



**MALCONTENT NEWS
RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR
SITUATION REPORT**





Malcontent News Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 47

Russian forces continue to build force strength around Izyum in the Donbas, to support a larger offensive.

Fighting continues in Mariupol, with the city likely bisected. Russia is accused of using chemical weapons against members of the Azov Battalion. The British Ministry of Defense is investigating the claims. Approximately 150 Ukrainian marines surrendered after running out of ammunition and basic supplies such as water. An estimated Ukrainian force of 3,800 remains in the city.

Outside of Mariupol, there were no new territorial gains. In Luhansk, fighting around Severodonetsk continues, particularly in Popasna and Rubizhne. Ukrainian forces hit an ammunition depot in Novoaidar, about 25 kilometers east of Severodonetsk, obliterating it. The attack has been geolocated and visually verified.

Russian missiles struck the airport in Dnipro, reportedly destroying the facility. Missiles also struck outside Mykolaiv, starting a small forest fire and injuring one. There were no details on the target.

Two Russian Battalion Tactical Groups (BTG) advanced south of Izyum but were repulsed and returned behind their defensive lines. Ukraine reported they attacked the reported 13-kilometer long convoy, causing significant losses. The engagement has not been independently confirmed.

Russian forces continue to shell, bomb, and fire missiles into the civilian areas of Kharkiv, including the use of cluster bombs.

The suburbs of Odesa were struck by the Black Sea Fleet, killing three soldiers.

Russia reports that the railroad tracks in Shebekinsky, Russia, outside of Belogord, were destroyed in an apparent attack. There are no reported injuries, but the rail line is disabled.

Russian General Alexander Dvornikov, the former Southern Region Commander in Ukraine, has been made the overall commander of Ukrainian operations. He is known as the "Butcher of Syria" for his strategy and ruthless tactics to capture the city of Aleppo.

There is a reported purge of the FSB in Moscow, with an additional 150 agents dismissed or arrested on Monday. Former Russian FSB head Sergei Beseda was reportedly transferred to Lefortovo prison in Moscow.

Last week we reported that the United States State Department approved a deal to sell eight F-16 fighters to Slovakia, which currently possesses 11 airworthy Mig-29s. A report states that an agreement to transfer the Mig-29 aircraft from NATO to Ukraine is back on.

NATO is deploying a 16 ship fleet to the Baltic Sea and has dramatically increased surveillance flights along the Russian borders, including over the Black Sea. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov threatened Sweden and Finland about the consequences of joining NATO.

Officials found six bodies in a basement outside of Brovary. They were shot in the head and appeared to have been executed. A security camera recorded Russian cluster munitions landing in a civilian area of Kharkiv.

ASSESSMENT: Russia is building up military forces for what appears to be a significant offensive in the Donbas, with additional support from regions further south. A senior official with the United States Department of Defense reported that 55 Russian BTGs are in Ukraine, stretching from Kherson to Luhansk. An additional 20 BTGs in northern and northeastern Ukraine are being repositioned. The official also reported that two BTGs had been reconstituted in the last couple of days.

We estimate a force equivalent to 10 to 12 BTGs is engaged in Mariupol and the surrounding area. Five are around Kharkiv and another three in Kherson. Five to seven more are in the Izyum area, and up to a five additional are in transit south of Kharkiv. On April 10, there was five BTGs north of Kyiv, but reports indicated that some of those units are now heading east.

Russia has access to an estimated 105 BTGs total for all of Ukraine, with 65 estimated to remain combat effective. Thirteen are required to hold and defend positions around Kherson, Kharkiv, and Izyum. When Mariupol eventually falls, it will be challenging to immediately redeploy those BTGs, which have suffered heavy losses and require resupply.

Russia is assembling a force of 50,000 to 60,000 in a region with air dominance against a force estimated to be 40,000.

The combined population of the Kherson, Donetsk, and Luhansk Oblasts is 7.5 million. The region will require an occupying force of 150,000 to pacify and control the population and prevent an insurgency.

