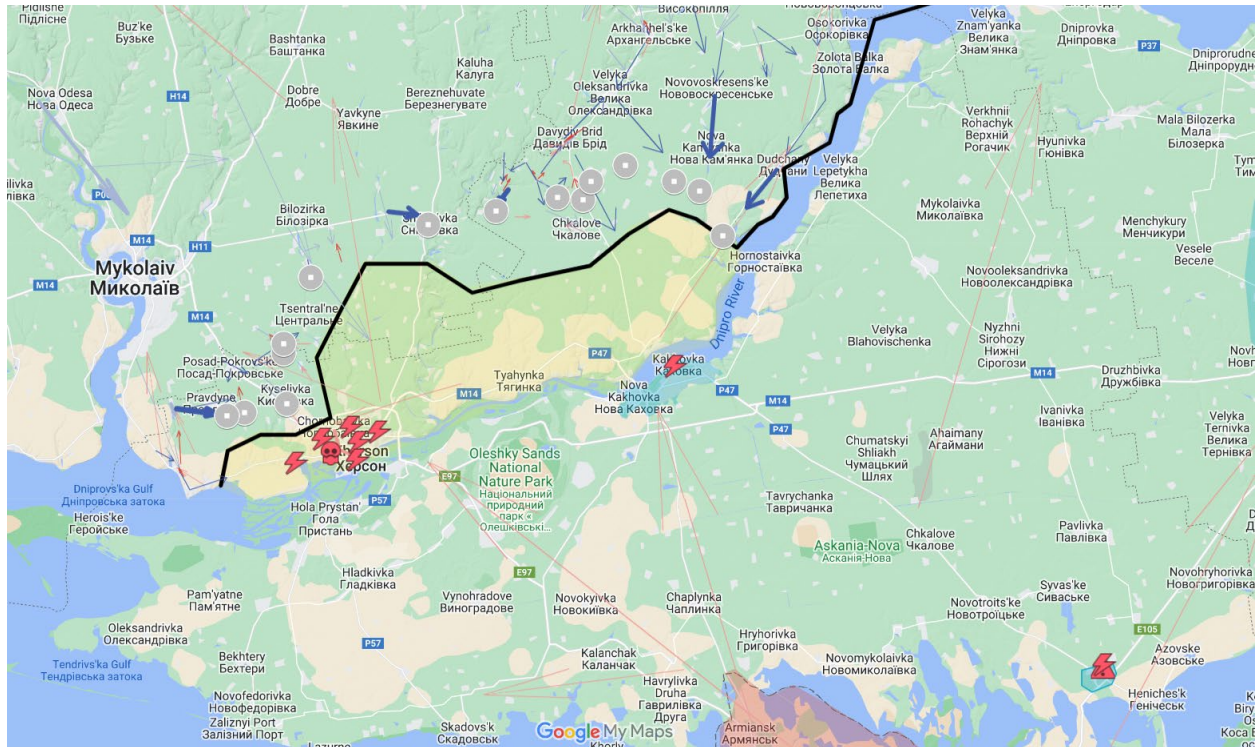
TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP



Information about changes made to the map: Red triangles are sites of significant events unrelated to missile attacks, insurgency, or ground combat, such as the sinking of the Moskva and the explosion at Saky Naval airbase. Based on your feedback, we changed the archived offensive flags to “gray circles.” The layer is turned off by default, but you can toggle it on/off in the Map Legend. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report.

You can visit our war map at <http://www.rusvukrmap.com>

KHERSON COUNTEROFFENSIVE & MYKOLAIV



Russian Objective: Execute a controlled withdrawal of all Russian troops and equipment located west of the Dnipro River, protect the Nova Kakhovka Ground Line of Communication (GLOC – supply lines), prevent Ukrainian tubed artillery from coming into range of the Dnipro River crossings

Ukrainian Objective: Maximize Russian casualties during their withdrawal across the Dnipro, convince Russian military units to surrender versus waiting to cross the river, complete the liberation of the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push

Russian forces back far enough to end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv

Russian forces continued their retreat from the west bank of the Dnipro River. The withdrawal started in an orderly manner, but panic had set in across multiple Russian information channels during the overnight hours. Some Russian milbloggers claimed that the retreat and evacuation of Russian troops and equipment were already completed. In contrast, others milbloggers showed videos of long lines of civilian cars awaiting to cross on ferries.

In a contested environment where Ukraine holds fire control, it would be virtually impossible to move 20,000 troops and their equipment in 24 hours, with some as far as 40 kilometers from crossing points.

There is a long list of liberated settlements northeast and northwest of Kherson, including Snigurivka, Bruskinske, Kiselyvka, Blagodatne, Borozenske, Pavlivka, Vasylivka, Yevgenivka, Bobrovy Kut, Stanislav, Oleksandrivka, Pravdyne, Soldatske, Chkalove, Myrolyubivka, Tamarine, Kucherske, Pyatikhatky, Kachkarivka, Sablukivka, Mylove, Novokairi, Bezvodne, Sadok, Ishchenka, and Staritsa.

Critical on that list – the Russian strongholds of Snigurivka, Pravdyne, and Bruskinske were abandoned, signaling this isn't a Russian psychological operation. The list of settlements that Russia has withdrawn from is larger, with Ukrainian forces methodically advancing.

As sunset approached, Ukrainian forces started shelling the Antonovsky Bridge and the Nova Kakhovka crossings relentlessly. Russian Telegram channels reported significant casualties, but those reports are unverified. Russian troops complained that Ukraine's drones operated unimpeded over the river crossings due to a lack of air defense, and the drones were directing artillery fire. Boats being used by Russian troops to cross the river were reported to be overloaded.

Russian sources claimed that Ukrainian Special Operation Forces (SOF) had crossed the Dnipro and were harassing Russian troops on the east bank bridgeheads. This was almost certainly inaccurate and may have been friendly fire incidents caused by the breakdown of an organized retreat.

The damaged Antonovsky Mist railroad bridge between Nova Kakhovka and Kherson was destroyed. Russian social media channels claim that Russian troops destroyed the bridge to prevent a Ukrainian advance to the east bank of the Dnipro.

The railroad bridge has been out of service since August after multiple HIMARS strikes damaged it, and Russian engineers made no attempts to repair the structure. Russian forces also appeared to have blown up the badly damaged Antonovsky Bridge in Kherson, destroying a section of the deck and multiple bridge supports. Because of how the bridge is constructed, it will require a complete replacement.

There were claims by some Russian troops that they had been given final orders to put on civilian clothes and to find their own way across the river. There was little evidence that Russian troops were moving significant amounts of heavy equipment during their retreat.

Operational Command South reported only two air strikes completed and approximately 50 fire missions, concentrated in the Beryslav raion. It is the lowest number of artillery strikes recorded since we started producing Situation Reports. Russian forces did engage in active combat as part of their retreat and worked to slow down the Ukrainian advance by mining roads, destroying powerlines, and blowing up smaller bridges.

Under the best of circumstances, the Russian withdrawal will take at least a week, and it will become increasingly challenging

as Ukrainian forces advance closer to the west bank of the Dnipro.

In Oleshky on the east bank of the Dnipro, Russian troop concentrations were targeted by rockets fired by HIMARS.

Our assessment that Russian troops would use mobiks to hold the outer defensive lines and keep Ukrainian artillery units away from the river was inaccurate. It appears Russia is conducting a full withdrawal along the entire line of conflict. Some units must stay until the last moment to protect the Russian bridgeheads on the west bank.

ASSESSMENT: This is the fourth humiliating defeat Russian forces have suffered since the wide-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24. The first was the failure to capture Kyiv, Chernihiv, Kharkiv, or Sumy, and the retreat from northern Ukraine in late March of 2022. The second was Ukraine sweeping through the eastern part of Kharkiv in a week, routing Russian forces while capturing enough military equipment to supply up to three brigades. The third was the fall of Lyman and Ukrainian troops taking back most regions of the Donetsk oblast that Russian forces captured after February 24, leaving on the Svitlodarsk region and the suburbs of Soledar and Bakhmut under Russian control.

