



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



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Malcontent News

Russia-Ukraine War SITREP

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SUMMARY – DAY 162

Errors and Omissions: *On August 2, we wrote on page 21 of the Situation Report, "Russian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy." We did not intend to create the impression that Ukraine had conquered Russia. The President of Russia remains Vladimir Putin. We appreciate your understanding.*

In northeast Donetsk, Russian forces attempted to advance on Berestove and were unsuccessful.

Near Bakhmut, Russian forces attempted to advance on Yakovlivka from Volodymyrivka and were unsuccessful. Russian forces also attempted to advance on Soledar from Stryapivka but did not make new territorial gains.

East of Bakhmut, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group reached the outer edges of Bakhmut from the center of Pokrovske but were pushed back.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Vershyna from Roty and were unsuccessful.

On August 3 in the Svitlodarsk bulge, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for PMC Wagner Group captured Seimyhira, and on August 4, they advanced on Kodema from Dolomitne and Seimyhira.

In southwest Donetsk, Russian forces continue to focus their resources and ground assaults on Avdiivka and Pisky. Russian forces furiously attacked Pisky from Lozove and Vesele and made marginal gains.

On August 3, Russian forces carpeted Marinka during the day and evening with artillery, rockets, and thermobaric weapons. Russian forces advanced into the settlement after the bombardment and were pushed back. On August 4, Russian forces attempted another direct assault on the settlement and were unsuccessful.

North of Kharkiv, Ukrainian forces attacked Russian positions in Vesele from Male Vesele. Ukrainian forces were unsuccessful.

Russian forces launched four missiles from Belgorod, Russia, on Kharkiv, which hit near the city center. There were reports of three injuries.

Chuhuiv was hit with artillery and rockets fired by MLRS on August 3 – 4. Shelling on the night of August 4 was the most intense the city has experienced since the start of the war.

Russian forces continue to lose ground south of Izyum. Ukrainian forces liberated Dmytrivka and Dibrovne, including the ridges overlooking Sulyivka. Ukrainian forces took full control of Maznivka and are advancing on Dovhenke.

With both attempts failing, Russian forces attempted to advance on Dolyna and Bohorodychne with ad hoc offensives. On August 3, Russian forces attempted an offensive on Husarivka, which also failed.

In Kherson, Ukraine hit an ammunition depot in Nova Mayachka, causing a large fire with secondary explosions.

Russian forces attempted to advance on Ukrainian positions on the Inhulets River bridgehead at Bilohirka and Lozove from Sukhyi Stavok and were unsuccessful.

Ukrainian forces attacked Russian positions in Starosillya, destroying armored vehicles concealed in a barn.

Ukrainian forces recaptured Lyubymivka on August 3, and Russian forces shelled the settlement on August 4.

On August 3, Oleksandr Sienkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv, reported a missile attack destroyed a grocery store and struck an equestrian training facility. There were no injuries, and no animals were hurt, but there was significant damage. There were reports of an additional attack late on August 4.

Zaporizhzhia was hit by four missiles late on August 4. Additional information was not available at the time the report was created.

Myrivske, northwest of Kryvyi Rih, was struck by an Xh-59 cruise missile. Houses were destroyed, but there were no injuries or deaths.

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor, reported that Krasnopillya, Shalyhyne, and a rural area near Novoslobidski were shelled, hit with

mortars, and a cross-border skirmish with machine gun fire. There were no injuries reported.

In Chernihiv, the settlements of Zaliznyi Mist, Hay, Hremyach, and Mykhalchyna Sloboda were shelled by Russian forces over the international border.

On August 3, Ukrainian forces targeted a Russian ammunition convoy in civilian vehicles moving north of Ternova, across the Russian border. Several vehicles were destroyed.

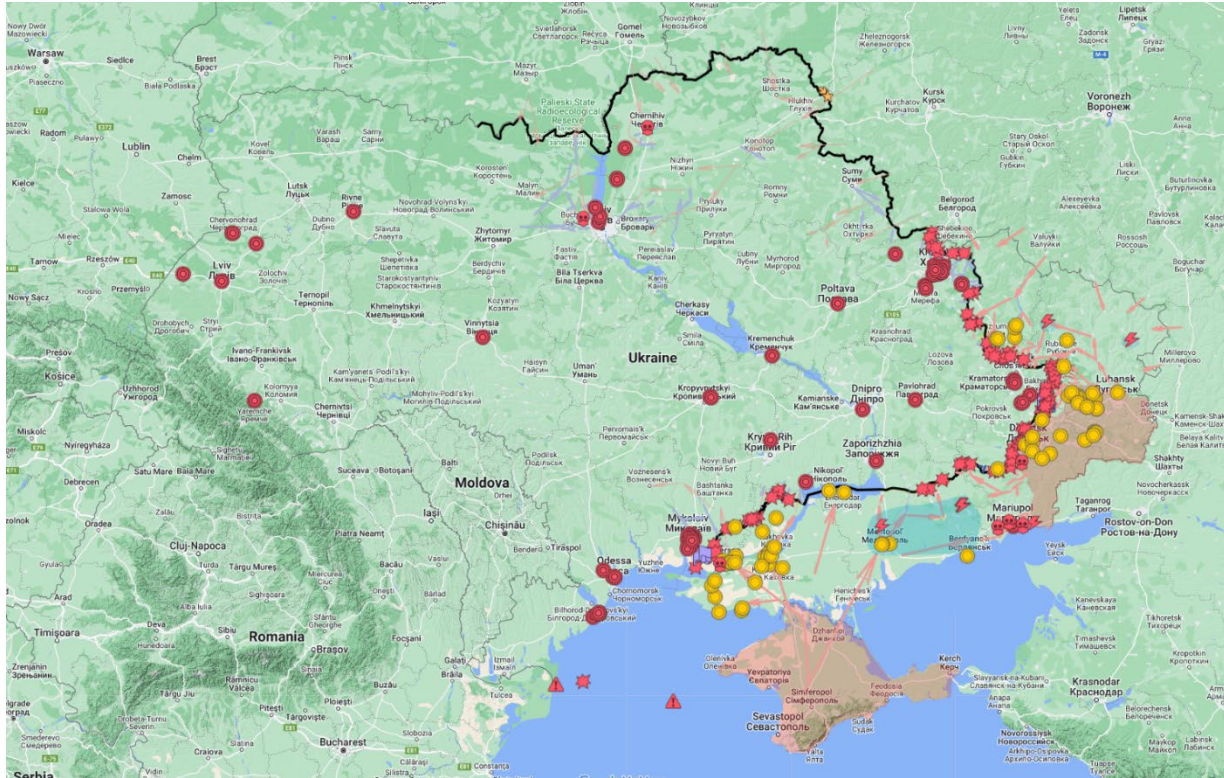
DAILY ASSESSMENT

We assess the following:

1. Russian forces are focusing military resources to grind Ukrainian defenses west of Donetsk down using a scorched earth policy. Ukrainian forces are struggling to hold the defenses but continue to resist the onslaught
2. We won't label the territorial gains south of Izyum a counteroffensive; however, territorial gains are accelerating, and the front is getting broader.

3. Our assessment on August 2 that Increased artillery fire south of Izyum was not a prelude to a renewed offensive was accurate.
4. Other analysts agree with our August 2 assessment that Russian forces have reached a culmination point in northeast Donetsk and the Izyum axis.
5. Ukraine has forced Russia to respond to a looming counteroffensive in Zaporizhia and Kherson while Ukraine continues to set conditions for a larger operation which reportedly will start by early September.
6. Both belligerents are trading accusations of violating international law and committing war crimes after the bombing at Olenivka.

TODAY'S WAR IN UKRAINE MAP

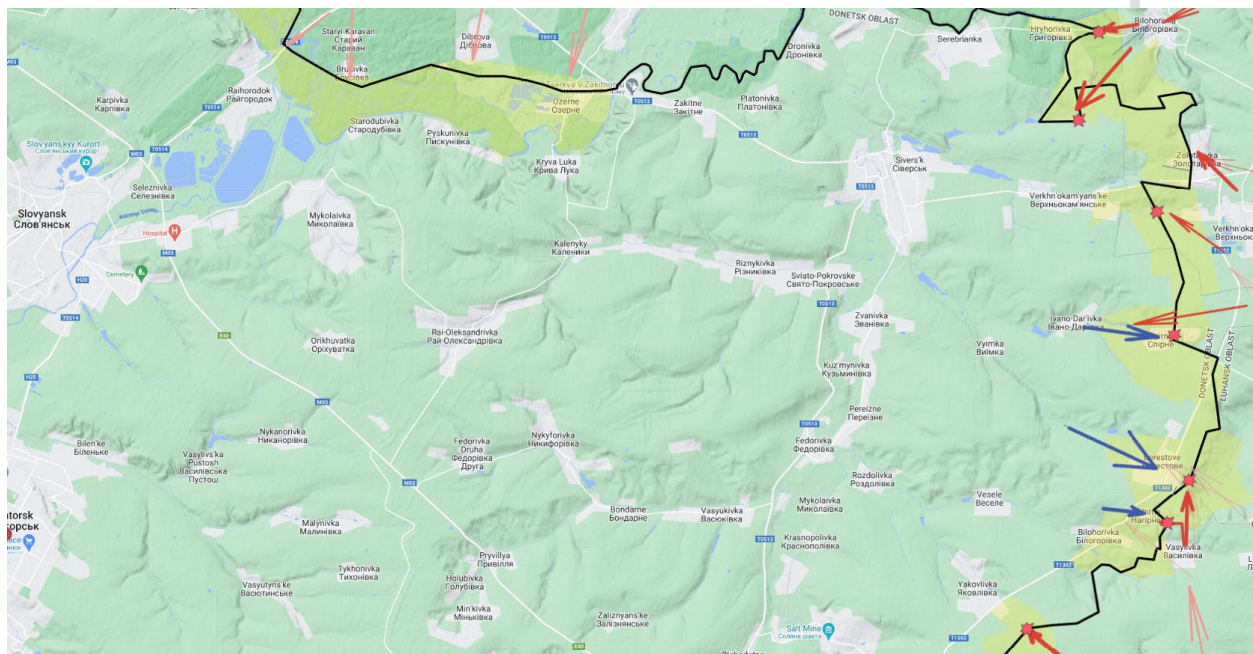


We have made significant improvements to our map solution. The updated map now shows contested areas and missile strikes by both belligerents. If you see a settlement name highlighted, like [Kherson](#), the link will take you to the exact location explained in the Situation Report. We have also added areas where there are active insurgencies (blue) and the regions that were under Russian control on February 1, 2022 (red).

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

DONBAS REGION

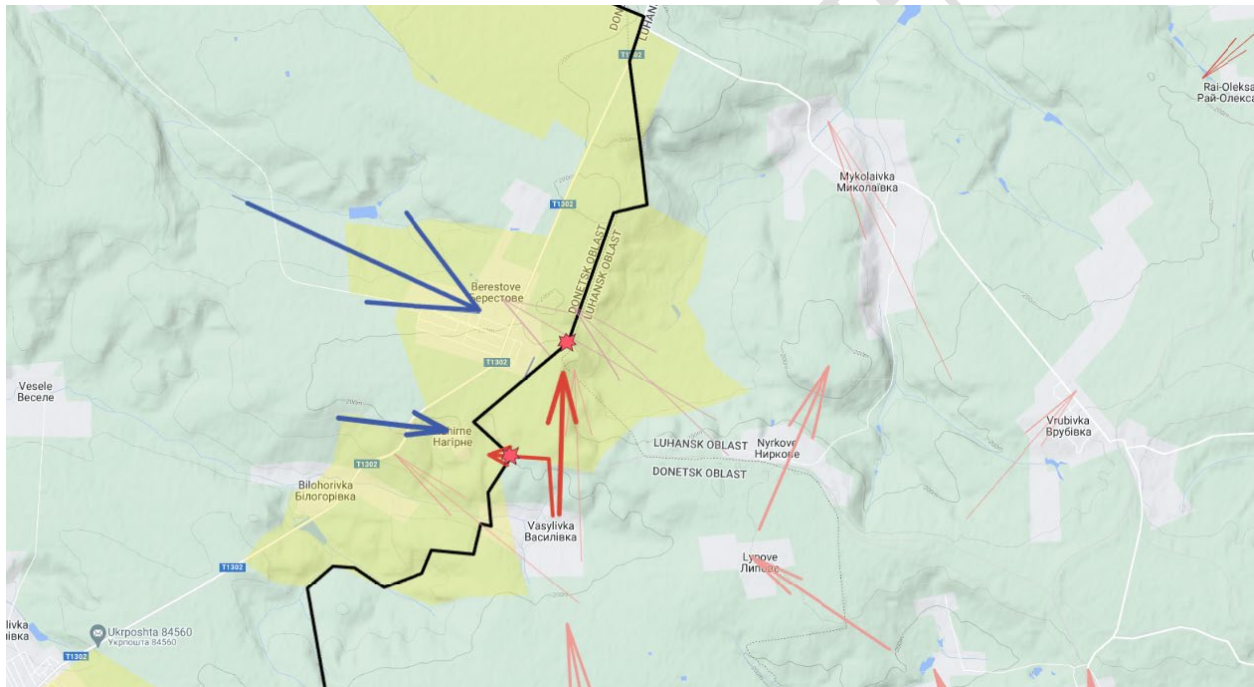
SLOVYANSK-BILOHORIVKA-BERESTOVE TRIANGLE



Russian Objective: Maintain territorial control and Ground Lines of Communication, control budding insurgency, and integrate captured territory into Russia

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent advances on Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk, support insurgents, exploit weaknesses, interdict supplies

The Russian Ministry of Defense has drawn down troops and redeployed forces to Donetsk city, Zaporizhia, and Kherson. Based on this, the Kremlin has given up on trying to capture Siversk, Slovyansk, and Kramatorsk in the short and midterm. With mud season and winter approaching, it seems unlikely further significant fighting will occur in this area until the spring if hostilities continue.