Although Russia could gain control of the region and surround the Ukrainian forces that have been dug in since 2014, they don't have the resources to control the area. Combined with unsustainable losses of armor, officers, and experienced soldiers, the battle for the Donbas has a significant risk of turning into a bloody quagmire.

VALIDATION: Our analysis on April 10 concluded that 40 Russian Battalion Tactical Groups had been rendered combat ineffective in Ukraine since February 24.¹ An analyst with the UK Ministry of Defense increased their estimate from 20, to 37 to 38 on April 11.²

¹ https://www.tiktok.com/@malcontentnews/video/7085216486033362222?is_copy_url=1&is_from_webapp=v1

² <https://twitter.com/MarkUrban01/status/1513532793925603338>

DONBAS REGION

Fighting continues in the city of Mariupol, which has been under siege for 41 days. Russian forces appear to have captured the fishing port over the weekend, southeast of the city center.³ Taking the minor fishing port bisects the city, dividing the defenders into two groups. Ukrainian forces have armor and artillery support, with aerial targeting using UAVs.⁴

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, "Mariupol has been destroyed, there are tens of thousands of dead, but even despite this, the Russians are not stopping their offensive."

Approximately 150 members of the Ukrainian 36th Brigade surrendered today after running out of ammunition. The unit was in the Azovstal Metallurgical Factory.⁵

Reports that the main port was captured on April 10 are false. NASA FIRMS shows continued fighting in multiple

³ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1513436729344249858>

⁴ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1513511621020241923>

⁵ [Twitter](#) [Russian State Media, disinformation in description]

areas of Mariupol, including the main port, city center, and the Livoberezhnyi District.



Azov Battalion commander Andriy Biletsky accused Russia of deploying chemical weapons using a drone that dispersed the agent over the Azovstal factory.⁶ Three hours later, Biletsky reported three casualties were suffering from shortness of breath and ataxia.⁷ He added the trio was recovering and in satisfactory condition.⁸

Before the alleged chemical weapons attack, DNR defense spokesperson Eduard Basurin called for the use of

⁶ <https://twitter.com/markito0171/status/1513596289249906693>

⁷ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ataxia>

⁸ <https://twitter.com/CanadianUkrain1/status/1513626926052687878>

“chemical troops” in Mariupol to “smoke these moles out of their holes.” He specifically stated in the interview that the use of chemical weapons would make the fight within the Avozstal factory easier.⁹

United Kingdom’s Foreign Secretary Liz Truss said the UK Ministry of Defense is “working urgently with partners to verify details” of the potential attack.¹⁰

She added, “Any use of such weapons would be a callous escalation in this conflict, and we will hold Putin and his regime to account.”

United States Department of Defense press secretary John Kirby said the Pentagon was aware of the allegations and closely monitored reports.

“These reports, if true, are deeply concerning and reflective of concerns that we have had about Russia’s potential to use a variety of riot control agents, including tear gas mixed with chemical agents,” Kirby told reporters.¹¹

⁹ <https://twitter.com/KevinRothrock/status/1513583713342394372>

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/trussliz/status/1513636563405713416>

¹¹ [CNBC](#)

The Russian Ministry of Defense has not made a statement about the allegations.

ASSESSMENT: Looking at the chain of events on April 11, we are deeply concerned that a chemical agent more toxic than CS (tear gas) was deployed today. Unfavorable weather conditions likely blunted the impact of a chemical weapons attack.

We cannot make a reasonable assessment of when Mariupol will fall into the hands of Russian control. The surrender of elements from the 36th Battalion, due to a lack of ammunition and water, along with the city being bisected, indicates the resistance is faltering. We believe that when the Ukrainian resistance collapses, it will come quickly. Our earlier assessment of the final stand occurring within the Azovstal Metallurgical Factory appears accurate.