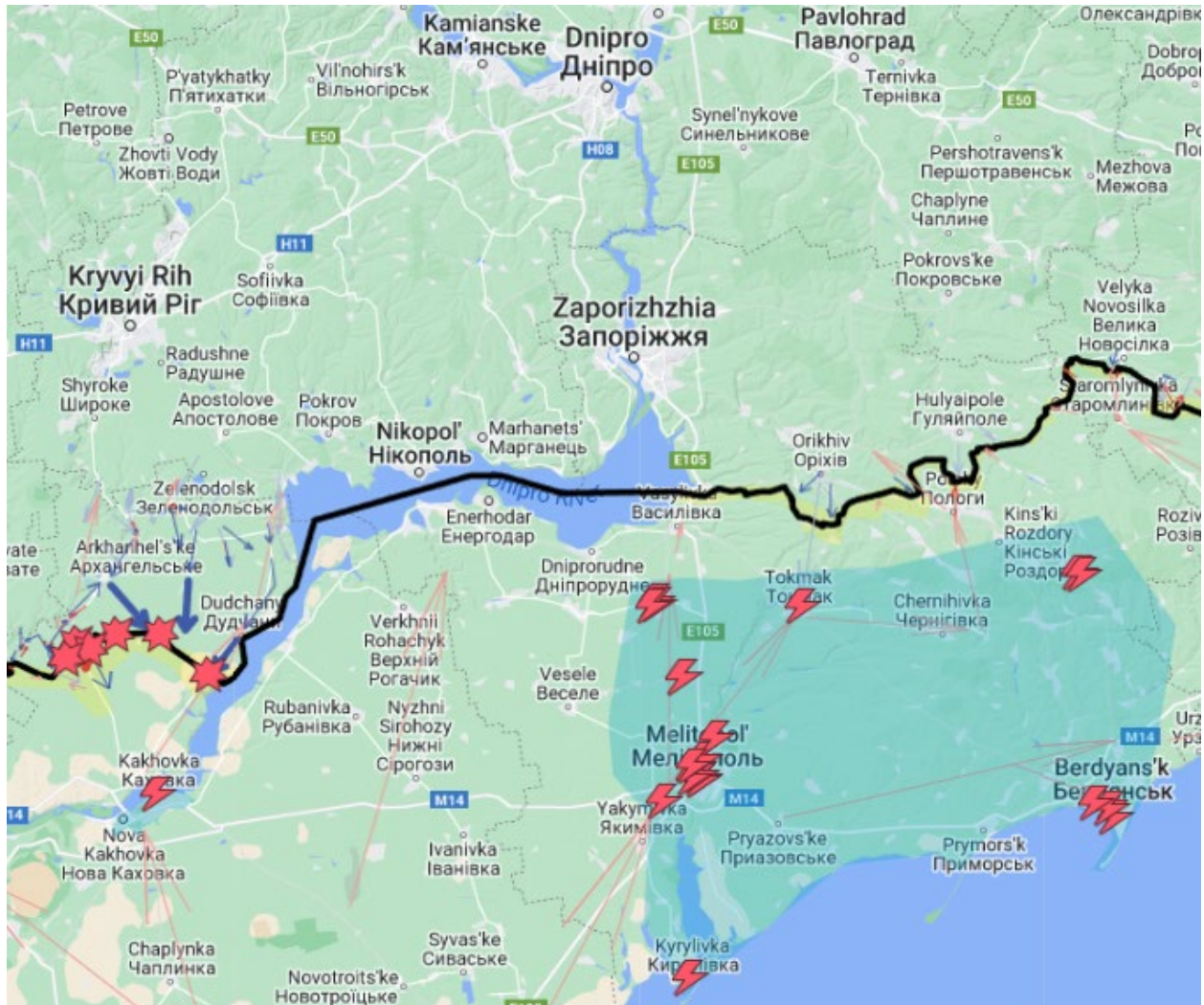
Kherson was the only regional capital Russia captured intact, and the forced withdrawal from the west side of the Dnipro has ended all threats of ground-based attacks on Odesa, Lviv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, and Kryvyi Rih. At its peak, Russia controlled up to 42% of Ukrainian territory. Once the withdrawal from the west bank of the Dnipro is complete, that will have dwindled to around 14.5% - which includes territory already held before February 24, including the DNR, LNR, and Russian-occupied Crimea. During this period, the Russian military has gotten weaker on land, sea, and air, while Ukrainian forces have become better equipped and trained. Further, Russian forces willingly retreat from territory they claim is now officially part of Russia through an illegal annexation declaration, with no viable way of restoring the territory. This is a catastrophe among a long list of Russian military failures since Ukraine took the battlefield initiative in mid-August. The three cities still under Russian control after the February 24 invasion are Melitopol, Mariupol, and the twin cities of Severodonetsk-Lysychansk.

A Russian missile of an unknown type struck a five-story apartment building in Mykolaiv overnight, killing six people. Pictures from the scene indicated the building had completely collapsed where it was hit, suggesting this was a cruise missile or Iskander-M short-range ballistic missile strike.



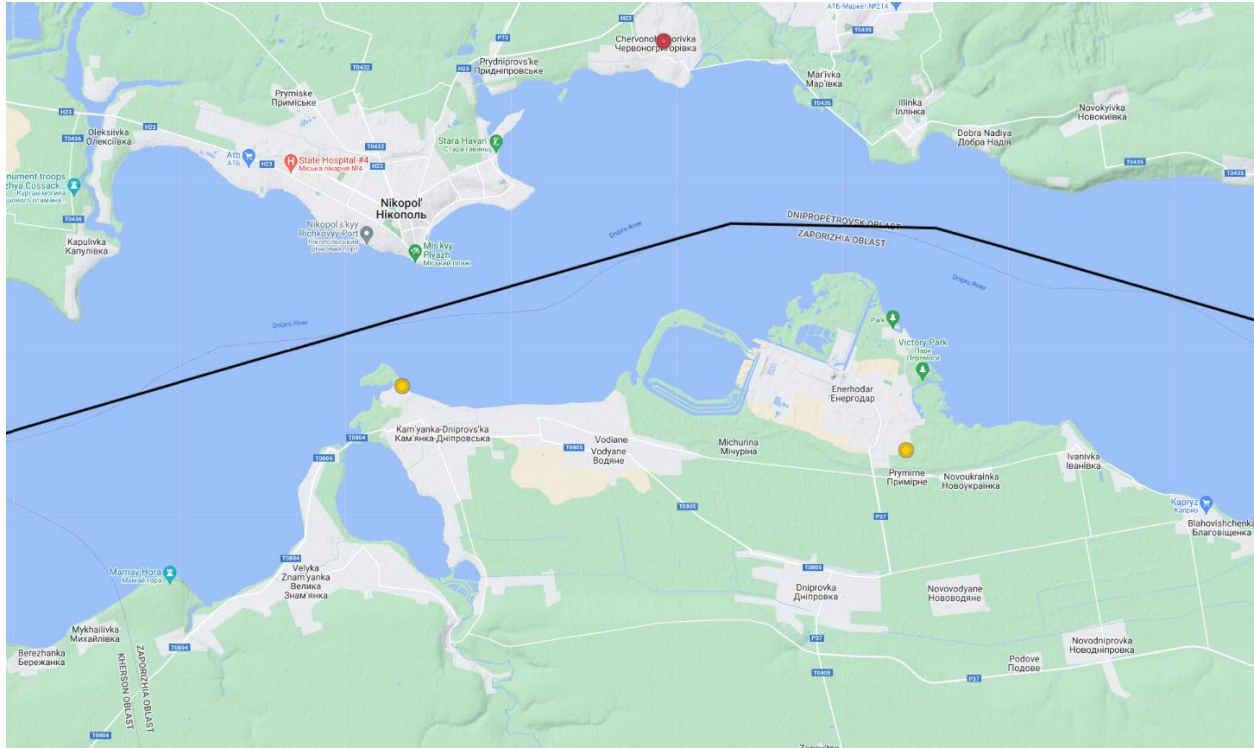
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DNIPROPETROVSK & ZAPORIZHIA



Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks and the destruction of electrical, natural gas, and water infrastructure, and turn popular opinion against Ukraine by terrorizing the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict, and protect civilians



The situation at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant remains unchanged, and the International Atomic Energy Agency has not provided an update since November 5. There was no update on the status of the kidnapped Energoatom employee in Russian custody.