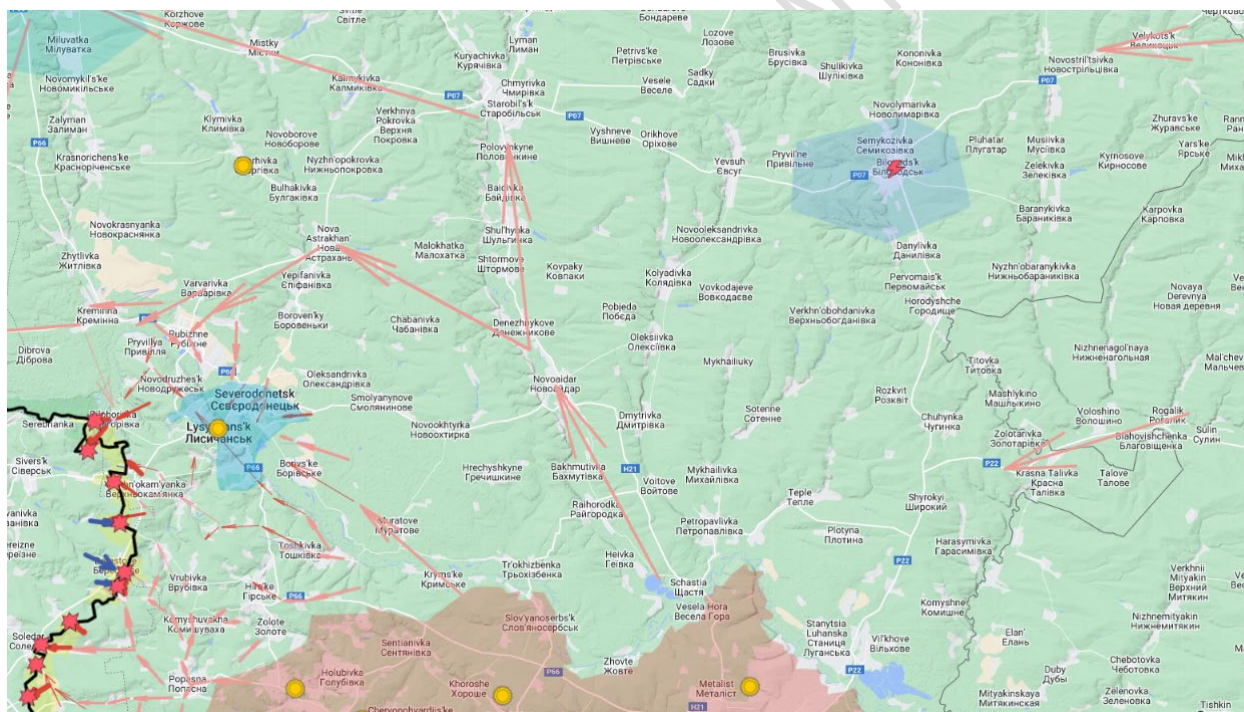


On the Bilohorivka-Berestove axis, Russian and Ukrainian forces maintained a frozen front. On August 3, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Berestove](#) from Vasylivka and were unsuccessful.¹

¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

Russian forces shelled [Siversk](#), [Spirne](#), [Verkhnokamyanske](#), [Hryhorivka](#), and [Serebryanka](#). The Russian air force flew a sortie against Spirne.

East of Slovyansk, Russian forces shelled [Raihorodok](#), [Mykolaivka](#), [Starodubivka](#), [Kryva Luka](#), and [Kalenyky](#).



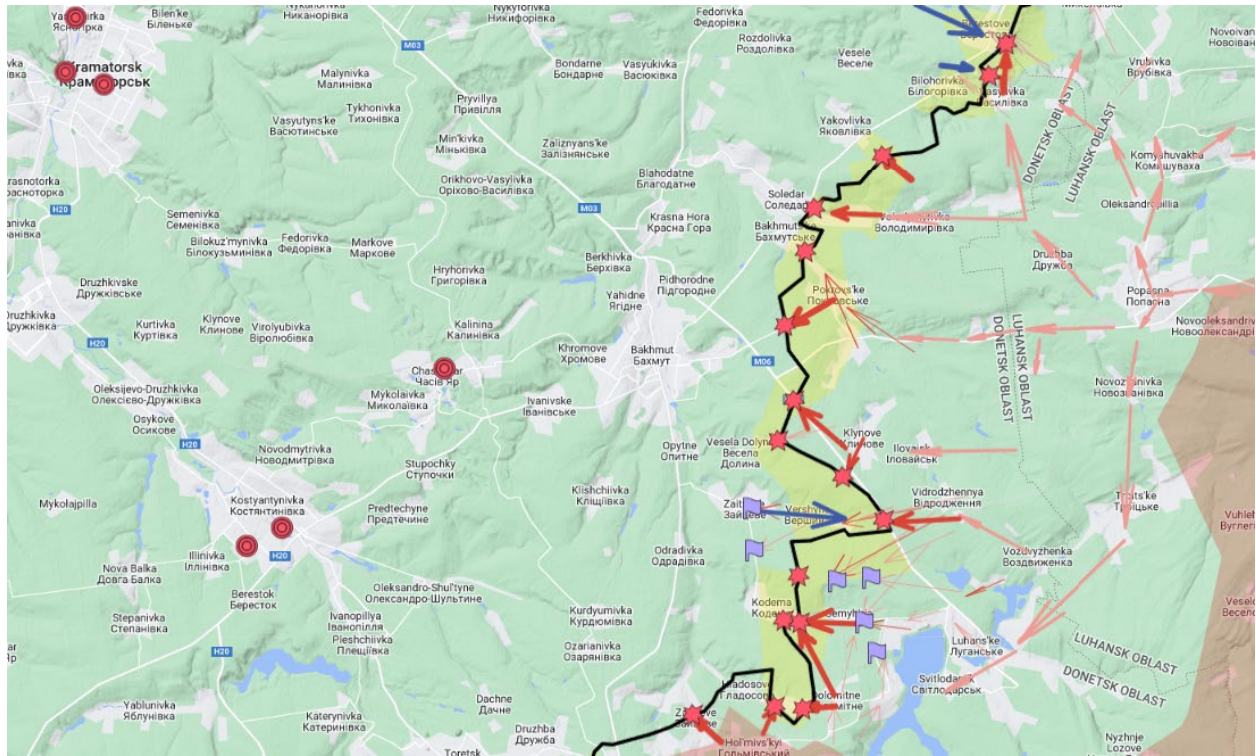
In [Bilovodsk](#), Luhansk, an assassination attempt was made on Vitaly Kovalenko, the so-called "head" of the occupied Bilovodsk district, and his deputy, Valentina Hladkova.²

² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/4/7361855/>

Hladkova was shot in the hip and has been hospitalized. Based on this report, we have updated the map to show this region has an active insurgency.

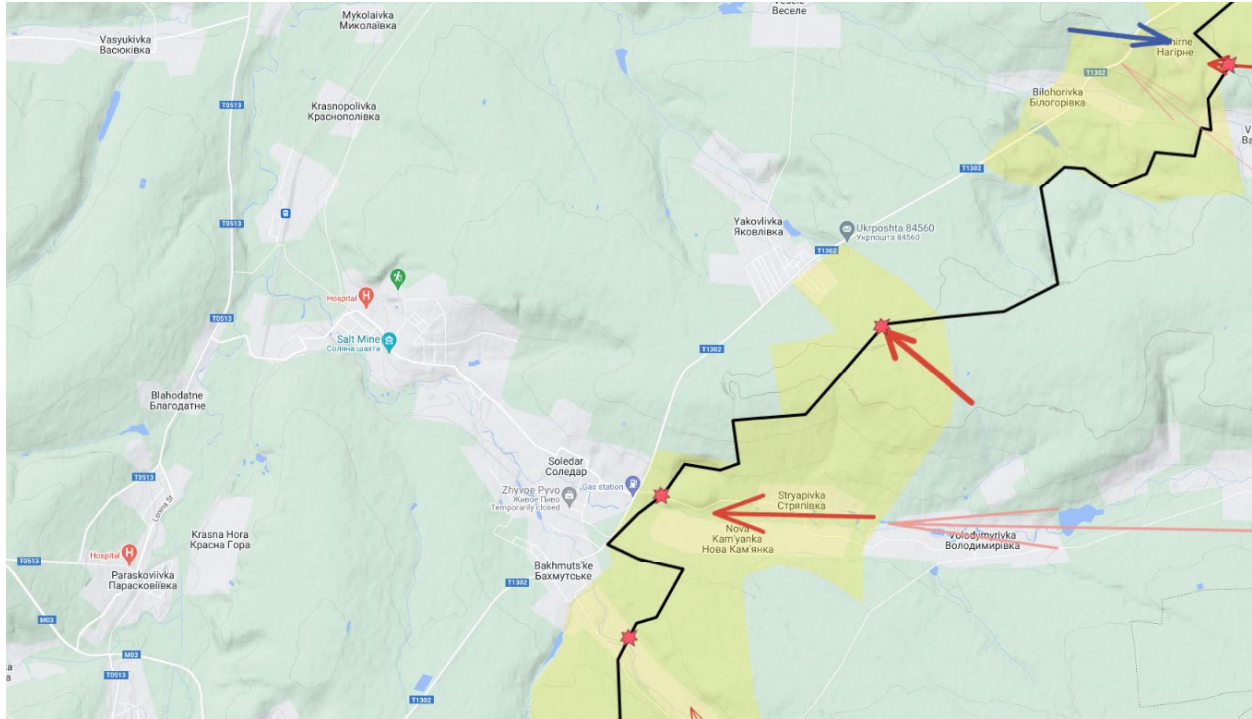
ASSESSMENT: The shelling of Raihorodok and Kryva Luka is not a prelude to a wet crossing or bridge crossing attempt by Russian forces. Although neither belligerent has sufficient troop strength or resources to launch major offensive operations, scattered fighting, reconnaissance in force, and exploiting weaknesses will continue.

BAKHMUT



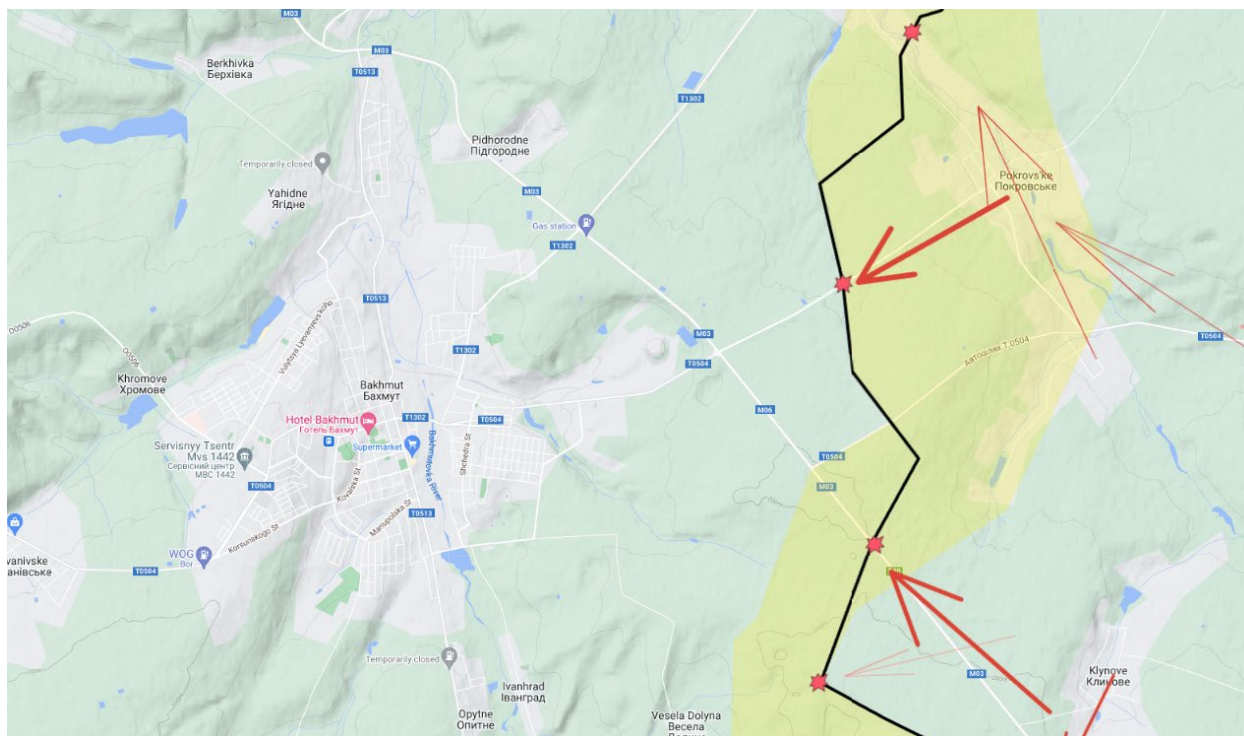
Russian Objective: Capture the Bakhmut-Soledar complex and collapse the Svitlodarsk salient before August 31, interdict the Bakhmut-Siversk T-5013 Highway GLOC

Ukrainian Objective: Defend Bakhmut-Soldar while managing equipment and personnel losses, minimize civilian casualties, defend GLOCs



Russian forces continue attempts to capture Soledar and Bakhmut by attacking in multiple directions. Russian forces attempted to advance on [Yakovlivka](#) from [Volodymyrivka](#) and were unsuccessful. Russian forces also attempted to advance on [Soledar](#) from [Stryapivka](#) but did not make new territorial gains.³

³ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



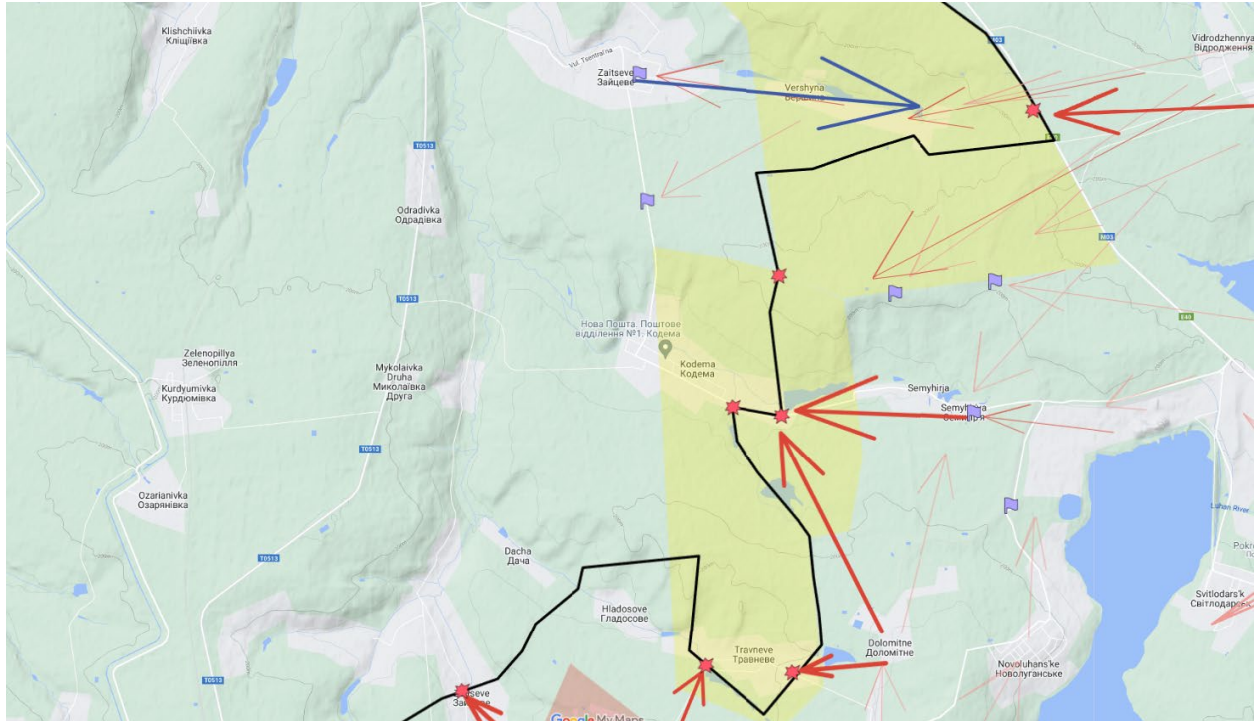
East of Bakhmut, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group reached the outer edges of Bakhmut from the center of [Pokrovske](#) but were pushed back.

Wagner group [released this video](#) as proof they had entered Bakhmut.⁴ A relief worker recorded the video while driving toward Bakhmut on July 29 or 30. The video editors with Wagner Group neglected to remove the Ukrainian flag attached to the windshield. The video was geolocated closer to Pokrovske than Bakhmut.

⁴ <https://twitter.com/DefMon3/status/1555320554193932288>



Russian forces attempted to advance on [Vershyna](#) from [Roty](#) and were unsuccessful.



On August 3 in the Svitlodarsk bulge, terrorist forces of the Imperial Legion fighting for PMC Wagner Group captured [Seimyhiriya](#), and on August 4, they advanced on [Kodema](#) from [Dolomitne](#) and Seimyhiriya. Fighting for control of [Travneve](#) continued.⁵

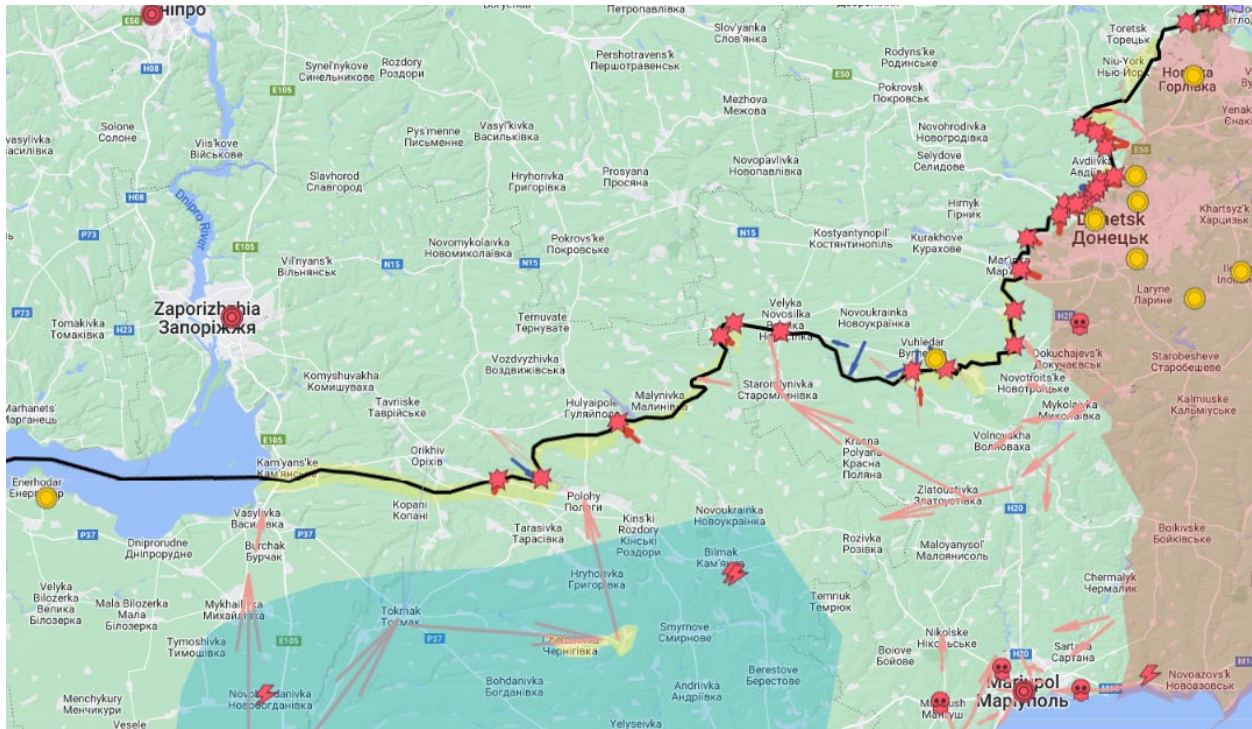
Russian forces shelled Yakovlivka, [Rozdolivka](#), Soledar, Bakhmut, Kodema, and Vershyňa. The Russian air force attacked Yakovlivka, Bakhmut, Kodema, and Soledar.

⁵ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

ASSESSMENT: PMC Wagner Group has had the most success of any Russian or Russian-proxy force in Ukraine during the first week of August. The mercenaries are supported by Russian artillery, airpower, and terrorist recruits from the Imperial Legion and exist as defacto Russian combat units.

The Russian Ministry of Defense wants to capture Bakhmut in a likely attempt to continue north toward Kramatorsk and encircle Ukrainian troops in northeast Donetsk. They lack the combat power to be successful, and weather conditions will turn unfavorable for major ground combat operations in five to seven weeks.

SOUTHWEST DONETSK AND WESTERN ZAPORIZHIA



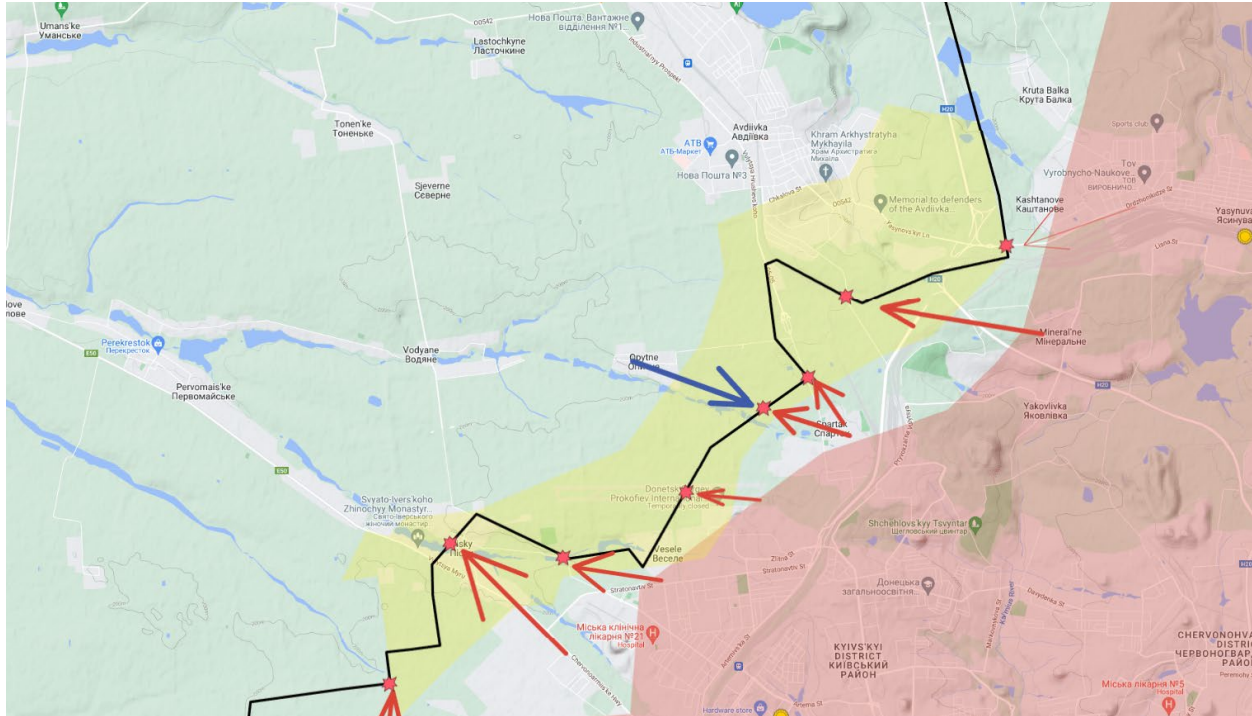
Russian Objective: Capture the Donetsk oblast to its administrative borders before August 31, push Ukrainian forces out of firing range of Donetsk city, defend the existing line of conflict in Zaporizhzhia to the Dnipro River

Ukrainian Objective: Defend the existing line of conflict while finding and exploiting weaknesses, destroy troop concentrations and command and control sites, interdict supplies and disrupt logistics

Russian forces continue to focus their resources and ground assaults on [Avdiivka](#) and [Pisky](#). The Russian Ministry of Defense is applying the same tactics to advance on Severodonetsk, Lysychansk, and the Zolote-Hirske salient in June.

- Massive artillery barrage supported by rockets and thermobaric weapons fired from multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS)
- Advance forced conscripts, Luhansk (LNR) and Donetsk (DNR) People's Republic separatists, Chechen national guard, and Russian volunteers to see if Ukrainians retreated
- If the weaker troops are attacked, withdraw them and repeat the process tomorrow
- Keep repeating this process until there is nothing left to defend and Ukrainian forces withdraw

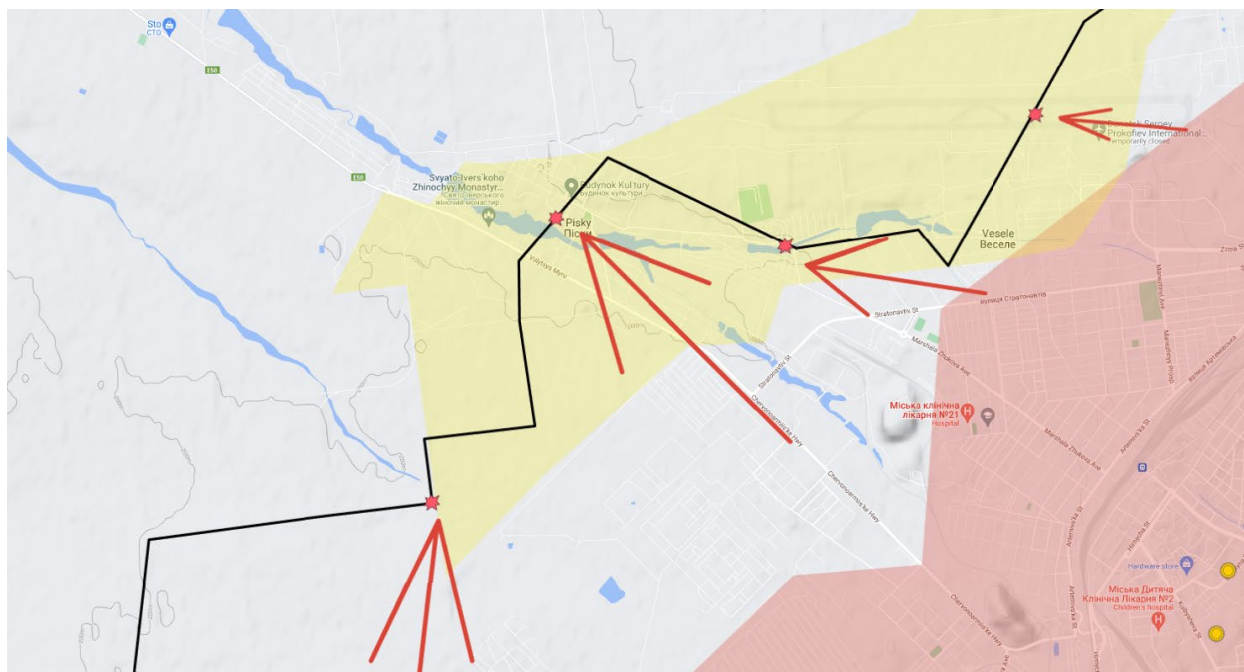
There has been a significant amount of misinformation in the last 24 hours declaring Ukrainian forces withdrew from [Marinka](#), Avdiivka, and Pisky. None of these reports were accurate, and reports of gains have been exaggerated.