Russian troop commitments between Russia, Chechen, and DNR militias are equivalent to 12 BTGs. The lack of working infrastructure within Mariupol and what is likely to be a rapidly developing insurgency will limit how many soldiers can redeploy deeper into the Donbas. Many Russian-

aligned units are likely combat ineffective due to heavy losses and will require months to be reconstituted.

Members of the Russian 1st Battalion Tactical Group 70th Motor Rifle Regiment were decimated at an undisclosed location in the Donetsk Oblast.¹² The Ukrainian General Staff claims the BTG commander and chief of staff were killed.

In Luhansk, heavy fighting continues around Severodonetsk. Russian troops are within Popasna again, reaching the same point they achieved on March 12 - at one of the two railway stations.¹³

Fighting continued in Rubizhne, with Chechen forces gaining control of the eastern part of the town. The city remains disputed.

Electrical power was restored in Severodonetsk,¹⁴ and the International Red Cross was able to evacuate 11 people.¹⁵

¹² <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/292367309743021>

¹³ https://twitter.com/200_zoka/status/1513451592145645568

¹⁴ <https://twitter.com/HromadskeUA/status/1513703255943036932>

¹⁵ https://twitter.com/ICRC_ua/status/1513541040468377608

Russian forces continue to target civilians and civilian infrastructure, heavily damaging the city's eastern parts.¹⁶

West of Severodonetsk, civilians and civilian infrastructure in Lysychansk were shelled, causing heavy damage, killing one person, and wounding 50.¹⁷

Ukrainian forces claimed to have destroyed a large ammunition depot in Novoaidar, 25 kilometers east of Sevrodonetsk.¹⁸ The video showed numerous secondary explosions, with projectiles flying out of the conflagration. A video on April 11 shows the depot was obliterated, along with 15 trucks and at least two MLRS vehicles.¹⁹ The debris field covers a large area.²⁰ The facility was located in a residential area in the northern part of the settlement.²¹

Chechen leader Ramzaan Kadyrov released a video on Telegram claiming he had received the current situation and battle plan for Ukraine, including the retaking of Kyiv.²² He panned the camera over the maps in a stunning operational security failure. One of the maps displayed the

¹⁶ <https://twitter.com/zcjbrooker/status/1513475612706578435>

¹⁷ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1513533817516183559>

¹⁸ https://twitter.com/ukraine_world/status/1513406980655919104

¹⁹ https://twitter.com/techz_dave/status/1513608875684945923

²⁰ <https://twitter.com/UAWeapons/status/1513574394890756097>

²¹ <https://goo.gl/maps/QQSB2EG8fMkBzm4x9>

²² <https://twitter.com/DALperovitch/status/1513425204978008064>

battle map for Luhansk, including marking where military units are deployed.²³ The map is accurate, including showing the advances toward Popasna and the disputed control of Rubhizne.

KHARKIV REGION

A Russian BTG attempted to occupy Dmytrivka, southwest of Izyum but was repulsed. Another BTG headed southeast toward Dovhenke and was pushed back by Ukrainian forces.²⁴ Both BTGs retreated north behind the reinforced lines on the southern edge of Izyum.

Maxar released photos on April 10 of a 13-kilometer long convoy of Russian military vehicles heading south from the Russian border to Izyum.²⁵ Almost simultaneously, the Regional Commander for Kharkiv announced a large convoy of Russian vehicles had been destroyed.²⁶ There has not been independent verification,

Russian forces continue to shell, bomb, and fire missiles into civilian areas of Kharkiv, a city that is 62% Russian and

²³ <https://twitter.com/DALperovitch/status/1513423794773413891/photo/3>

²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/GeneralStaff.ua/posts/292337146412704>

²⁵ <https://twitter.com/OAlexanderDK/status/1513082404881289216>

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/CanadianUkrain1/status/1513274829503442945>

6% ethnic Jew.^{27 28 29} (viewer discretion advised) Residents hide in subway stations and tunnels overnight to escape the attacks.³⁰ The city of 1.5 million is blocked on three sides, making travel and resupply challenging.