Russian troops renewed their attacks on Nikopol and Marhanets, firing up to 50 Grad rockets from multiple launch

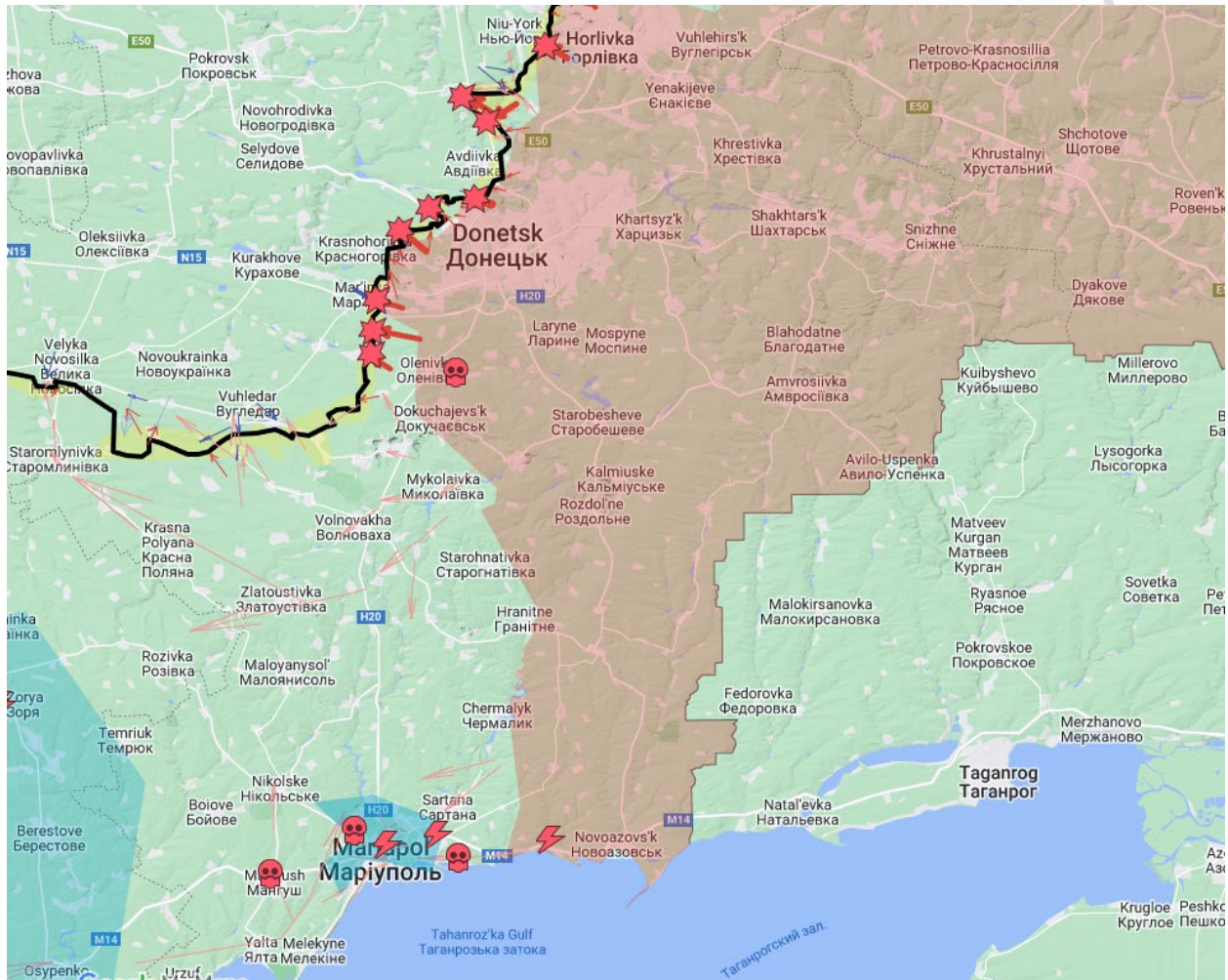
rocket systems (MLRS). There were no injuries, and the attack damaged a single home and part of a college in Nikopol.

In Russian-occupied Melitopol, Andrii Boiko, the so-called Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism of Zaporizhzhia Oblast, was injured when an IED exploded outside the entrance of his apartment. We're guessing he's responsible for tourism in Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia was a hard sell. Russian authorities expect Boiko, who is hospitalized, to make a full recovery.

There was only sporadic artillery fire from the Zaporizhzhia-Donetsk administrative border to Hulyaipole to Orikhiv to Stepove.