Elements of the 1st Army Corps of the DNR and the 2nd Army Corps of the LNR attempted to advance into [Avdiivka](#) in a direct assault from Donetsk and were unsuccessful.⁶ ⁷After failing to flank Avdiivka from [Mineralne](#) and [Spartak](#) on August 1 – 2 and being unable to advance from [Kamyanka](#), the latest attempt has been a head-on assault, which in May, Russian military commanders stated they wanted to avoid.

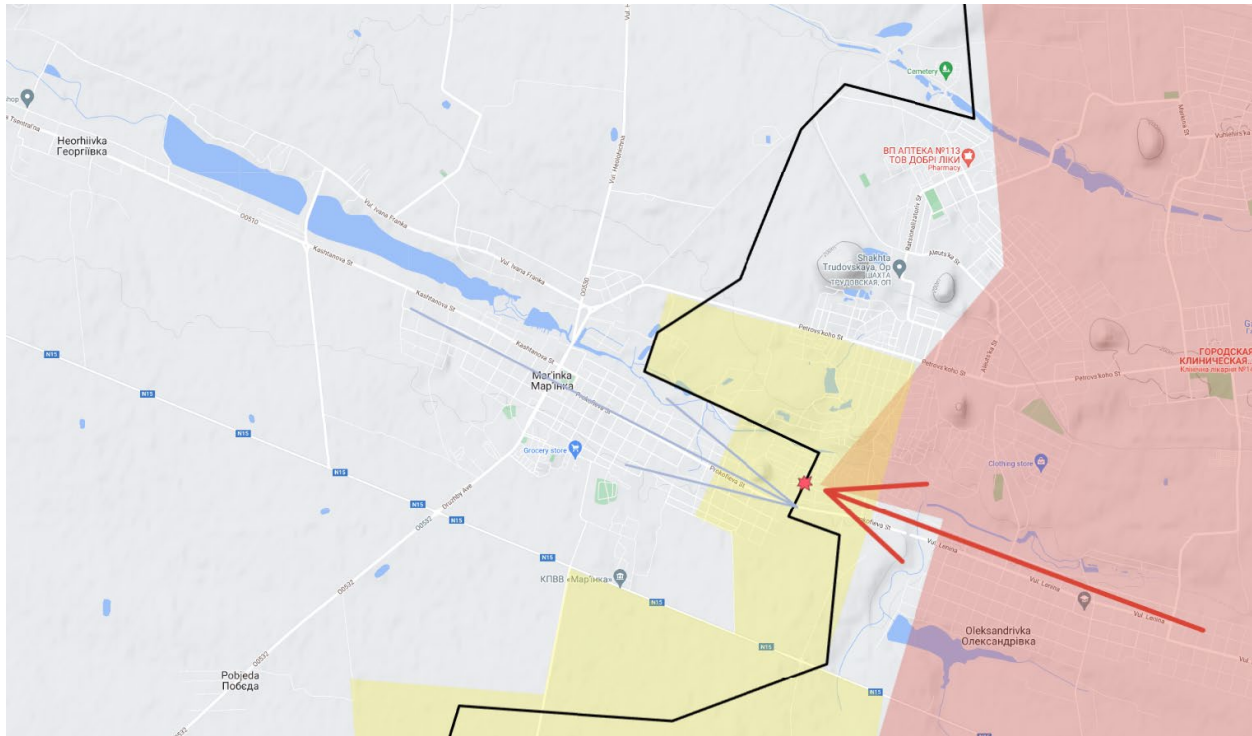
⁶ <https://t.me/rybar/36670>

⁷ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)



The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine confirmed that south of Pisky, Ukrainian forces lost control of the [Butivka Mine Shaft](#) [48°06'04.6"N 37°46'12.2"E]. Russian forces furiously attacked Pisky from [Lozove](#), Donetsk in a direct assault, and [Vesele](#). Pro-Russian sources claimed that DNR and LNR troops had advanced into the northwest part of Pisky, but [videos from Russian state media](#) showed intense shelling in the southern part of the settlement, where the line of conflict has been frozen since August 1.⁸ Russian separatist forces may have advanced up to 500 meters in the last three days but remain in the southern part of Pisky. We assess no man's land is unchanged, and the line of conflict was moved west.

⁸ <https://twitter.com/miladvisor/status/1555309007539150849>



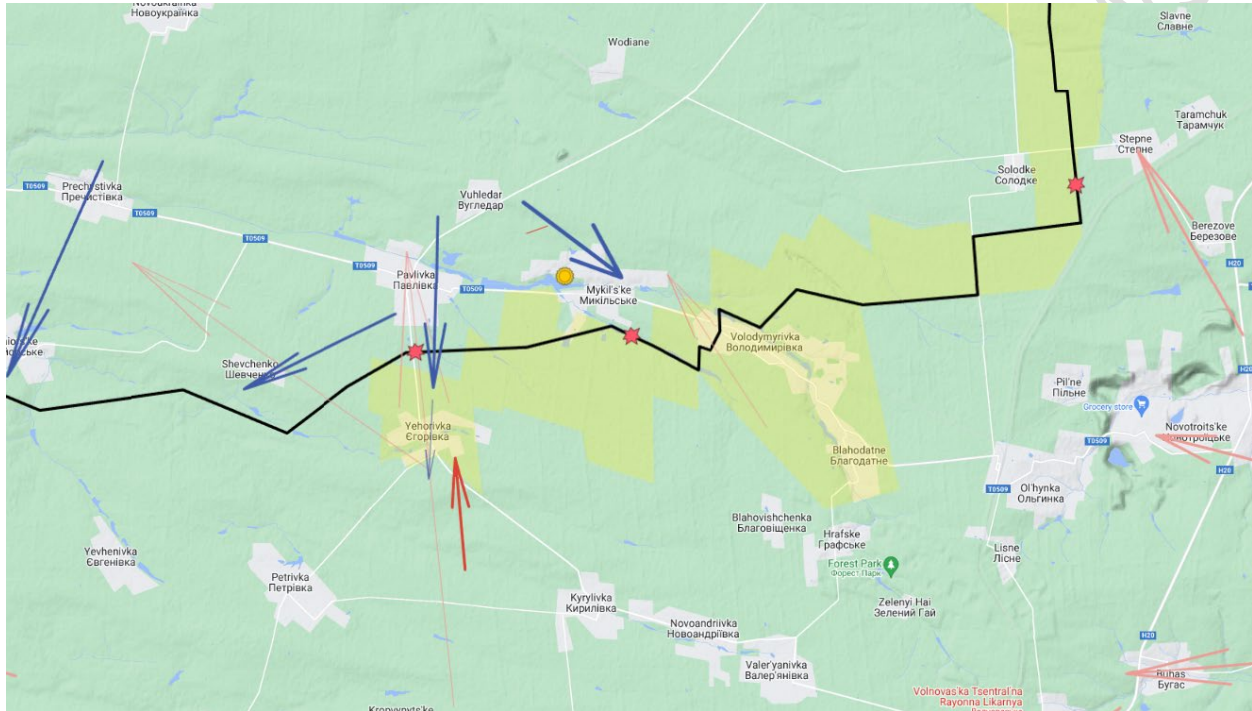
On August 3, Russian forces carpeted Marinka during the day and evening with artillery, rockets, and thermobaric weapons from MLRS.^{9 10} Russian forces advanced into the settlement after the bombardment and were pushed back through house-to-house to fighting. On August 4, Russian forces attempted another direct assault on the settlement and were unsuccessful.¹¹

⁹ https://t.me/UA_struggle/1853

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/tpyxanews/status/1555278881418100737>

¹¹ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

Russian forces shelled [Nevelske](#), [Netailove](#), and [Krasnohorivka](#) to interdict Ukrainian reinforcements and supplies. They also carried out airstrikes on Avdiivka, Marinka, and Pisky.



There were scattered artillery exchanges from Markina to [Velkya Novosilka](#) in Donetsk. Around Pavlivka, Russian forces focused on [Prechystivka](#), [Shevchenko](#), and [Volodymyrivka](#). Volodymyrivka was coded as Russian-controlled but in the contested zone. We made a slight adjustment to the line of conflict, moving it southeast but leaving Volodymyrivka under contested control, which leans Russian.

Artillery fire continued down the entire line of conflict from [Hulyaipole](#) to [Orikhiv](#) in Zaporizhia.

ASSESSMENT: The stakes are high for both belligerents west of Donetsk, which has turned into a battle of attrition. Ukraine does not have the artillery or troops to prevail in this type of combat. However, the front is much smaller than the Luhansk offensive of May and June. The defensive line west of Donetsk has been built up for eight years, and taking back those same defenses will be hard. In theory, if Ukraine is pushed out, Russian forces would have an open advance to Pokrovsk. The lack of light infantry and the coming fall rains will make that challenging.

Russia is trying to gain as much territory as possible for a planned referendum in September in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia, and Kherson, where a staged vote to join part of the Russian Federation will happen. Russia will likely use the referendum to threaten any further attacks on occupied territory as an attack on Russia.

Ukraine has grabbed the initiative on the battlefield. The Russian Ministry of Defense is pulling troops from Kharkiv, Izyum, Luhansk, and northeastern Donetsk to deploy in



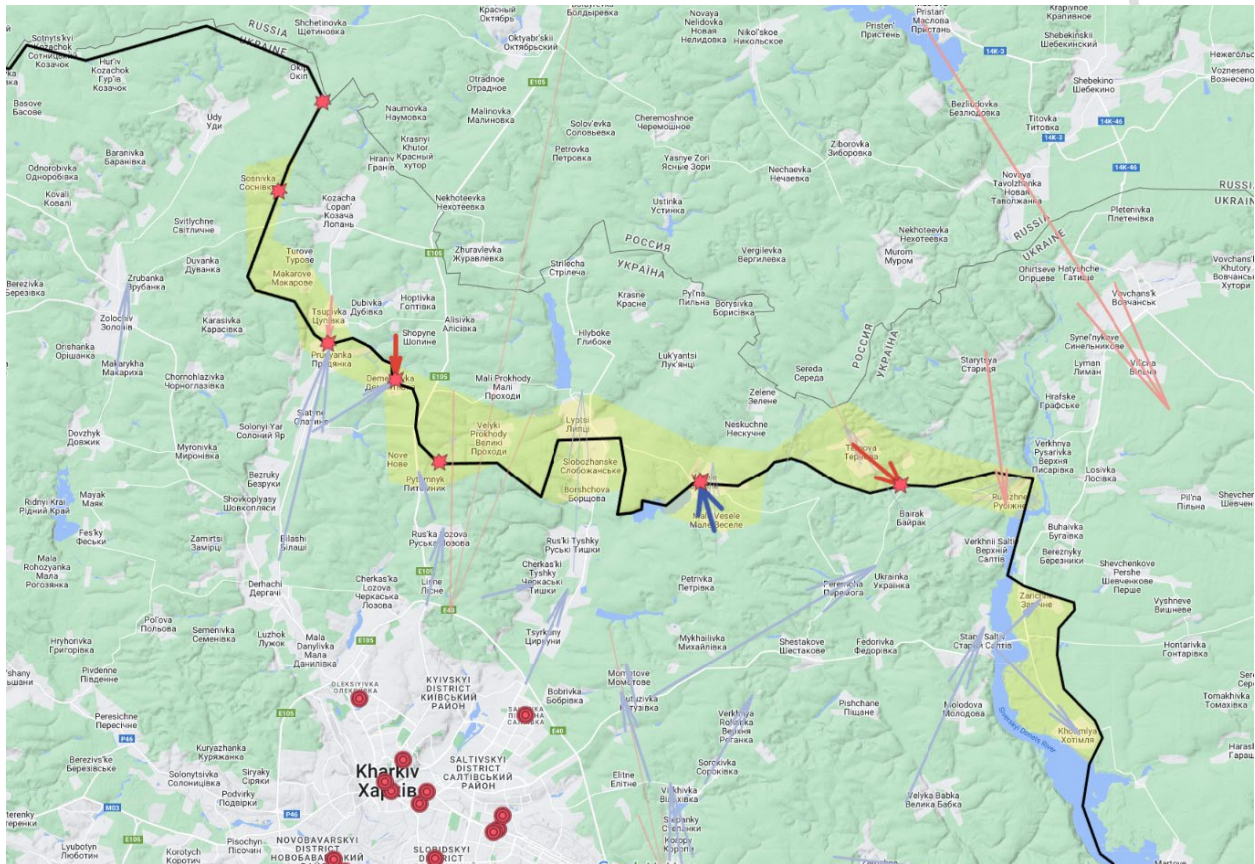
Zaporizhia and Kherson in anticipation of a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

We maintain that the goal of securing the entirety of the Donetsk oblast by August 31 is unrealistic.

