

**April 2025
Ukraine Monthly Situation Report**

CONFLICT DEVELOPMENTS

- **In the second half of April, Russian forces changed their assault tactics, switching from attacking with small groups to conducting large-scale assaults using heavy equipment and large infantry units.** On 17th April, Russia carried out a large-scale assault in the [Zaporizhzhia direction](#) with some 320 soldiers and 40 pieces of heavy equipment, including armoured vehicles and three tanks. Ukraine successfully repelled the attack with around three-quarters of the equipment destroyed and some 140 Russian soldiers eliminated. On the same day, in [the Pokrovsk direction](#), 229 Russian soldiers, 24 armoured fighting vehicles, 99 motorcycles and 2 cars were also destroyed. The same change of tactics has also taken place in other directions. In some cases, the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (AFRF) managed to improve their positions, moving the frontline forward. During the Easter ceasefire, Russia continued conducting assaults and preparing for further attacks. According to the Ukrainian government, the total losses incurred by the Russian army as of late April stood at [953.000](#). In April 2025, the number was around 40.000.
- **The AFRU continue to launch strikes on Ukrainian settlements, using cruise missiles, aerial bombs, and kamikaze drones.** The cities of [Kyiv](#), [Sumy](#), [Kharkiv](#), [Kherson](#), [Cherkasy](#), [Poltava](#), [Mykolayiv](#), [Zaporizhzhia](#), [Odesa](#), [Kropyvnytskyi](#), [Dnipro](#), [Pavlohrad](#), [Nikopol](#), [Kryvyi Rih](#), [Marhanets](#), [Kamyanske](#), [Izium](#), [Kupyansk](#), [Pokrovsk](#), [Kramatorsk](#), [Druzhkivka](#), and [Kostyantynivka](#) were subject to Russian attacks in April, as well as other Ukrainian cities, villages and towns.
- The Defence Forces of Ukraine (DFU) continue to launch strikes on military facilities located on Russian territories and Ukraine's occupied territories. For example, on 11th April, the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) carried out a [missile strike](#) on the forward control post of the Russian troops of the 30th Motorized Rifle Regiment in the village of Guyevo, in the Kursk region, located close to the front line. Several Russian commanders were killed. On 14th April, the DFU [hit the permanent deployment station of the 448th missile brigade of the Russian army](#) in Kursk province, which had previously launched a missile strike on Sumy on Palm Sunday. The DFU carried out a further strike on the permanent deployment station of the 112nd missile brigade of the AFRF. On 22nd April, as a result of an explosion, a [fire](#) broke out in one of the largest ammunition depots of the Main Missile and Artillery Centre of the Russian Ministry of Defence located at Kirzhach in the Vladimir province, some 60 km from Moscow. According to media reports, Iskander, C-300, and C-400 missiles were stored there, along with other types of ammunition, most of which were destroyed as a result of the explosions. On 23rd April, a [factory where strike drones are assembled](#) was hit in the Yelabuga rayon in Tatarstan (located over 1000 km from Ukraine). On the night of 28th April, *Kremniy EI*, a [plant producing military microelectronics](#), was attacked in Bryansk.
- **Compulsory evacuation of civilians** is underway in several settlements in Donetsk province. During April, 174 residents were relocated to safer regions in Ukraine. This included 21 children and 60 citizens with reduced mobility. At the end of April, the forcible evacuation from several settlements in Dnipropetrovsk oblast was undertaken due to residents finding themselves too close to the contact line.

- On 19th April, on the eve of Easter, another **prisoners of war swap** (POWs) between Ukraine and Russia took place. Ukraine managed to return 277 POWs. 246 of them were returned within the framework of the swap, while another 31 returned to Ukraine outside the scope of this exchange. At the same time, information was received about at least three cases of Ukrainian POWs being executed by Russian soldiers.
- As a result of **repatriation measures**, the **bodies** of 909 Ukrainian defenders were returned to Ukraine on 18th April. The bodies of the soldiers who fell in Kurakhove, Pokrovsk, Bakhmut and other directions were among them, along with the bodies of Ukrainian soldiers that have been kept in morgues located on Russian territory.