Russian forces shelled a military checkpoint within the city and wounded members of the 228th battalion.³¹

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV REGION

A missile strike destroyed the airport in Dnipro on April 10.³² There was no other information available on casualties.

There was less fighting around Kherson and no new gains for Russian or Ukrainian forces.

Mykolaiv was also struck by missiles creating a small forest fire and wounding one person.³³

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/SarahAshtonLV/status/1513515614589132811>

²⁸ https://twitter.com/maria_avdv/status/1513500287515959296

²⁹ <https://twitter.com/AmbreEarnhart/status/1513564327164452865>

³⁰ <https://twitter.com/idreesali114/status/1513627236179587072>

³¹ <https://twitter.com/HarZizn/status/1513725574140899328>

³² [The Independent](#)

³³ <https://twitter.com/EuromaidanPress/status/1513416568499286016>

ASSESSMENT: We continue to believe that the Ukrainian General Staff is not interested in liberating the city due to the challenges of defending the location. The continued threat of liberation keeps up to five BTGs locked in place.

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

There wasn't any significant military activity across the region today.

KYIV REGION

There weren't any significant military operations in the Kyiv region.

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

The Black Sea Fleet of the Russian navy has targeted areas around Odesa. Yesterday a strike in the suburb of Krasnosilka killed three members of the Ukrainian military.

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no longer a threat of an amphibious assault landing at or near Odesa.³⁴

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no threat of the Russian peacekeeping force in Transnistria invading Ukraine.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military activity today.

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is no longer a threat of a Belarusian invasion into Western Ukraine.

ASSESSMENT: We believe there is only a limited possibility Russia will attempt to remove or replace some of the peacekeeping forces in Transnistria.

³⁴ <https://twitter.com/BackAndAlive/status/151353251508277504>

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

Russian General Alexander Dvornikov, the former Southern Region Commander in Ukraine, has been tapped to reorganize the military command under his leadership.³⁵

During the first six weeks of the Russian offensive, control was divided between three generals, who were uncoordinated and had to fight for resources.

The appointment of Dvornikov, who has been described as the "Butcher of Syria" and one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's favorite generals, has also raised concerns that the war in Ukraine will turn bloodier.

He was the leader who coordinated the final assault on the Syrian city of Aleppo, which killed thousands. He is also considered the mastermind behind the Russian strategy of targeting civilian infrastructures such as hospitals, schools, and food distribution centers to demoralize the civilian population.

³⁵ [UPI](#)

Military experts consider Dvornikov the brightest mind for urban warfare in the Russian army.

ASSESSMENT: We don't believe the appointment of Dvornikov will cause a fundamental shift in strategy – at this time. If there is a determination that chemical weapons were used in Mariupol on April 11, this would indicate a significant escalation.

Dvornikov is also not likely to change the command, control, supply, and logistics issues that the Russian military currently faces in Ukraine in short order.

Former Russian FSB head Sergei Beseda is reported to have been transferred to the infamous Lefortovo prison in Moscow.³⁶ The prison has maintained a notorious reputation for interrogations and tortures for almost a century, back to the rule of Stalin.

Beseda was fired, put in home detention, and ultimately imprisoned for reporting false information to the Kremlin about the real situation in Ukraine before the invasion."

³⁶ [The Times of London](#)

There are fresh reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin is purging the organization. Another 150 agents have been dismissed from the FSB and some imprisoned. Since the start of the war, over 250 agents have been dismissed, arrested, or detained on various charges.

The Governor of Belgorod Oblast in Russia reported that the train tracks in Shebekinsky were “destroyed” in an apparent attack. There were no reported injuries.³⁷

Military equipment manufacturer Rheinmetall is preparing to provide 50 Leopard 1 main battle tanks to Ukraine.³⁸ The Leopard 1 first entered service in 1965 and was deployed in 12 European nations. Training is reported to take “a few days,” and the 50 MBTs would be available by the end of 2022.