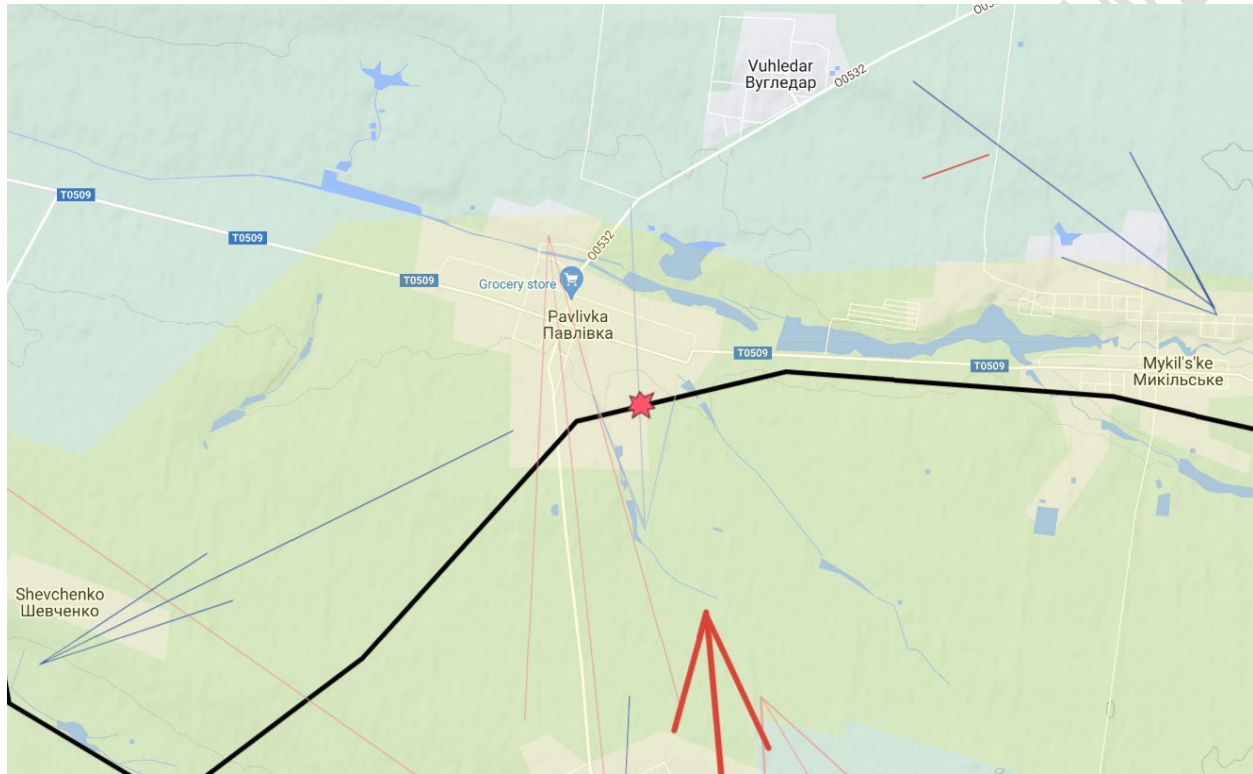
DONBAS REGION

SOUTHWESTERN DONETSK



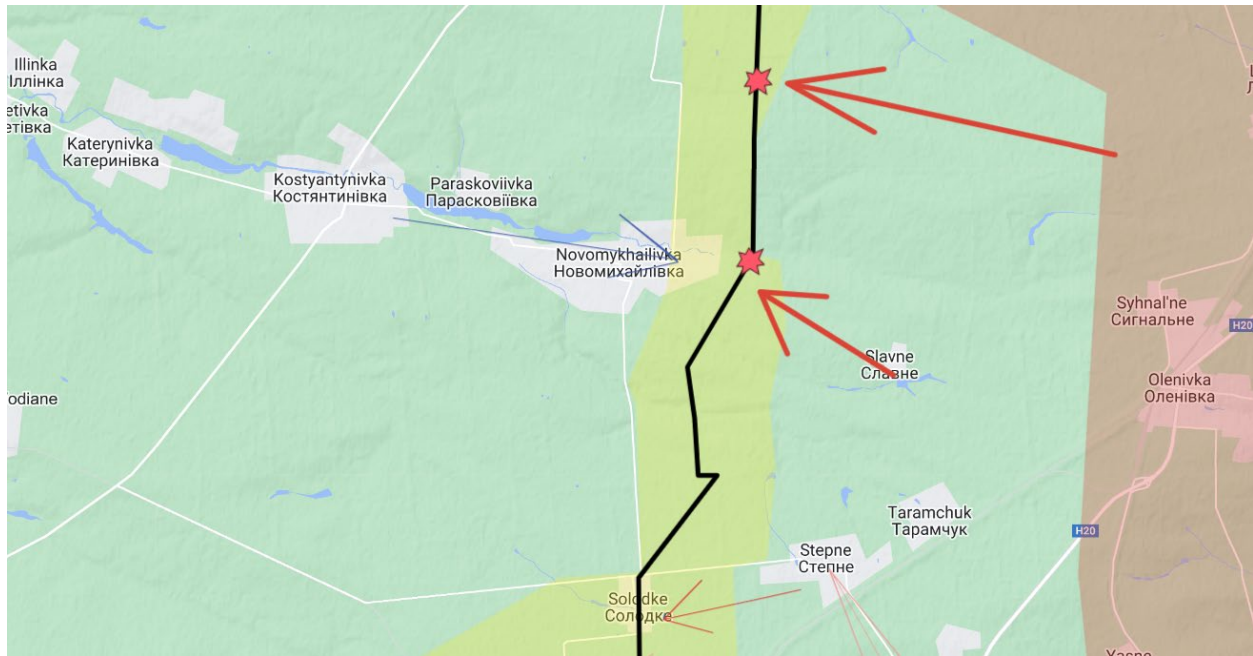
Russian Objective: Integrate the oblast into Russian Federation, capture the rest of the oblast, and bring the insurrection across southwestern Donetsk under control

Ukrainian Objective: Lock Russian military assets in place, defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

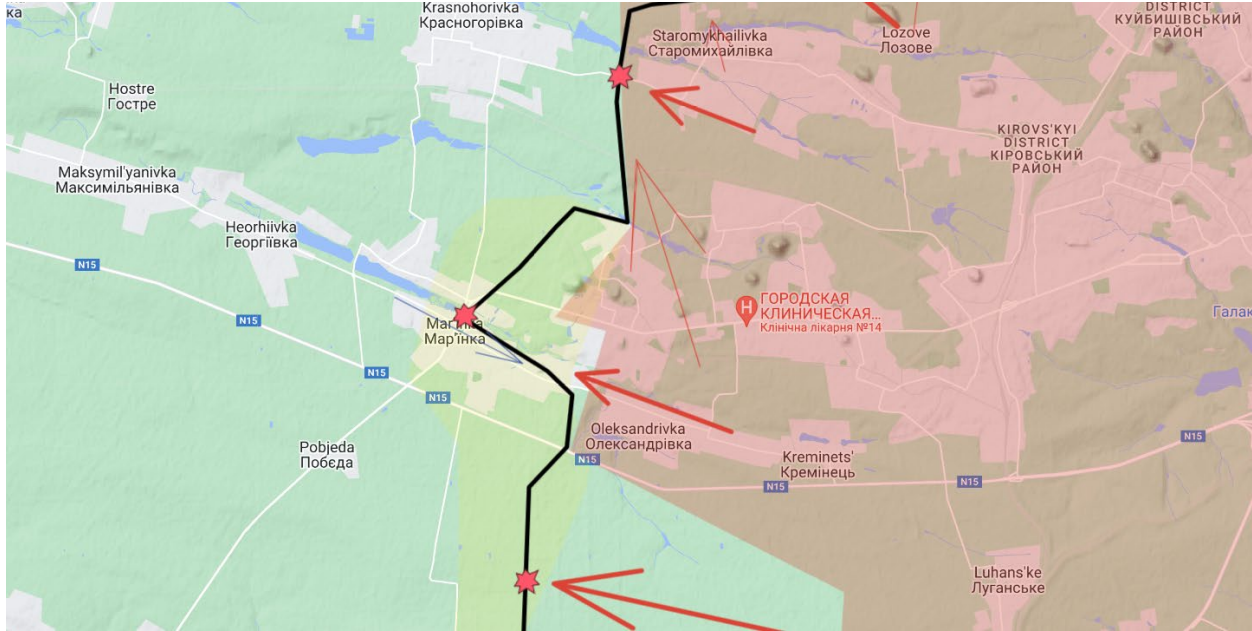


Mercenaries with War Gonzo released pictures of the Russian flag raised in [Pavlivka](#) and claimed the settlement had been captured. Geolocation showed the picture was taken in the southeast corner of the town, where elements of the 155th and 40th Naval Infantry had advanced multiple times. The 155th is significantly under strength, and after unit members claimed they had suffered massive casualties, in our assessment, this

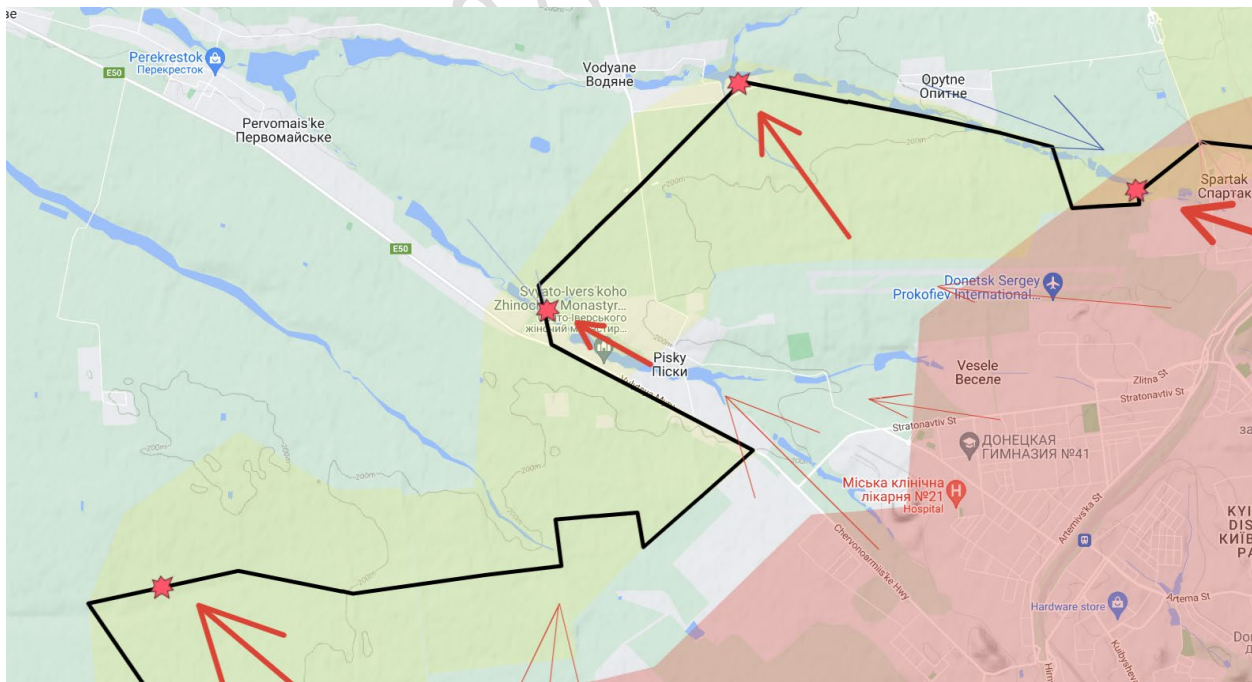
appears to be a “picture report” demand from the Kremlin to prove victory.