HUMANITARIAN DIMENSIONS

- **According to official information, as of the morning of 25th April, over 2,546 Ukrainian children were affected by Russian full-scale aggression against Ukraine.** 622 citizens were killed, with over 1,924 people having sustained injuries of different degrees of severity. 165,975 war crimes and crimes of aggression have been **registered**, as well as 21,955 crimes against Ukraine's national security.
- **Russia continues to deliberately destroy Ukraine's cultural heritage and kill members of the art community, dealing a major blow to identity, memory, and historical heritage.** As of 30th April 2025, Russia's full-scale aggression **claimed** the lives of 200 Ukrainian artists and 103 journalists (including foreigners). In the city of Sumy, a Russian missile **damaged** important cultural heritage monuments and buildings, including local museums, theatres and the regional philharmonic, which claimed the life of Olena Kohut, a teacher and artist. On 1st April, a house of culture was **destroyed** in Krasnopillia. In total, 1,419 cultural heritage sites and 2,233 facilities of cultural infrastructure have been **damaged**, with 409 completely destroyed. The brunt of the attacks has been borne by cultural clubs, libraries, museums and theatres in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Sumy, and other provinces. Since the beginning of the invasion, over 546,000 museum exhibits from 63 museums in 12 regions (e.g., from Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Donetsk provinces) of Ukraine have been **evacuated**.
- **Russia is destroying Crimea's ecosystem.** The December 2024 incident with the *Volgoneft tankers* led to a large-scale M-100 fuel oil spill in the Black Sea, which (if the Russian occupational administration is to be believed) has already resulted in the contamination of 1500 tons of soil and sand in Crimea and Sevastopol. According to the Mission of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the environmental disaster is being exacerbated by the militarisation of the peninsula, the illegal extraction of sand, deforestation, the destruction of nature reserves, waste management facilities and sea ecosystems. Russia has repurposed the *Opuk* cape into a test range, erecting military infrastructure, incinerators and blocking international missions. This is part of Russia's systematic efforts aimed at destroying the environment of the peninsula. The costs inflicted on facilities located in the natural reserves of temporarily occupied Crimea due to Russian armed aggression may be as high as 79 billion UAH. Violations of the preservation order have been registered in 208 nature reserve facilities.
- **Russian armed aggression has led to massive human losses including civilians, employees of critically important sectors, and religious figures.** Since the beginning of the full-scale war, 13,000 civilians have **perished**. Around 10,000 people are currently being held in Russian **captivity**, with another 63,000 missing. 234 employees in the defence sector have been killed, as well as 67 priests

and monks ([killed or tortured to death](#)). 640 religious facilities have been destroyed. Over 63,000 energy infrastructure facilities have been [damaged](#) as a result of massive and precise air attacks. 160 employees from the energy sector have also been killed. Since February 2022, 336 Ukrainians have been [killed](#) by explosives (among them 18 children), with 825 people injured. Almost a quarter of Ukraine's territory (over 139.000 square km) is considered potentially hazardous.

- **Russia is deliberately [exploiting](#) Ukrainian teens as a tool for terror, turning them into victims and perpetrators of crimes.** Since the beginning of 2025, the Russian secret services have been recruiting children under 18 en masse with the purpose of making them conduct terror attacks, acts of sabotage and arson (in some cases with the use of explosives). According to the Security Service of Ukraine, 22% of the perpetrators are children recruited through social networks and messengers. In 2025 alone, over 50 cases have been registered. Russia is consciously using children as disposable resources in its hybrid war against Ukraine.
- **The murder of an imprisoned journalist has [become](#) another proof of Russia's criminal actions towards civilians.** The body of journalist, Viktoriya Roshchyna, who was killed in Russian captivity, was given to Ukraine on 14th February 2025, displaying signs of torture. During the autopsy, a few internal organs were found to be missing. The body had also been labelled a 'an unidentified male person'. Ukrainian investigative authorities have documented traces of torture, stab wounds and an attempt to conceal a violent death. The journalist was being detained, without having any procedural status, after she was put on the list of people to be exchanged.

INFORMATION WARFARE DIMENSIONS

- **About negotiations, 'peace' exclusively on Russia's terms. Rejecting Ukrainian identity as such.** On 21st February, Russian President, Vladimir Putin, [spoke](#) about failed attempts to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, for 'nobody doubts the fact that victory will be Russia's'. Russia's leadership talks not about concrete proposals but about 'Russia's basic approach to the situation around Ukraine and security on the continent. According to the spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Maria [Zakharova](#), while solving the conflict, one should take the actual situation, international law and developments 'on the ground as a starting point'. At the same time, Russia insists on its military potential. For example, [Putin](#) has spoken about the need to activate the launch and use of Russian systems and developments in the field of AI so as to use them in automated systems of military management. He has also claimed that the case of the so-called '[special military operation](#)' (SMO) is being studied by armies across the world. Russia's propaganda media insists that European countries have lost, ridiculing European [proposals](#) regarding a peaceful settlement including stating that 'French and British interference, both direct and indirect, will lead to the prospect of Ukraine ceasing to exist'.
- Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and all Rus' has [called on](#) all faithful Orthodox Christians to pray for sustainable peace on the so-called 'historical territories of the country', in particular, Ukraine. Russia is also actively spreading narratives about Ukraine's actions, referring to them as 'aggression' (a statement made by Dmitry [Medvedev](#), Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council). The Kremlin is constantly promoting messages about '[the majority of European leaders](#)' tending to believe that Ukraine has to accept a territorial compromise and that '[British and French](#) officials are 'open' to the scenario where Kyiv agrees to the loss of territories in Russia's favour'. Russia's leadership has once again [declared](#) its readiness to engage in peace talks without any preconditions that would be aimed

at 'eliminating the root causes of the Ukrainian crisis and constructive cooperation with international partners'.