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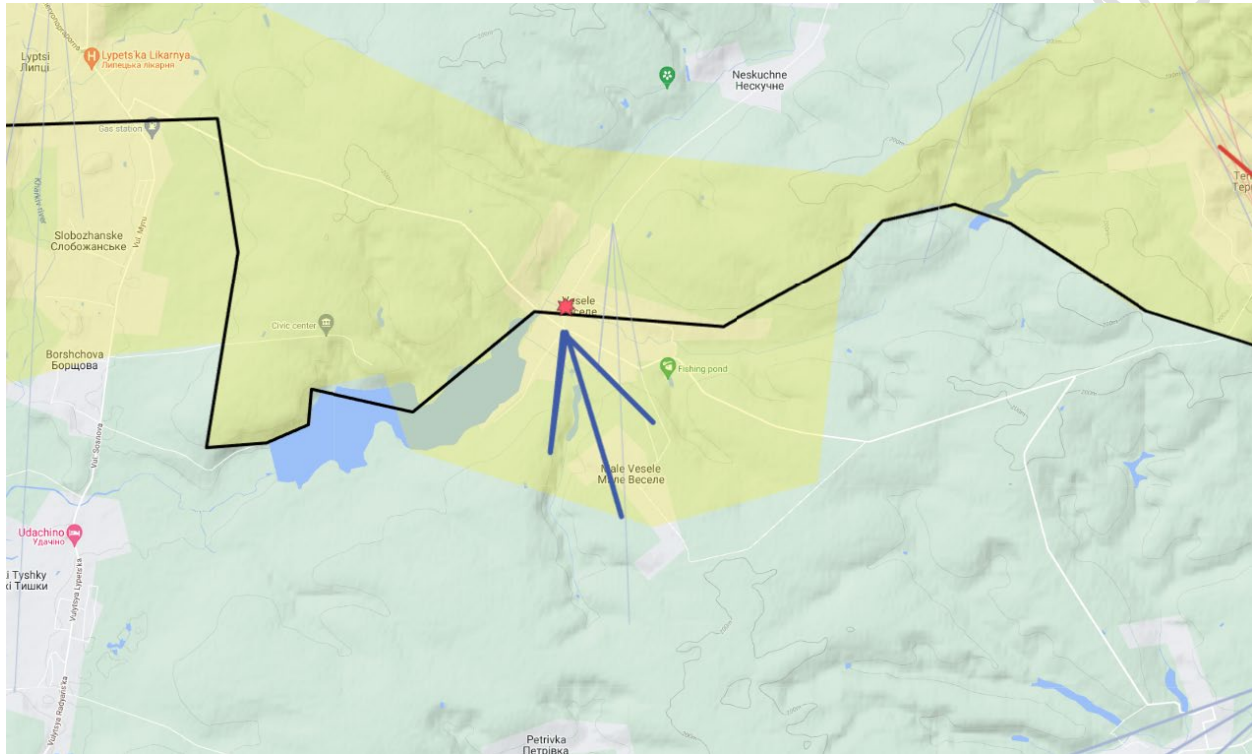
KHARKIV REGION

NORTHWESTERN KHARKIV



Russian Objective: Prevent Ukraine from reaching the international border with Russia, protect the Belgorod-Kupyansk GLOC, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advances on Kharkiv, pressure the Russian-controlled Shevchenkove-Izyum GLOC



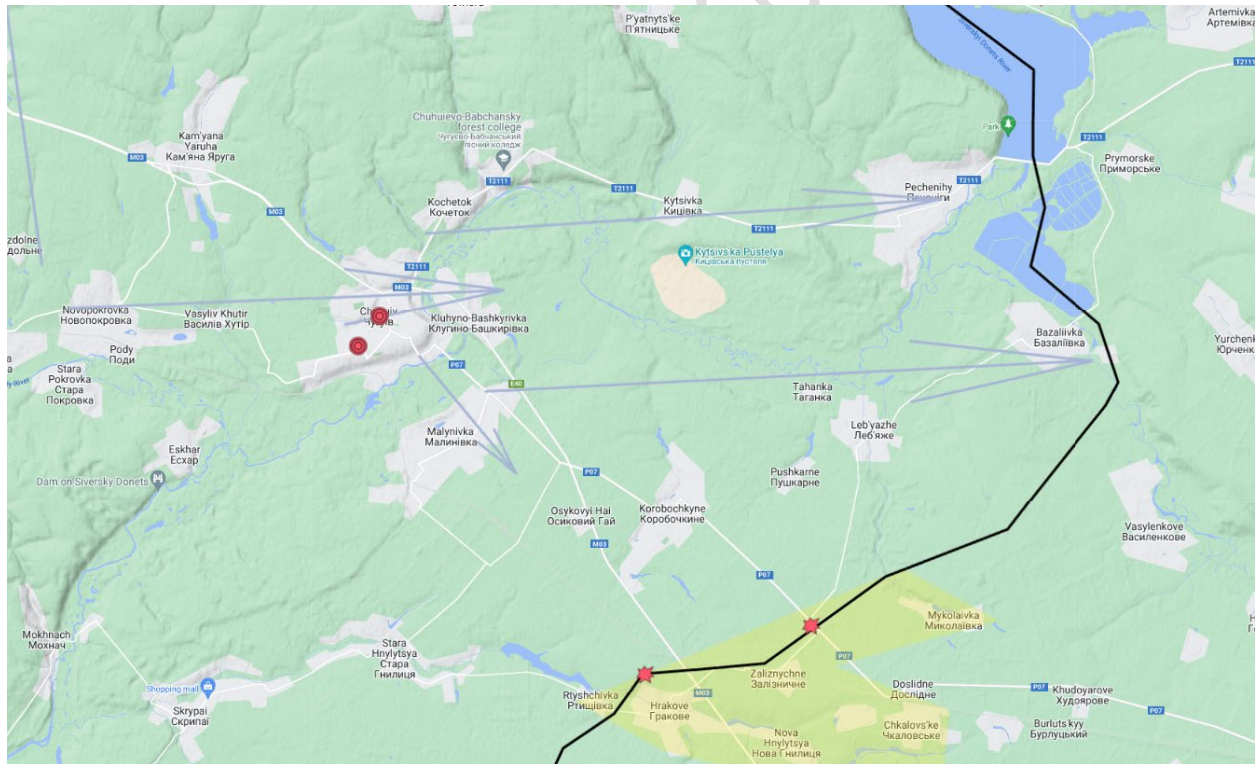
Pro-Russian social media account Rybar reported that Ukrainian forces attacked Russian positions in [Vesele](#) from [Male Vesele](#), north of Kharkiv.¹² Both settlements are in an area of contested control. We adjusted the line of conflict, moving it north.

¹² <https://t.me/rybar/36651>

Russian forces shelled [Derachi](#), [Borschchova](#), [Dementiivka](#), [Velyki Prokhody](#), [Ruski Tyshky](#), [Staryi Saltiv](#), and [Tsyrkuny](#).

¹³ ¹⁴ Officials in Derachi have declared a curfew from 21:00 to 6:00 due to the constant rocket attacks.

Russian forces launched four missiles from Belgorod, Russia, on Kharkiv, which hit near the city center.¹⁵ There were reports of three injuries.



¹³ https://t.me/der_rada/2201

¹⁴ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

¹⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/4/7361930/>

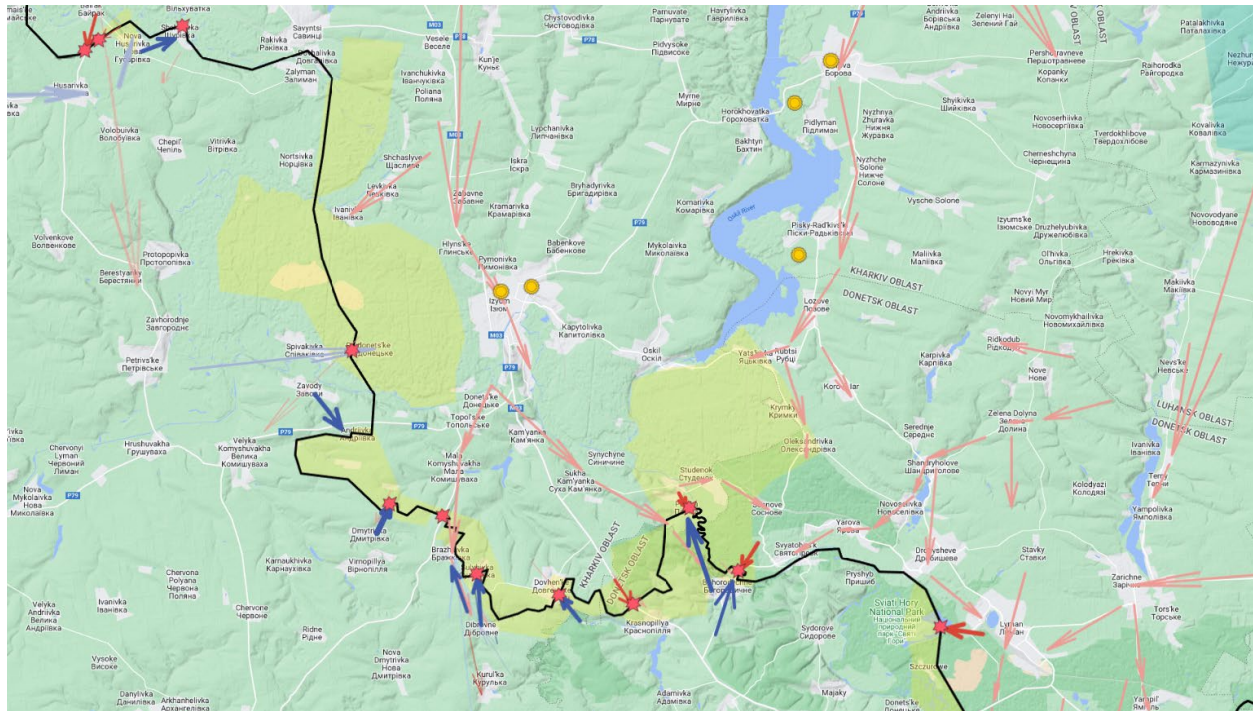
[Chuhuiv](#) was hit with artillery and rockets fired by MLRS on August 3 – 4. Shelling on the night of August 4 was the most intense the city has experienced since the start of the war.¹⁶ More information about the August 3 attack is in the **War Crimes and Human Rights** section.

ASSESSMENT: Neither belligerent has the equipment or troop strength to break the deadlock on the current line of conflict. We noted that the General Staff reported that Velyki Prokhody was shelled, implying that Ukrainian forces are advancing into the settlement. Earlier in the week, Ukrainian forces took complete control of [Pytomnyk](#), which would be a launching point for an offensive. Pro-Russian account Rybar reported fighting in the area of Pytomnyk, indicating that the area is contested. Based on Russian and Ukrainian reports, we did not adjust the line of conflict or the zone of contested control.¹⁷

¹⁶ <https://t.me/chuguiv/3033>

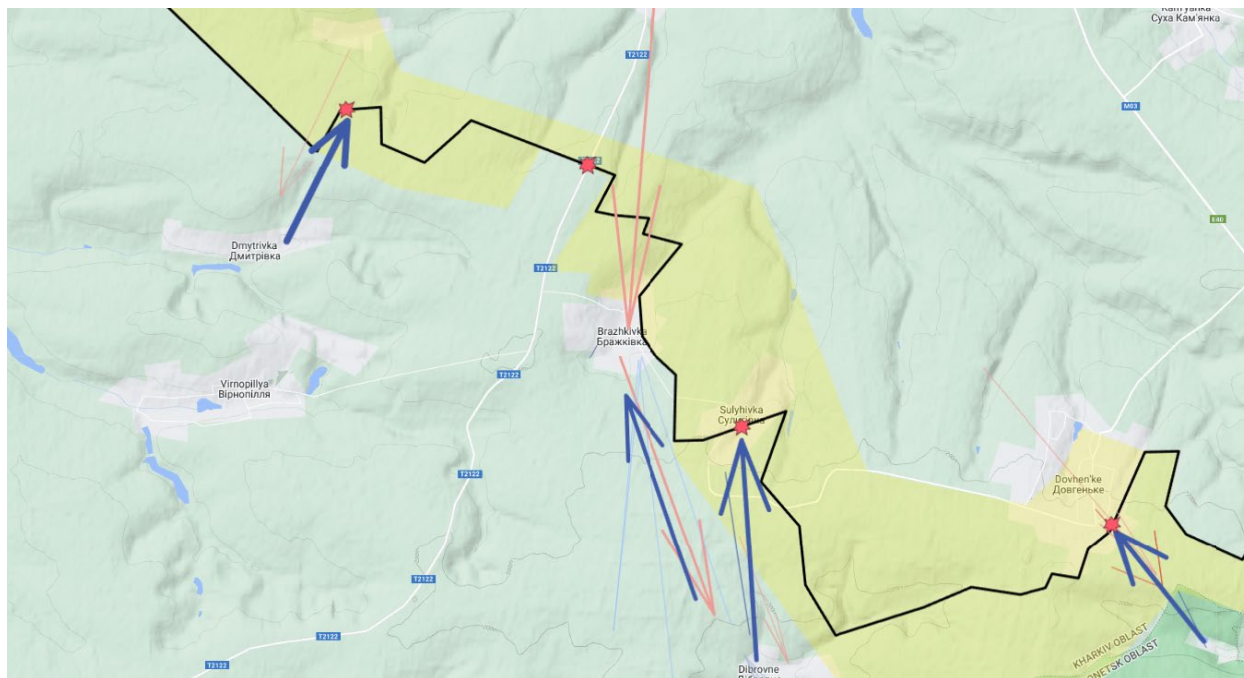
¹⁷ <https://t.me/rybar/36651>

IZYUM AXIS



Russian Objective: Hold the current line of conflict and prevent further advances by Ukrainian troops toward Izyum