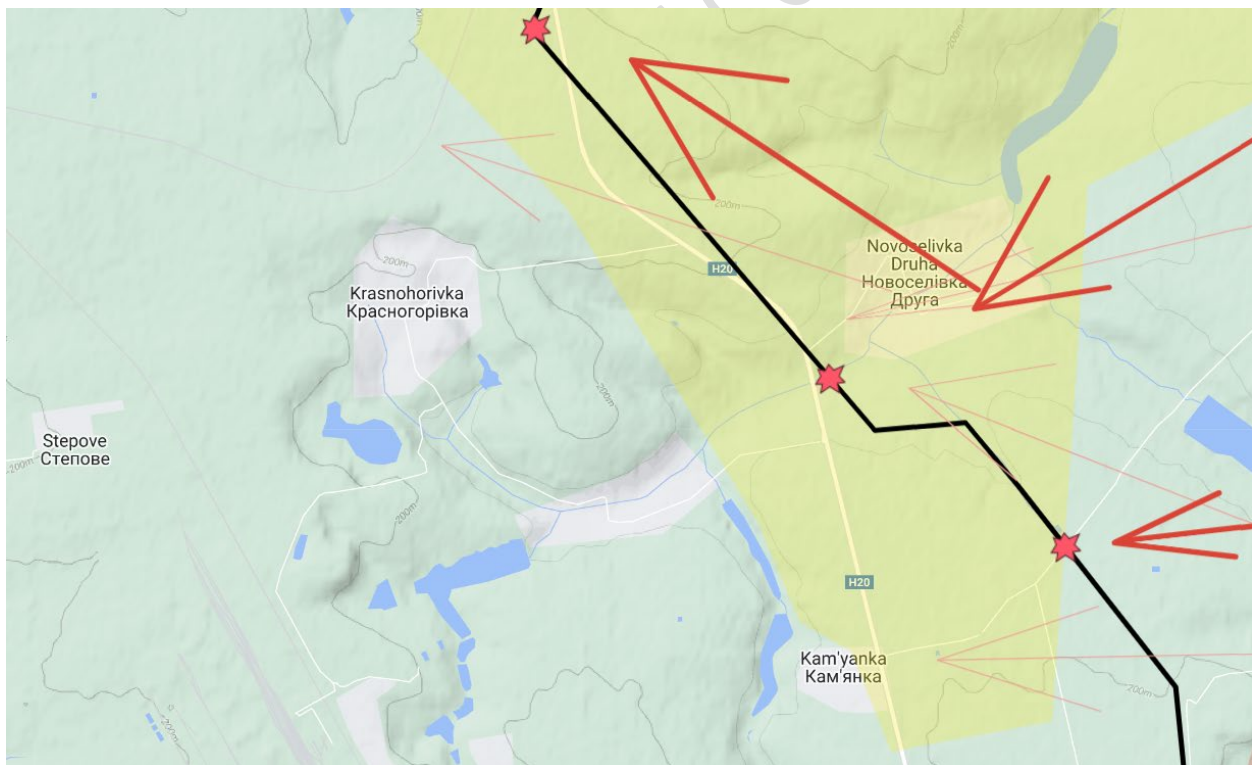
Russian sources claimed the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People’s Republic (DNR) maintained its military traditions with another attack on [Novomykhailivka](#) without success. 2023 Lada sales will be off the charts if the Russian Ministry of Defense ever pays those promised survivor benefits.



Positional fighting restarted in the eastern part of [Marinka](#), with no change to the line of conflict.



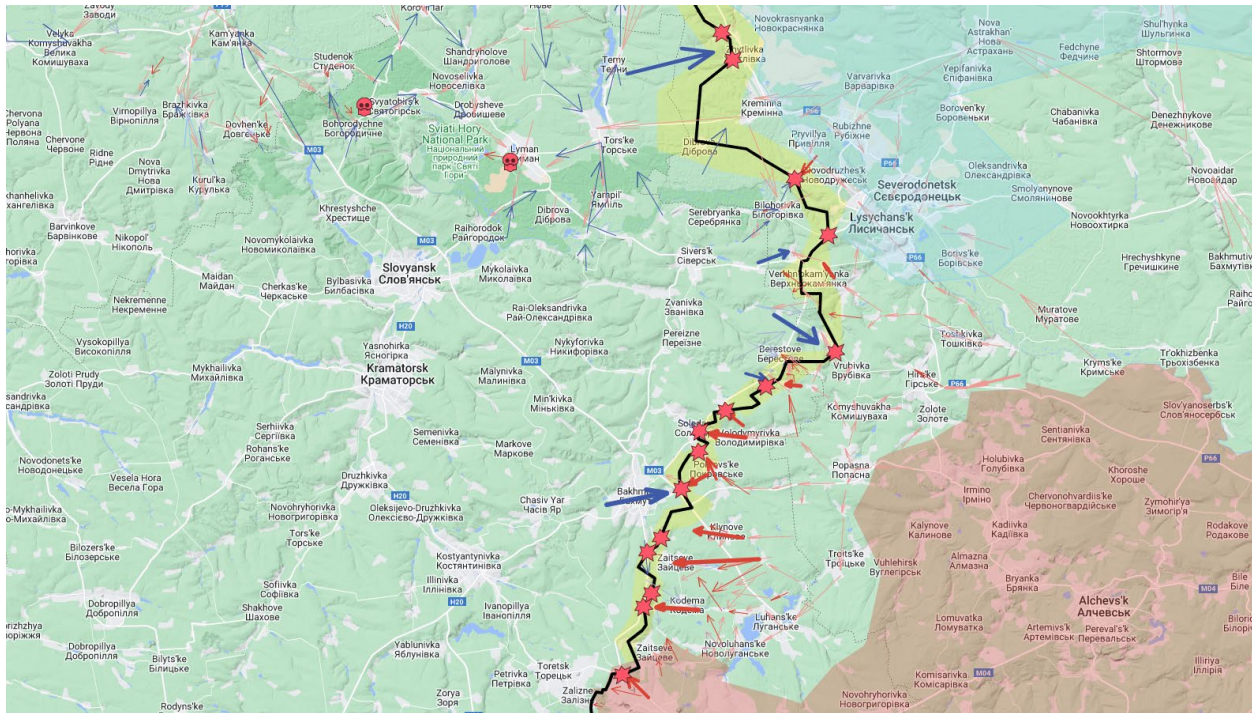
The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (GSAFU) reported positional fighting near [Nevelske](#) and Russian forces trying to push into [Pervomaiske](#) and [Optyne](#). They also reported that Ukrainian troops successfully repelled an attack on [Vesele](#), where the International Airport is located. This contradicts recent reports with video proof that the DNR captured the area. GSAFU does not have a significant history of making false claims, but there is a lack of picture or video evidence that areas near the airport were recaptured.



There were continued attempts to advance on the critical Ukrainian stronghold at [Krasnohorivka](#), but the DNR could not break through Ukrainian defenses.

The DNR People's Militia public relations channel did not release a statement on Ukrainian artillery strikes and did not make any claims of destroying Ukrainian military equipment. Ukrainian officials reported only light shelling by the DNR in the southwestern part of the Donetsk oblast.