Germany retired the Leopard 1 in 2003, with the last major upgrade program starting in 1987. Most variants that still exist today are 1A5 models with a 105 mm main gun. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz would have to approve the deal.

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/Archer83Able/status/1513745795249577984>

³⁸ [Handelsblatt Newspaper via Reuters via MSN](#)

Last week the United States State Department and Slovakia announced a deal where the former Warsaw Pact nation would purchase eight F-16 fighter planes. There are reports on April 11 that an agreement to transfer the 11 airworthy MiG-29 fighter jets from Slovakia to Ukraine is on the table.³⁹

Russia warned Sweden and Finland against NATO membership, with Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov saying, "the alliance remains a tool geared towards confrontation."⁴⁰

With NATO membership for Sweden and Finland looming, Russian and NATO forces continue to posture. NATO announced they were deploying 16 ships to the Baltic Sea for joint training exercises and mine sweeping.⁴¹ Two multinational naval groups of 16 warships have been deployed and will operate with other allied nations, implying non-NATO Sweden and Finland will participate.

The United States and western allies have significantly stepped up surveillance and command and control flights around Ukraine and the Russian border.⁴² E-3A Sentry (aka

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/visegrad24/status/1513644118307741698>

⁴⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61066503>

⁴¹ <https://mc.nato.int/media-centre/news/2022/nato-ships-deploy-to-baltic-sea>

⁴² <https://twitter.com/wipljw/status/1513480498269626375/photo/1>

AWACS) aircraft were flying over Romania, Lithuania, and, later in the day, along the border of the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad.⁴³

The United States has also renewed patrols of the RQ-4B Globalhawk over the Black Sea, including the Crimea Peninsula, and right along the Moldova border.^{44 45}

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In the Kyiv Oblast, the bodies of six civilians executed by Russian forces were found in Shevchenkove, east of Brovary. The people had been dumped in a basement.⁴⁶ (NSWF, viewer discretion advised)

According to his lawyer and the news agency Sota, Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian opposition leader and outspoken critic of the Kremlin, was detained in Moscow.⁴⁷ After advocating for harsher EU and US sanctions, kara-Murza was likely poisoned in 2015 and again in 2017. The 2015 attempt almost killed him. That same year his friend Boris Nemtsov

⁴³ https://twitter.com/android_dogma/status/1513529536801132554/photo/1

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/militarynewsuk2/status/1513136146481614848/photo/1>

⁴⁵ https://twitter.com/Nom4d_14/status/1513747868955430917/photo/1

⁴⁶ https://twitter.com/ua_industrial/status/1513528558152556559

⁴⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/apr/11/prominent-russian-opposition-activist-detained-in-moscow>

was shot to death. Just hours before his arrest, Kara-Murza appeared on the United States news network CNN and called the Kremlin leadership a “regime of murderers.”

The United Kingdom Ministry of Defense confirmed that Russia had used white phosphorous munitions in Ukraine, specifically in the Donbas. The summary did not indicate if the highly flammable agent was used against civilian or military targets. The agency expressed concern that Russia could use the munitions in Mariupol.⁴⁸

In Kharkiv, a security camera captured a Russian cluster bomb striking a civilian area with traffic and pedestrians. It appears a bomblet struck one pedestrian in the attack.⁴⁹

Over the weekend, a video emerged on Telegram showing a Russian soldier raping a child. There are unconfirmed reports that Russian authorities have identified and arrested the soldier.

The Ministry of Defense of Ukraine reports war crimes committed in Borodyanka by members of the Russian 234th

⁴⁸ <https://twitter.com/DefenceHQ/status/1513386583600340992/photo/1>

⁴⁹ <https://twitter.com/Osinttechnical/status/1513549877933977602>

Assault Regiment.⁵⁰ MoD has provided specific information, but there are numerous unconfirmed reports that men were marched out of the city into the woods and remain missing.