- **'Russia is a winner. The Great Patriotic War and the present.** A considerable part of current Russian narratives revolves around Victory Day and the USSR's triumph in the Second World War. This is the day of societal unity and national victory. Putin is promoting traditional narratives of Russia being 'the nation of winners' and that its goal is to make people from different countries rally around the idea of Russian victory. [Putin](#) has said that Russia has supporters in Europe and the USA who think the same way, stating 'we need to work with these people and create "international winners"'.
- **North Korea in war.** Putin has [thanked](#) the army of North Korea for helping Russia rout the AFU in Kursk province.
- **'About the so-called success of Russia'. Escalation of war.** Moscow continues to spread rhetoric about the escalation of its war against Ukraine, and about its 'offensives' and 'new territorial gains'. 'A great success for Russia after liberation of Kursk province from the AFU will be the liberation of Russian regions including Sumy and Kharkiv provinces as well as Odesa from Nazis' ([Alexandr Dugin](#), a far-right Russian commentator).
- **'About Crimea'.** Russia is going to great lengths to promote the narrative of the need to recognise Crimea as part of Russia. Kremlin Spokesman, Dmitry [Peskov](#) stated that 'words spoken by US President, Donald Trump, about Ukraine having already lost Crimea many years ago are perfectly in line with the stance taken by the Russian government'. This position is referred to by Russia as '[judicious](#)'. The Russian information space is full of narratives about Trump's statement on the need to recognise Crimea as Russian and has had massive political effect. In particular, so Russian thinking goes, this position 'destroys stereotypes, the long-established line of informational aggression against Russia that has been piling up for years on end'. Moscow also believes that this is 'a serious blow to Western unity and to the information war waged on Russia'. Statements of the Ukrainian side about the possible settlement of the Crimean question with diplomatic means are being discredited by Moscow. Maria [Zakharova](#) claims that 'Ukrainian diplomacy is based on terrorism and lies'. Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey [Lavrov](#) has also 'rejected the possibility of Russia conducting negotiations on Crimea and other occupied territories of Ukraine', declaring that 'Russia does not negotiate on the integrity of its territories'.
- **'Ceasefire'.** Russian official propaganda sources are spreading the message of Russia '[showing mercy](#)' after accepting the terms of the 24-hour ceasefire at Easter. On 19th April, Putin [declared](#) the Easter ceasefire from 6 pm to midnight on 21st April Moscow time. In public sources, Russian politicians claimed that Ukraine 'violated the ceasefire' (Mikhail Sheremet, Member of the Russian Duma).
- The Russian Ministry of Defence has [accused](#) Ukraine of violating the Easter ceasefire. Moscow has also announced a further ceasefire, pledging to stop fighting for humanitarian reasons from midnight on 8th May until midnight on 11th May (timed with Russia's Victory Day).
- **Discrediting Ukrainian political leadership.** Putin is constantly [claiming](#) that weapons provided by the West for Ukraine 'invariably end up on the black market'. He also believes that the Kyiv regime is fighting for the money it has stolen from the Ukrainian people, which explains its desire to cooperate with sponsors. Also, Russian propaganda continues to refer to Ukraine's leadership as 'Nazis', while also claiming that negotiations with Ukraine are a '[waste of time](#)'. Head of the Russian External Intelligence Service, Sergey [Naryshkin](#), has spoken about 'different scenarios' regarding Volodymyr Zelenskyy's future, hinting about Zelenskyy possibly fleeing Kyiv.
- **Strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure.** Russia denies launching strikes on Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, something that has significantly increased (targeting Kyiv, Odesa, Sumy, Dnipro,



Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Marhanets, Pavlohrad, Cherkasy, etc.). The AFRF are carrying out strikes on military and adjacent targets in Ukraine (claimed by Dmitry [Peskov](#)). Russian propaganda is actively promoting the narratives that Russia is hitting exclusively military objects, while Ukrainian civilians are being killed as a result of measures taken by the Ukrainian government (Margarita [Simonyan](#), Editor-in-Chief of the Russian state-controlled broadcaster RT).

- **The so-called 'integration' of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, i.e., Crimea, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson provinces.** Russia continues to apply a policy of assimilation in Ukraine's occupied territories. Several statements have been made by Russian officials (Vladimir [Saldo](#), a Russian politician serving as the acting collaborationist governor of the annexed and occupied Kherson Oblast) about the need to establish the so-called sanitary zone in the Kherson province. Moscow Patriarch Kirill has blessed traditional Easter bread *paska*, [ordering](#) the delivery over 11.000 *paskas* to the Luhansk province. Russian officials continue to claim that Ukraine's temporarily occupied territories have completed the process of integrating into Russia's legal and economic space.