NORTHEAST DONETSK

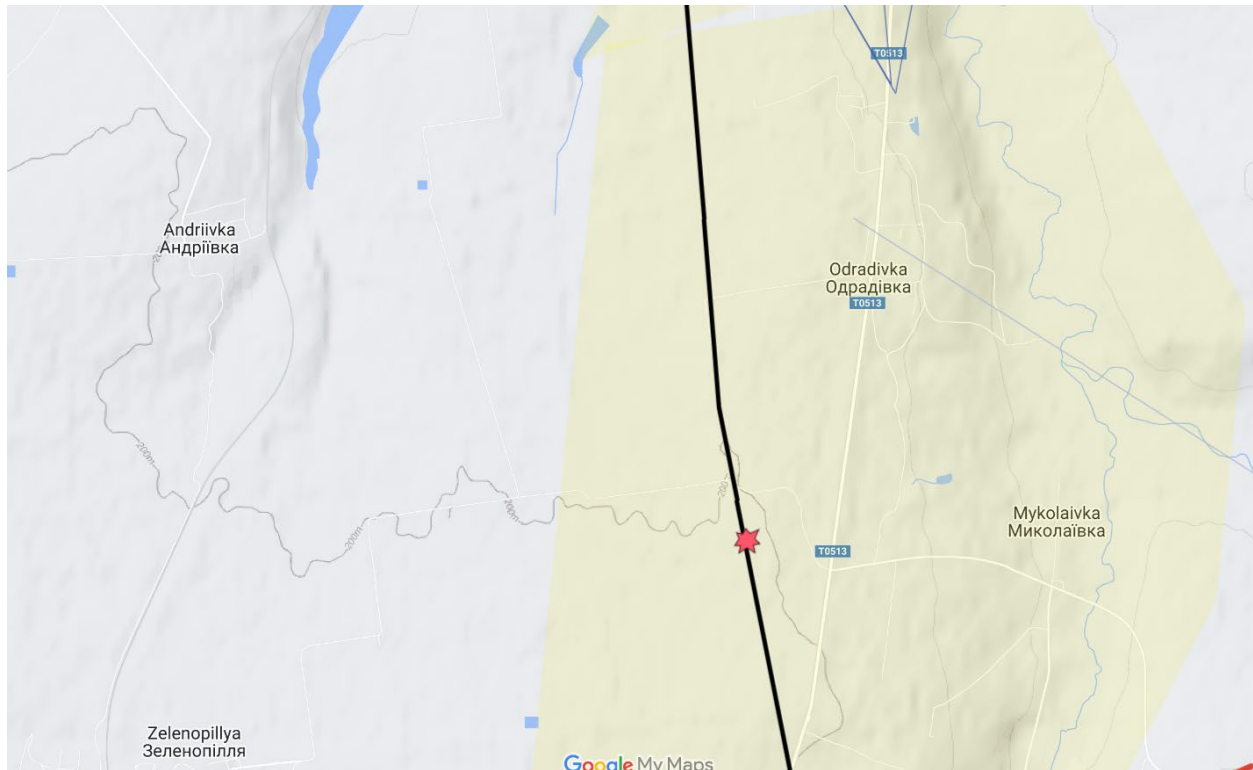


Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, defend against Ukrainian advances toward Luhansk, capture Bakhmut/Soledar

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar, push into the Luhansk oblast, and minimize civilian casualties



Heavy fighting continues east of [Soledar](#) and southeast of [Bakhmut](#), with no significant changes in the situation.



South of Bakhmut, Ukrainian forces repelled an attack on the hamlet of [Andriivka](#), which had a pre-war population of 74 people. To add to the confusion, there are three Andriivkas in the Donetsk oblast. One is located in the self-declared and illegally annexed Donetsk People's Republic, and the second is a suburb of Sloviansk.

Private Military Company Wagner Group was unable to advance into [Yakovlivka](#) and broke off their attacks today, at least temporarily. They briefly crossed the T-1302 Highway but were pushed back on November 9. PMC Wagner also broke off

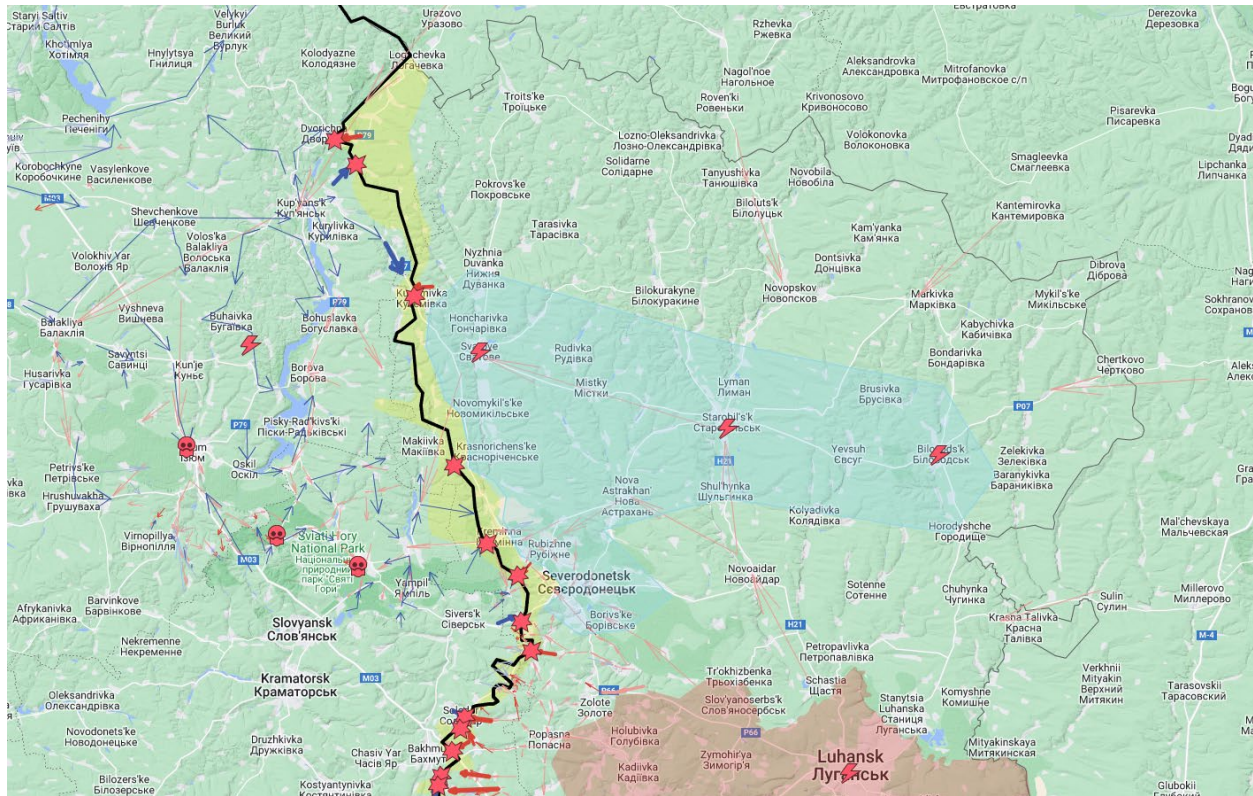


their attempts to advance into Bilohorivka and Vesele on the Donetsk-Luhansk administrative border west of Popasna.

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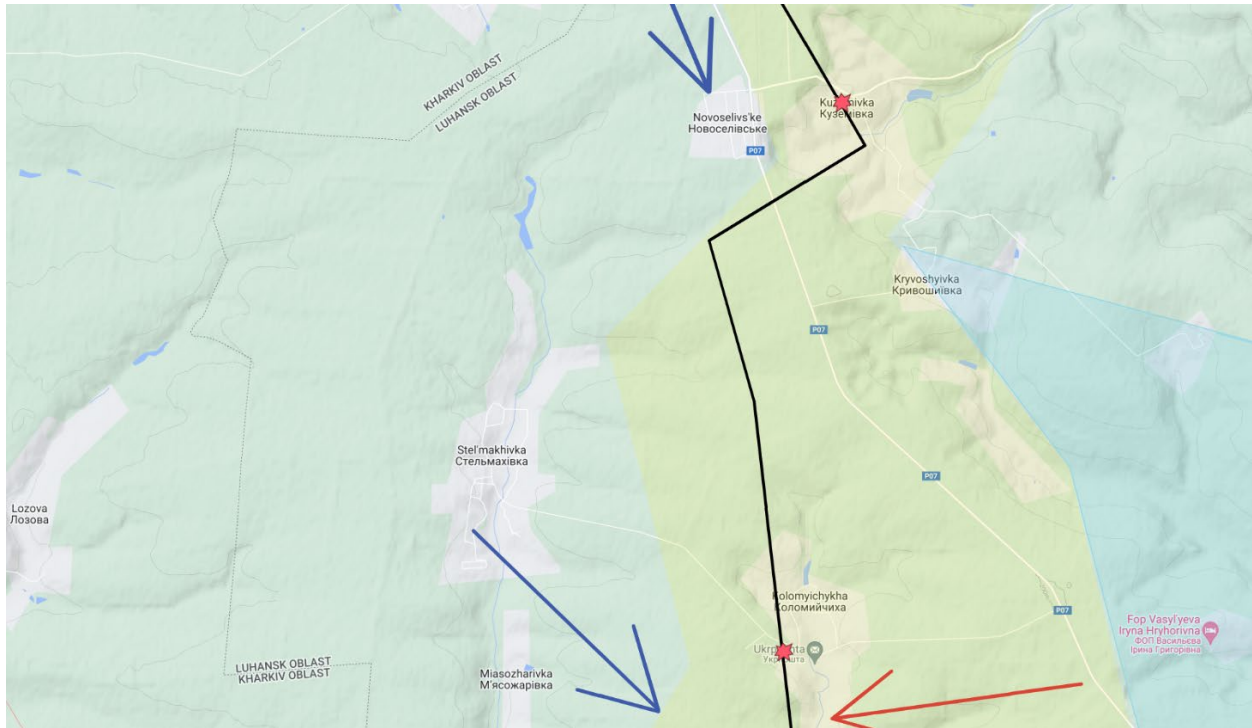