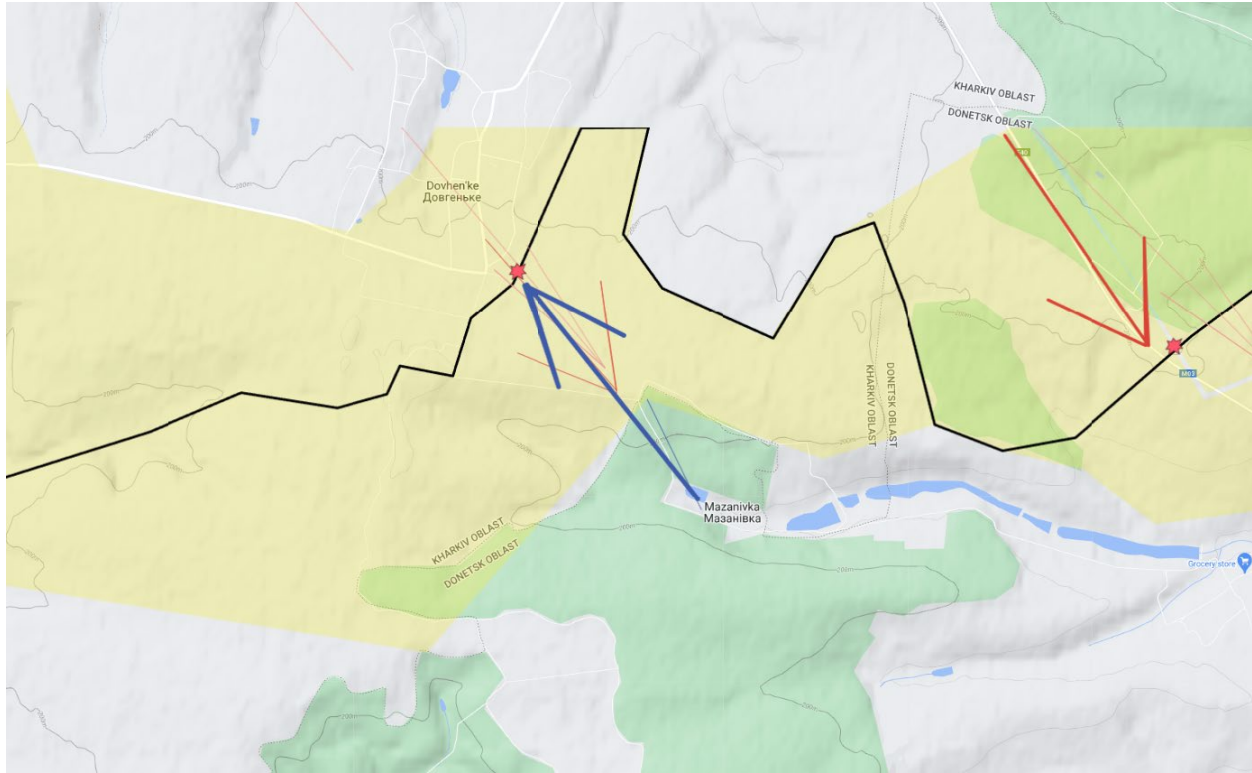
Ukrainian Objective: Defend against advances on Slovyansk and capitalize on weaknesses in Russian defenses, continue to harass and interdict Russian GLOCs, execute Special Operation Forces (SOF) raids on Russian troops located behind the line of conflict



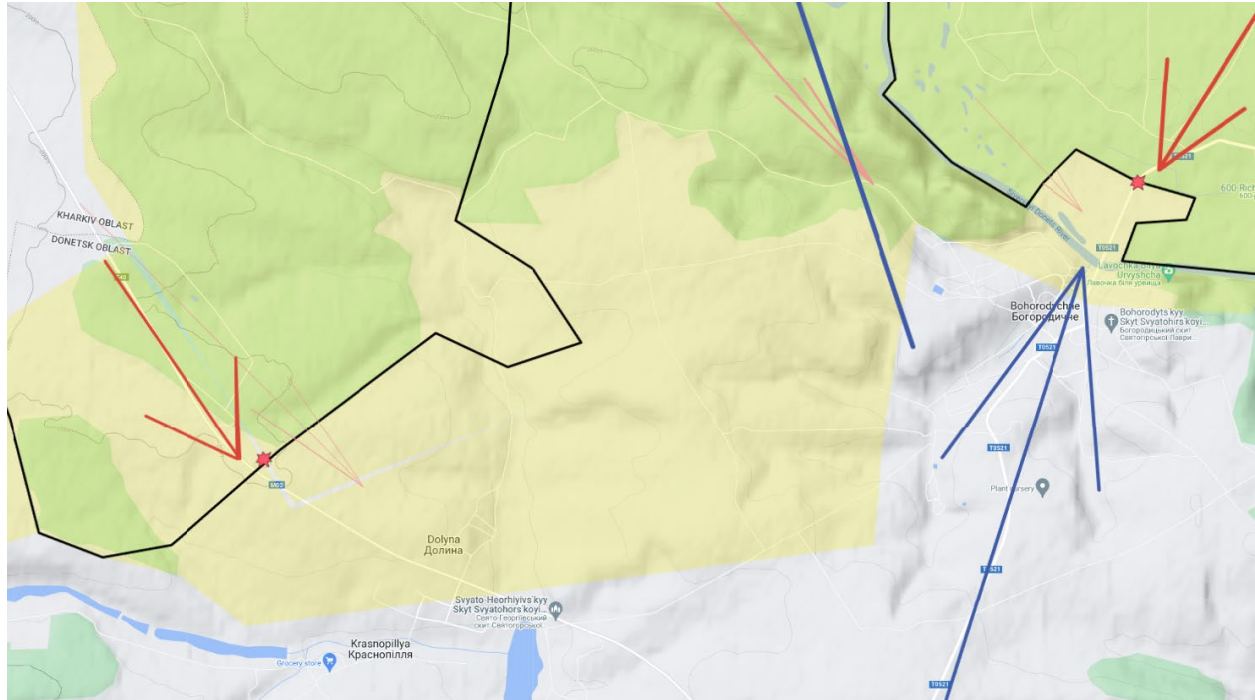
Russian forces are being steadily pushed back along the southern front of the Izyum axis. Ukrainian forces liberated [Dmytrivka](#) and are advancing on [Kopanky](#). The Ukrainian 93rd Motor Infantry Brigade fully liberated [Dibrovne](#), including the ridges north of the settlement overlooking [Sulyivka](#).¹⁸ The [video filmed over an extended period](#) of time had no artillery, rocket fire, or small arms in the background. The advance on Dibrovne pushed Russian forces out of Sulyivka.¹⁹ However, they still maintain fire control over the settlement, leaving it as a no man's land.

¹⁸ <https://youtu.be/IFlduOAJxJc>

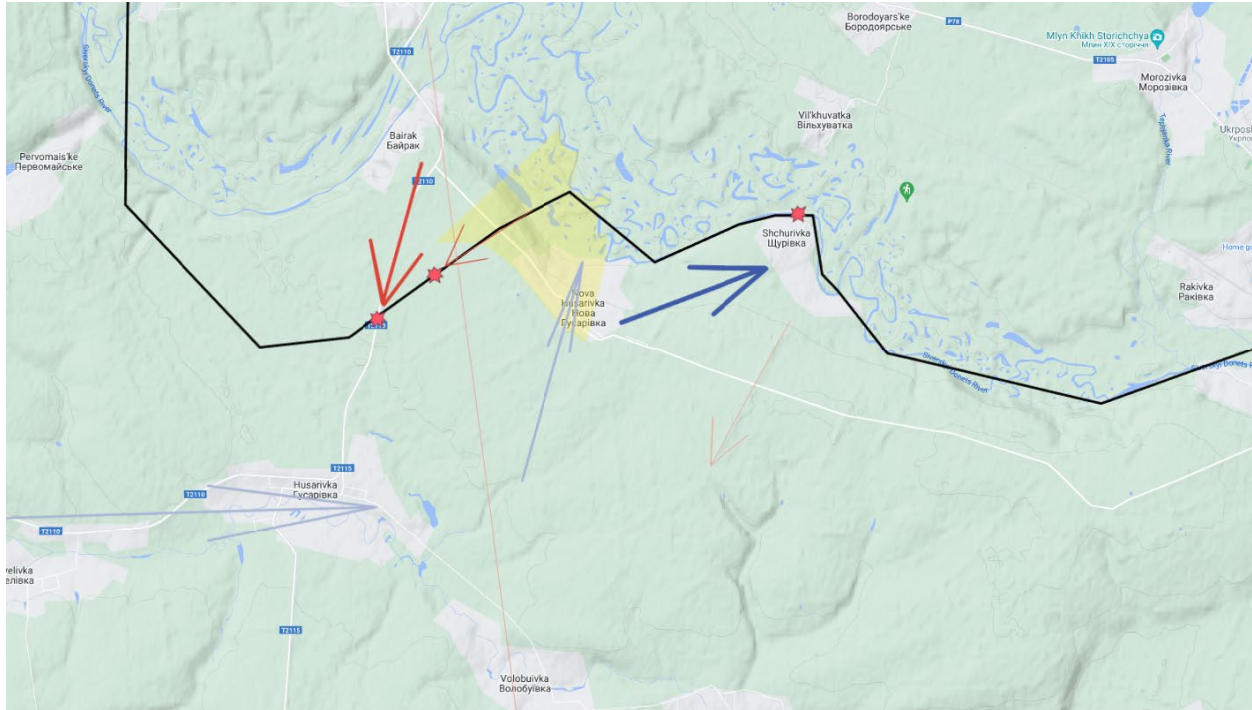
¹⁹ <https://t.me/spravdi/14737>



Ukrainian forces took full control of [Maznivka](#) and are advancing on [Dovhenke](#), moving the settlement to contested control. We have moved the line of conflict north and followed the terrain where we believe is defensible territory for both belligerents east of the settlement.



With both attempts failing, Russian forces attempted to advance on [Dolyna](#) and [Bohorodchne](#) with ad hoc offensives.



On August 3, Russian forces attempted an offensive on [Husarivka](#), which also failed.

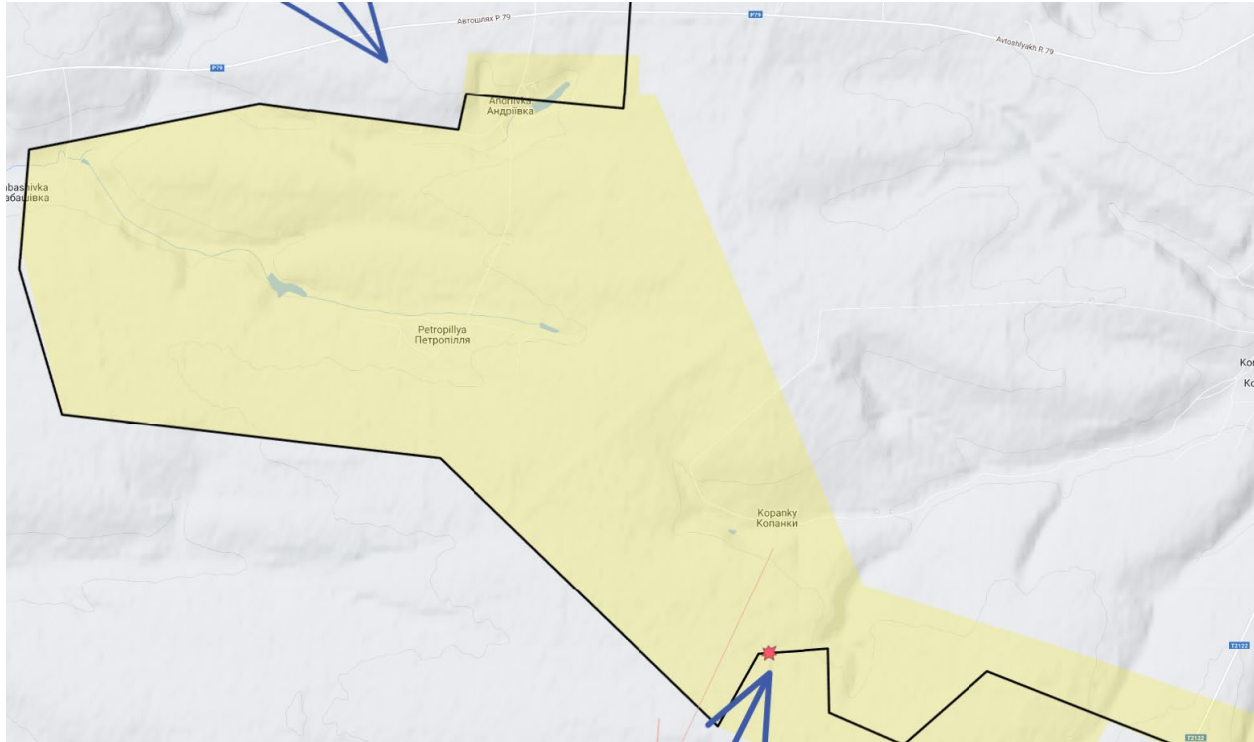
Russian forces shelled the settlements of [Mazanivka](#), [Adamivka](#), [Kurulka](#), [Khrestyshche](#), [Moscapone](#), [Pryshyb](#), [Chepil](#), and [Velyka Komyshevakha](#).

ASSESSMENT: We can't assess the ongoing Ukrainian advance as a counteroffensive, but we will continue to monitor if the advance broadens and accelerates. In our assessment, Ukrainian forces on this axis, which include the elite 93rd and 95th brigades, are taking advantage of weakness on the axis and supply issues, reducing artillery

fire by Russian forces. Additionally, this terrain favors Ukrainian tactics, personnel, and equipment.

Russian forces have gone defensive on the axis, digging in mobile equipment, making it vulnerable to drone-directed artillery. Ukraine was having issues with Russian electronic warfare on this axis in June, which appears to have been resolved.

The most significant advances by Ukraine have been southwest of Izyum. We had previously assessed this area was the most exposed with overextended GLOC and an unprotected western flank. We are not surprised that this part of the axis has collapsed with the territorial gains made by Ukraine this week.