Ukraine's prosecutor general Iryna Venediktova said her office is investigating more than 5,800 war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russian and Russia-backed troops in Ukraine.⁵¹ She indicated more than 500 suspects had been identified, including Russian politicians and military leaders.

GEOPOLITICAL

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, toured Bucha, and then traveled to Moscow. He met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, calling for an end to the invasion of Ukraine.⁵²

Nehammer described the 75 minutes meeting as "unfriendly," where he engaged in a "very direct, open and

⁵⁰ <https://gur.gov.ua/content/voennosluzhashchye-234-desantnoshturmovo-ho-polka.html>

⁵¹ [The Hill](#)

⁵² [Associated Press](#)

tough" talk stating, "this war needs to end because, in war, both sides can only lose."

Austria is part of the European Union but not NATO and considers itself politically and militarily neutral.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte toured Borodyanka today during a visit to meet with Ukrainian officials.⁵³ "No words could possibly describe what I saw and felt here," Simonyte wrote on Twitter.⁵⁴

Olga Stefanishyna, the deputy prime minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, said she expects Ukraine to join the EU by June. President Zelenskyy submitted Ukraine's application in February. The process typically takes years, but the 27 member nation bloc appears willing to fast forward acceptance, which would boost the Ukrainian economy.⁵⁵

United States President Biden met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him not to increase fossil fuel purchases from Russia.⁵⁶ Biden offered to assist India

⁵³ <https://twitter.com/KyivIndependent/status/1513528120493682690>

⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/IngridaSimonyte/status/1513494605844647938>

⁵⁵ [USA Today](#)

⁵⁶ [Associated Press](#)

in the development of alternative energy solutions. India buys less than 5% of its crude oil from Russia but imports 80% of its needs. Modi made no indication if the nation would refrain from increasing imports from Russia. India has the third-largest military budget globally and sources most of its military hardware from Russia.

France ejected six Russian agents who were posing as diplomats. Intelligence services concluded the six were working against French national interests.⁵⁷

France will have a national election runoff on April 24, after no candidate could secure 50% of the vote. President Emmanuel Macron will face off against nationalist Marine Le Pen. Le Pen has avoided political fallout to her ties to Putin in the 2022 election cycle. Macron was expected to cruise to victory before the start of the Russia-Ukraine War. Several failed diplomatic missions and spiraling inflation has dampened his popularity.

Political watchers believe a Le Pen victory on April 24 would signal a shift in French foreign policy toward Russia.

⁵⁷ <https://twitter.com/phildstewart/status/1513584549741137922>

ECONOMIC

French Bank Societe Generale (SocGen) announced it was leaving Russia and taking a \$3.3 billion writeoff from selling its Rosbank unit to Interros Capital. Interros is linked to a Russian oligarch Vladimir Potanin, the head of Norilsk Nickel, and is sanctioned by Canada.⁵⁸

Italy forged an agreement with Algeria to increase natural gas imports by 40%, reducing dependency on Russian fossil fuels. Algeria is Italy's second-largest gas supplier behind Russia, and the Transmed pipeline can almost double its current flow.⁵⁹ The deal would reduce Russian imports by up to 40%, a far cry from the 67% reduction by the end of 2022 the EU is targeting.

The rouble declined to 83.50 to 1 United States dollar.

WTI dropped to \$96 a barrel and Brent well to \$100. The uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 in China is expected to drive down global demand for oil and gasoline. Gasoline

⁵⁸ [Reuters](#)

⁵⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/italy-signs-deal-with-algeria-increase-gas-imports-2022-04-11/>

futures dropped to under \$3.00 a gallon briefly and closed the day at \$3.02, down 11 cents.

DISINFORMATION EVALUATION

Ukraine and United States officials denied a report by the Russian Ministry of Defense that Soviet-era S300 antiaircraft missiles from Slovakia were destroyed days after arrival.