LUHANSK

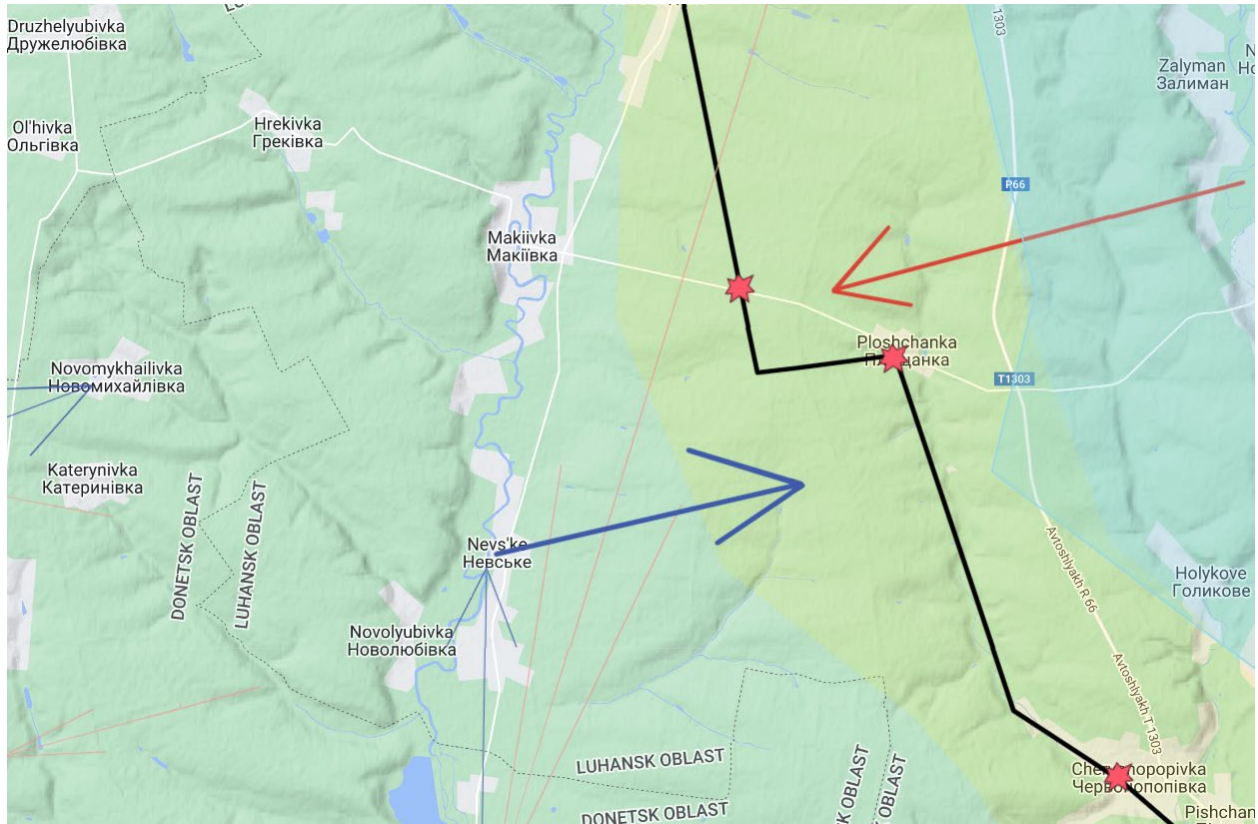


Russian Objective: Integrate oblast into Russian Federation, hold current defensive lines, and control insurgency

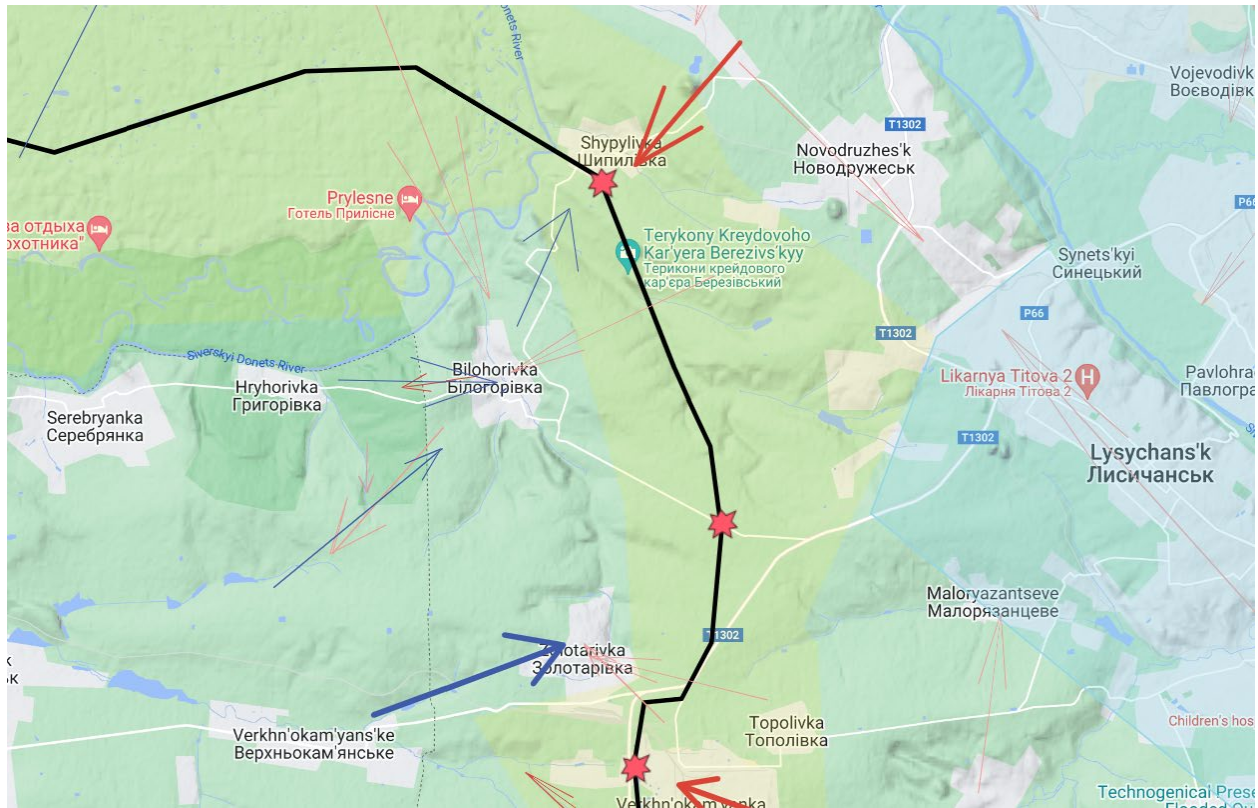
Ukrainian Objective: Break Russian defensive lines, advance on Svatove, Kreminna, and Lysychansk, and support insurgents



Russian forces attempted to slow the Ukrainian advance at [Novoselivske](#) and [Miasozharivka](#), launching offensives on both villages without success. Ukraine continues to maintain fire control over Svatove striking multiple convoys and troop concentrations within the town.