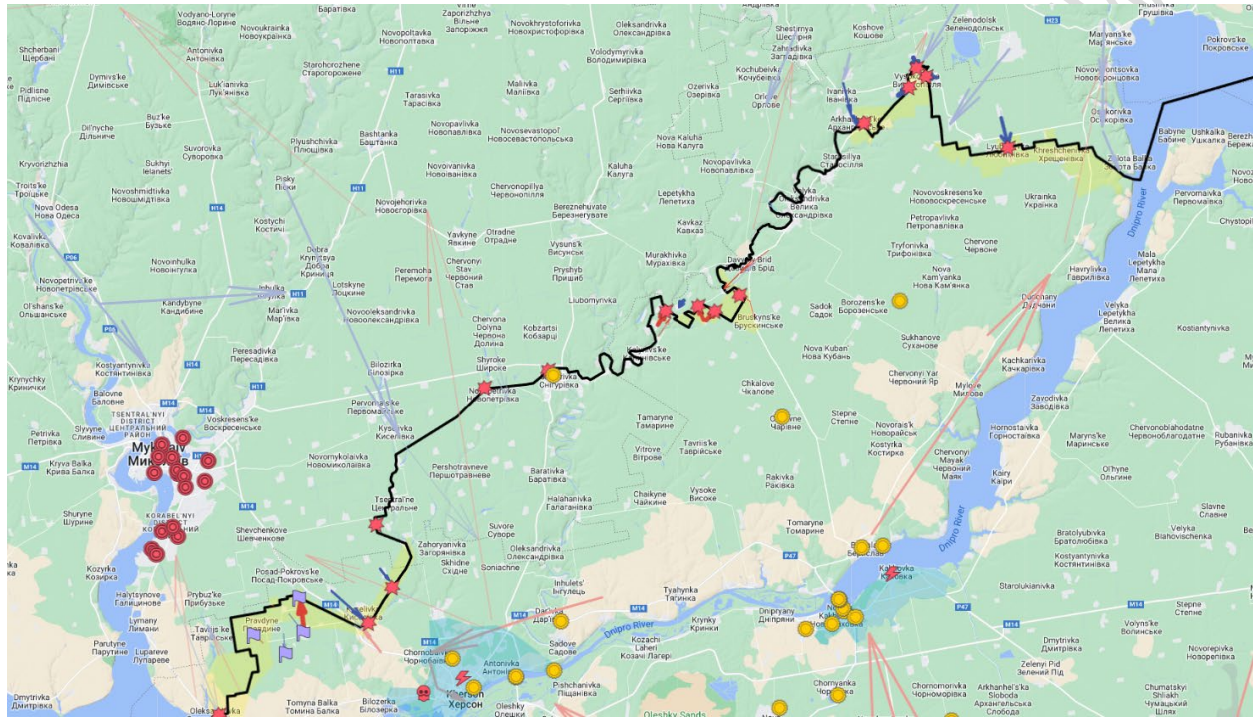


Russian forces between [Avdriivka](#) and [Kopanky](#) are now in a salient. If Ukrainian forces liberate Kopanky, they will control the high ridges east of the salient and have better fire control over the area. The region is primarily open cropland except for the small village of [Petropillya](#), which is in a valley. It is doubtful that Russian forces will continue to be able to defend this pocket.

Without a significant force in place to advance on Slovyansk, it is implausible that Russian forces will secure the Donetsk oblast before August 31.

DNIPRO, KHERSON & MYKOLAIV, ZAPORIZHIA REGION

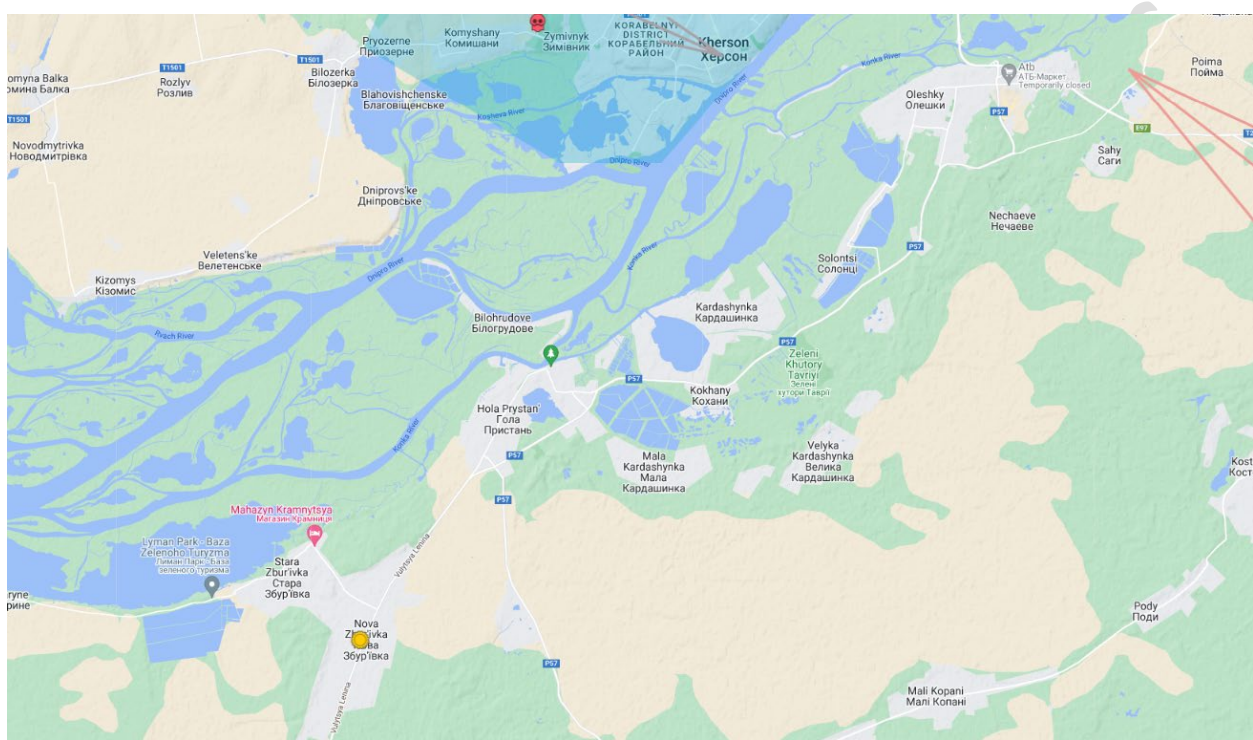
KHERSON



Russian Objective: Prepare for a Ukrainian counteroffensive but building defenses, prevent further advances by Ukrainian troops toward Kherson, repair destroyed GLOCs over the Dnipro River, and prevent the expansion of the insurgency

Ukrainian Objective: Liberate the Kherson oblast west of the Dnipro River, push Russian forces back far enough to

end multiple launch rocket system (MLRS) attacks on Mykolaiv and Kryvvi Rih



Ukraine hit an ammunition depot in [Nova Mayachka](#), causing a large fire with secondary explosions.²⁰

²⁰ https://twitter.com/ukraine_world/status/1555220001942011904

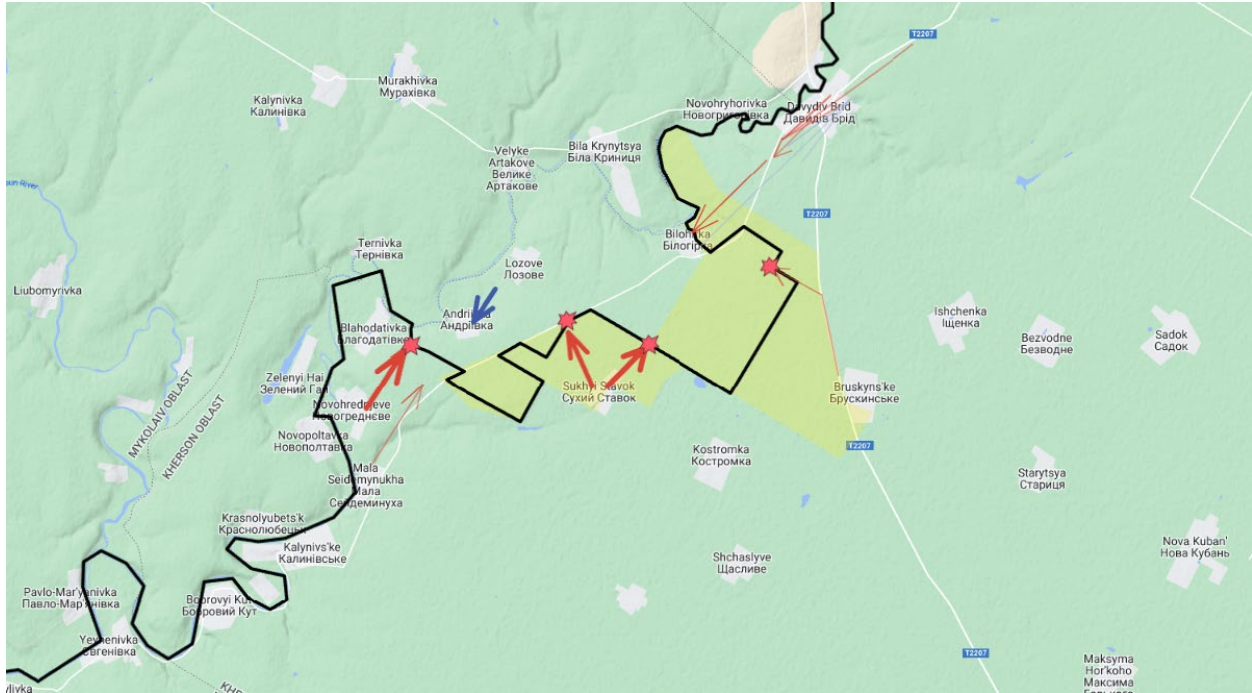


There are reports that the Russian 22nd Army Corps command post in [Chornobaivka](#) was destroyed in the August 2 HIMARS strike that destroyed an ammunition depot so large it cracked windows in Kherson.^{21 22 23}

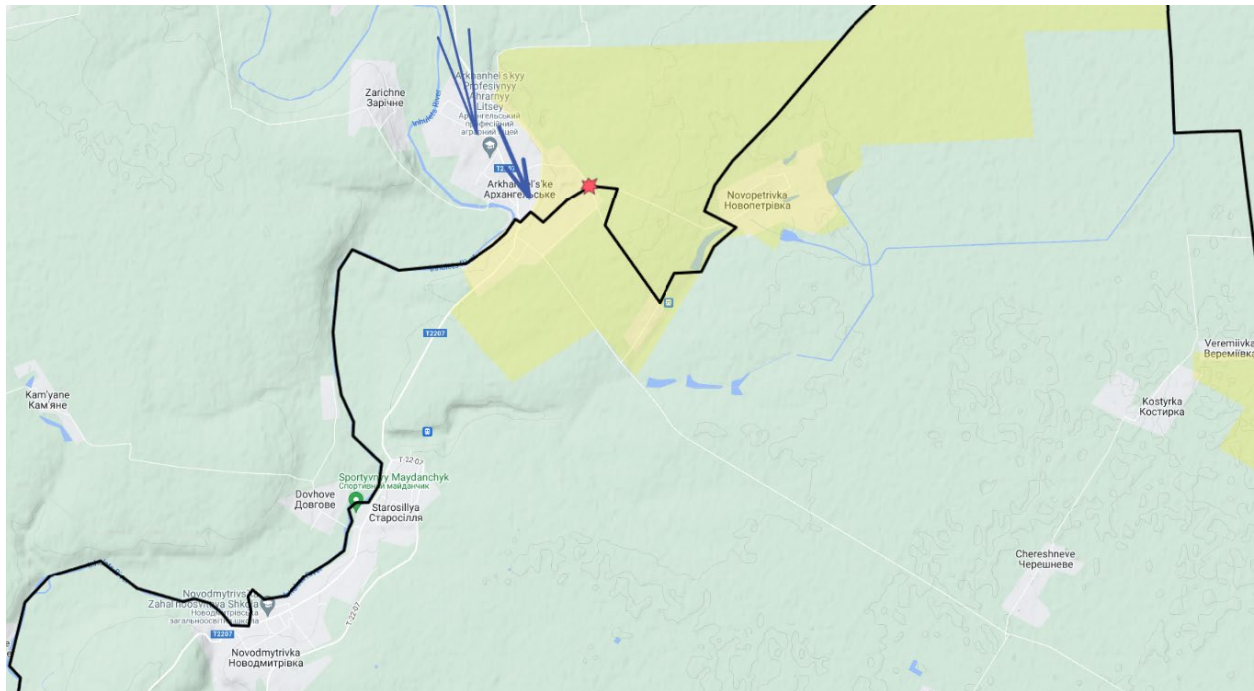
²¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unlo9FV4oI0>

²² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/3/7361612/>

²³ https://twitter.com/bayraktar_1love/status/1554503259582304256

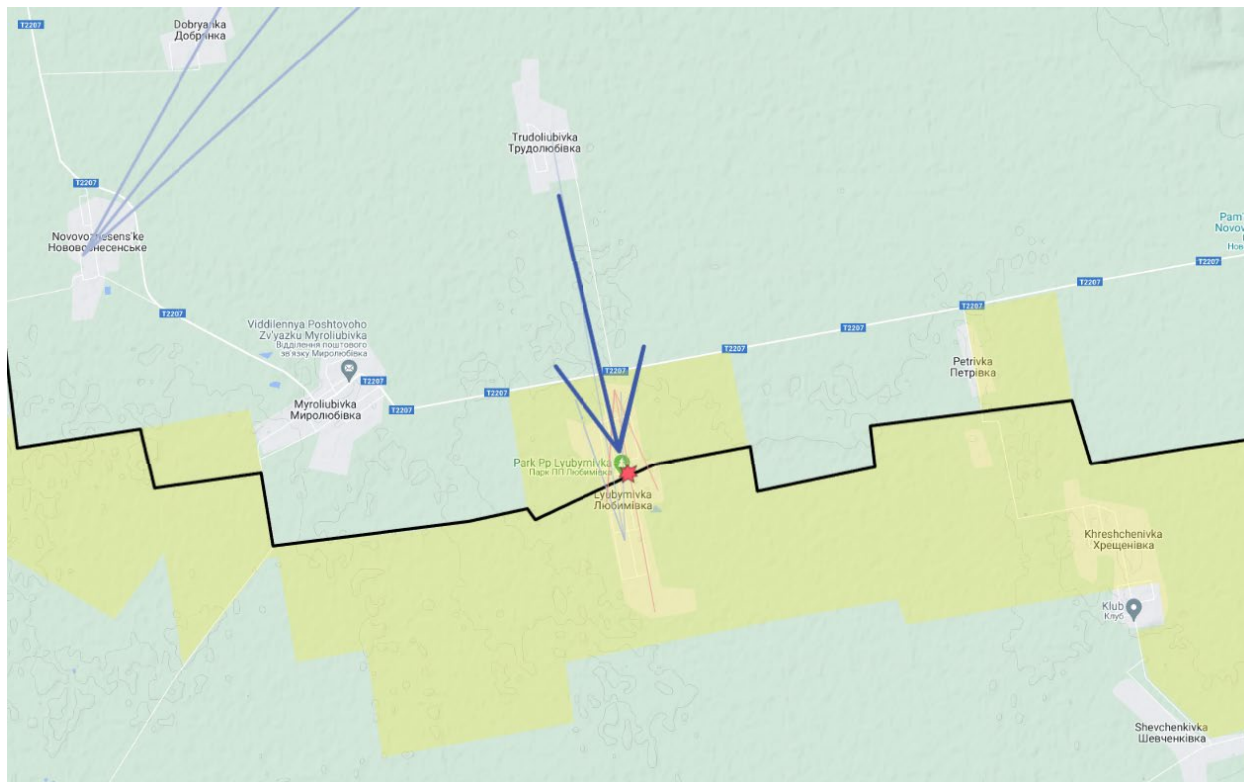


Russian forces attempted to advance on Ukrainian positions on the Inhulets River bridgehead at [Bilohirka](#) and [Lozove](#) from [Sukhyi Stavok](#) and were unsuccessful.