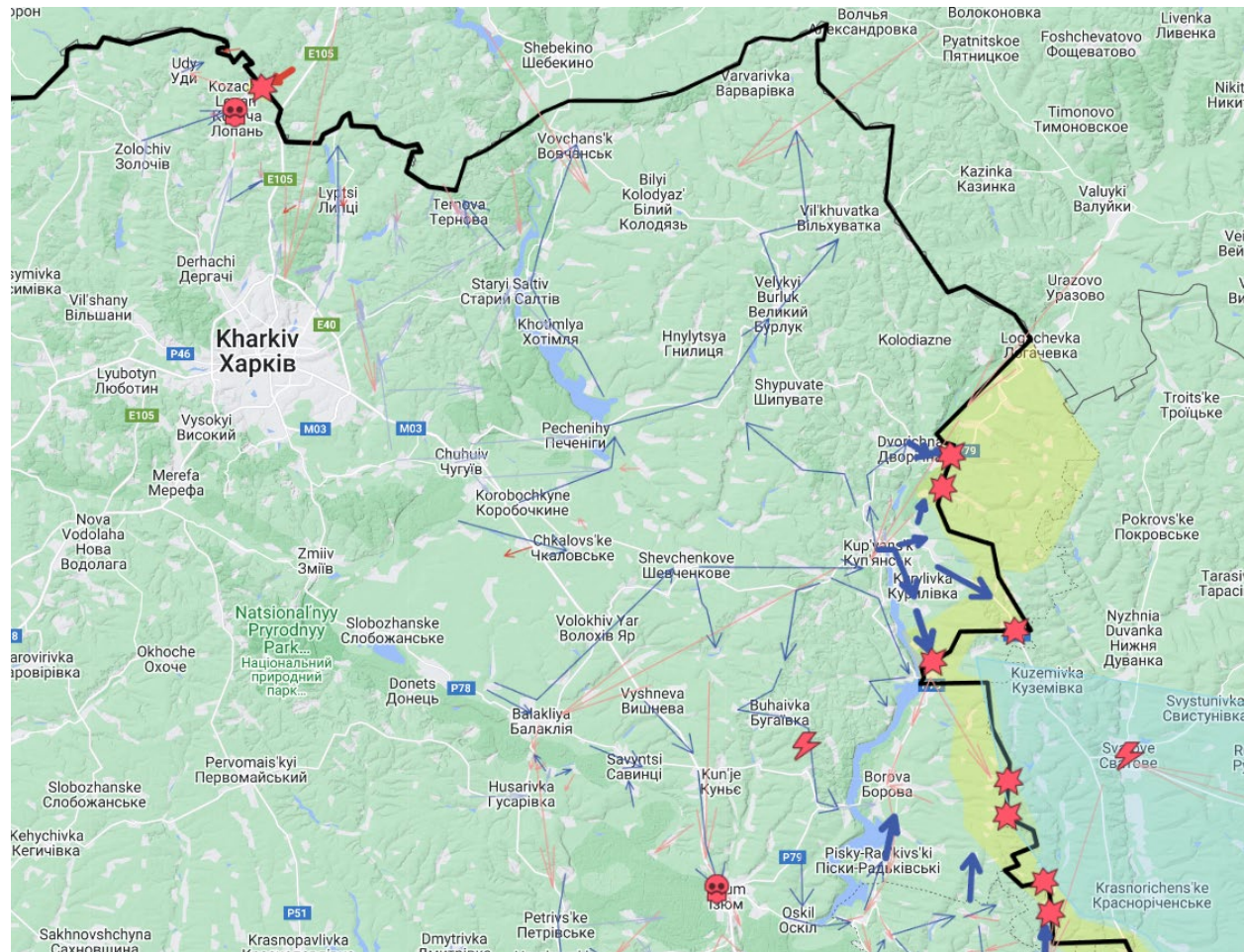
Russian mobiks supported by the 2nd Army Corps of the Luhansk People’s Republic (LNR) attempted an advance on [Makiivka](#). They only succeeded in boosting Russian new car sales among surviving family members.



Finally, Russian forces supported by PMC Wagner continued their relentless attacks on [Bilohorivka](#) and continued to be unsuccessful.

In news that shouldn't shock any of our listeners or readers, there was a reported HIMARS strike on Lysychansk, just days after the Chechen Tik Tok brigade made another "look at us in Lysychansk" video. We're not saying the Chechens were the target, but after a consistent pattern of make a video, get blown up, make a video, get blown up, make a video, get blown up...

KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Lock military resources in place, launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services, and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate all of Kharkiv oblast, sever GLOCs into Luhansk, protect civilian lives, and defend the Ukrainian border

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources into place and launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to break morale and maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain the integrity of the international border, deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, Sumy Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported the hromada of Khotin was shelled by up to 50 mortars. Russian troops must have had their mind on the Kherson withdrawal because they didn't cause any damage, and there were no injuries.

KYIV REGION

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

BLACK SEA, CRIMEA & ODESA REGION

Two missile carrier ships left the port of Sevastopol for the first time since the unmanned surface vessel (USV) attack on the Russian Black Sea Fleet. The vessels are capable of carrying eight Kalibr cruise missiles each. The Ukrainian government expressed concern that a new wave of missile attacks may be imminent as "punishment" for the Kherson withdrawal.

WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE

Russian Objective: Launch terror attacks on civilians in an attempt to maximize casualties by deprivation of heat, water, and medical services and break morale

Ukrainian Objective: Deter attacks, and protect civilian lives

Serhii Borzov, Vinnytsia Oblast Administrative and Military Governor reported that critical civilian infrastructure was attacked overnight and severely damaged. There weren't any reported injuries or immediate reports of new blackouts.

RUSSIAN FRONT

There wasn't any significant fighting reported in this region.

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Poland provided Ukraine with 1,570 new Starlink terminals to be deployed into cities and towns in case of a total blackout so critical communication systems can be maintained.

Additionally, some of the terminals will be used in recently

liberated settlements in Kherson, where Russian forces blew up and stole cell towers and cut fiber optic cables that support Internet service.

RUSSIAN MOBILIZATION & MILITARY STATUS

There weren't any significant developments.

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International released a report calling Russia's forced deportation of civilians a war crime and a crime against humanity. The 40-page report details how Russian and Russian-controlled forces forcibly transferred civilians from occupied Ukraine further into Russian-controlled areas or into Russia. Children have been separated from their families during the process, violating international humanitarian law.

Civilians told Amnesty how they were forced through abusive screening processes – known as “filtration” – which sometimes resulted in arbitrary detention, torture, and other ill-treatment.

Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said:

“Separating children from their families and forcing people hundreds of kilometers from their homes are further proof of the severe suffering Russia’s invasion has inflicted on Ukraine’s civilians.”

“Since the start of their war of aggression against Ukraine, itself an international crime, Russian forces have indiscriminately attacked and unlawfully killed civilians, destroyed countless lives, and torn families apart. No one has been spared, not even children.”

“Russia’s deplorable tactic of forcible transfer and deportation is a war crime. Amnesty believes this must be investigated as a crime against humanity.”

“All those forcibly transferred and still unlawfully detained must be allowed to leave, and everyone responsible for committing these crimes must be held accountable. Children in Russian custody must be reunited with their families, and their return to Ukrainian government-controlled areas must be facilitated.”

GEOPOLITICAL

Indonesian government officials confirmed that Russian President Vladimir Putin would not be attending the G20, avoiding a possible confrontation over his floundering invasion of Ukraine. Sorry, “special military operation” where everything is going to plan.

Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, the chief of support for G20 events, said Putin's decision not to come was "the best for all of us."

Yikes!

There was still no indication of whether Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy would virtually attend the summit in Bali.

ECONOMIC

The rouble improved, with an exchange rate of 60 for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices became volatile after a sharp drop, with WTI crude rising to \$89 a barrel and Brent jumping to \$96. United States wholesale RBOB gasoline on the spot market increased to \$2.62 per gallon. (69 cents a liter)

Dutch TTF Gas Futures for December 2022 plummeted, trading at 104 euros per megawatt hour. January 2023 contracts also declined sharply, reaching 112 euros.

Chicago SRW Wheat Futures were steady, trading at \$8.30 a bushel for March 2022 contracts.