Ukrainian forces attacked Russian positions in [Starosillya](#), destroying armored vehicles concealed in a barn.²⁴

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/PaulJawin/status/1555407688930136067>

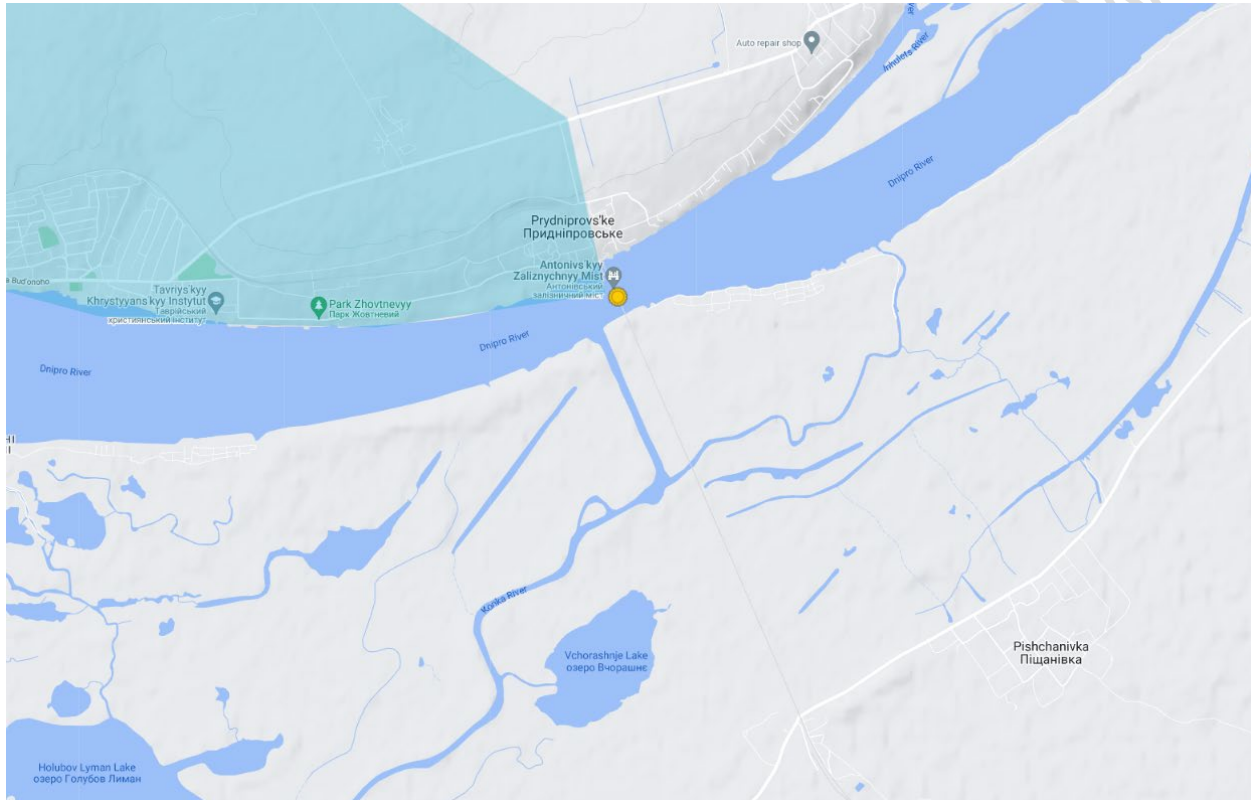


Ukrainian forces recaptured [Lyubymivka](#) on August 3, and Russian forces shelled the settlement on August 4.

The DNR released a video showing the “civilian” ferry crossing over the Dnipro to Kherson with a video that included drone footage.²⁵ The video showed at least one soldier standing next to a truck with a door on the side opened and another vehicle marked with “Z” of the Russian military in the middle of the vehicle grouping. Russian forces continue to use civilians as human shields on the

²⁵ https://t.me/nm_dnr/8650

ferry. Russian forces were also photographed by insurgents moving personnel, arms, and ammunition into a hospital in Kherson.²⁶



There were multiple social media reports of [explosions near the Antonovskyy-Zalynychnyy Mist Railroad Bridge](#), where Russian forces have engineered a temporary river crossing.²⁷ On August 4, there were no reports on the railroad or pontoon bridge status. NASA Fire Information for Resource Management Systems data showed significant

²⁶ <https://twitter.com/WarMonitor3/status/1555203878420975621>

²⁷ https://twitter.com/666_mancer/status/1554944963707797506

thermal anomalies in [Prydniprovskye](#), on the north bank of the Dnipro River.



ASSESSMENT: Both belligerents are maintaining tight operational security in Kherson (in the case of Russian forces, tight for Russian forces). At the minimum, Ukraine set conditions that forced Russia to respond to the threat of a large-scale counteroffensive and moved troops out of the Donbas and Izyum.

MYKOLAIV

Russian Objective: Capture oblast, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prevent further Russian advance into the oblast, intercept missile attacks, minimize civilian casualties

On August 3, Oleksandr Sienkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv, reported a missile attack destroyed a grocery store and struck an equestrian training facility.²⁸ There were no injuries, and no animals were hurt, but there was significant damage.²⁹ There were reports of an additional attack late on August 4 (Los Angeles time), but details were unavailable.

²⁸ [Malcontent News](#)

²⁹ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/3/7361617/>



ZAPORIZHIA

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for a counteroffensive, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prepare and stage for a counterattack, prevent further Russian advances, exploit weaknesses on the line of conflict

[Zaporizhzhia](#) was hit by four missiles late on August 4. Additional information was not available at the time the report was created.^{30 31}

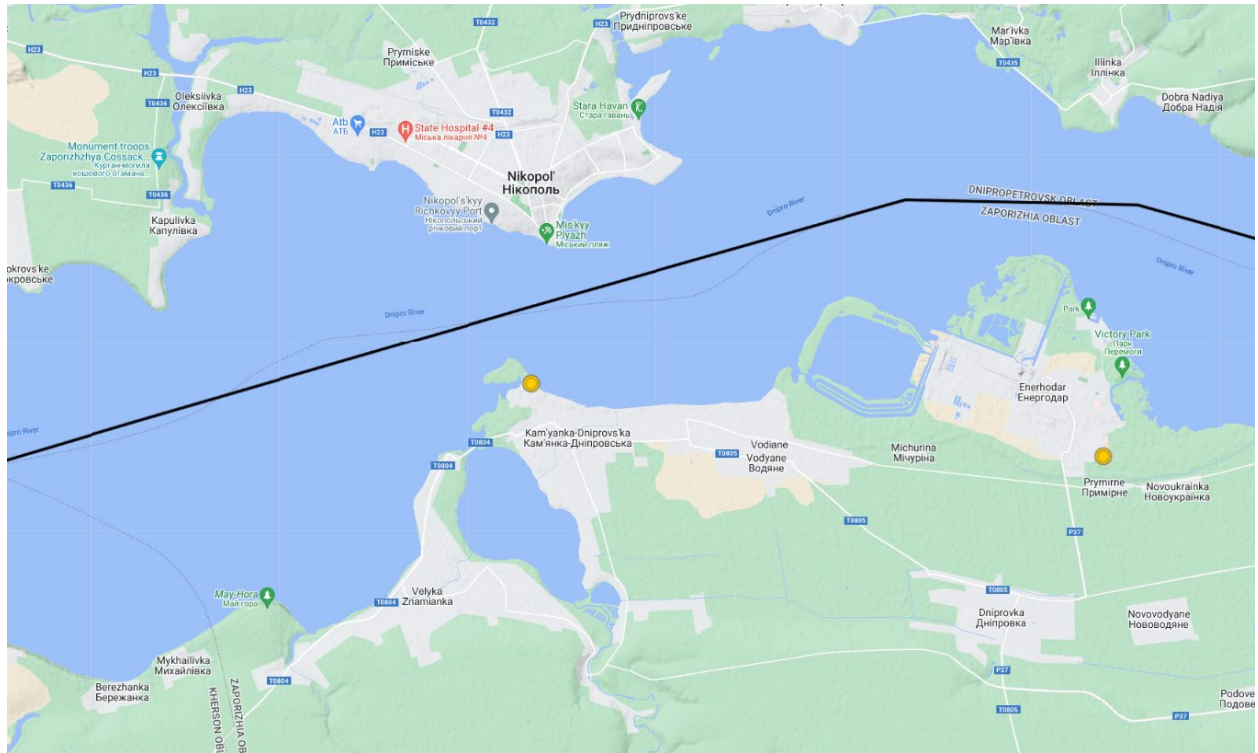
DNIPROPETROVSK

Russian Objective: Interdict personnel and equipment assembling for the counteroffensive in Kherson, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

Ukrainian Objective: Prepare and stage for a counterattack in Kherson, prevent further Russian advances north toward Kryvyi Rih

³⁰ https://t.me/novosti_noviny/4603

³¹ <https://t.me/rybar/36681>



On August 3 – 4, Russian forces continued to fire rockets using Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) at [Nikopol](#).³²
³³ In less than a month, the city has been hit with more than 1,200 Smerch and Grad rockets launched by Russian forces from the grounds of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The attack on August 4 destroyed over 100 solar panels that supply electricity to the region.

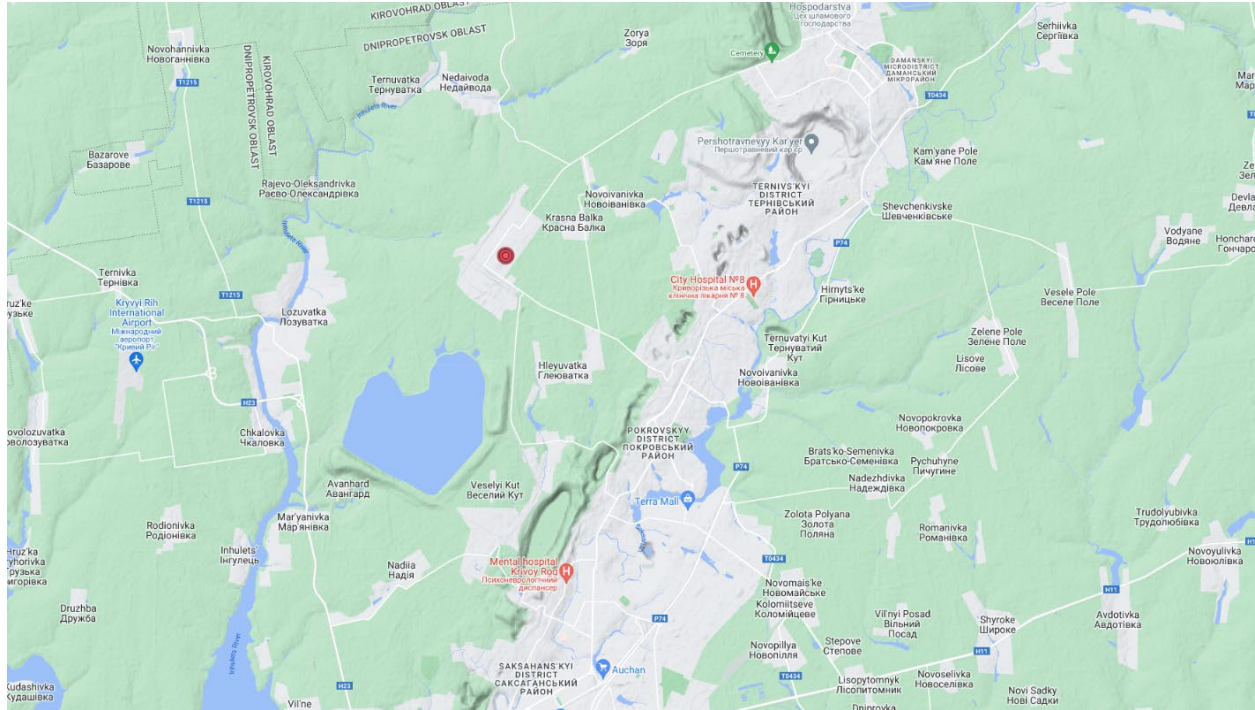
³² <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/5/7361946/>

³³ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1463>



Local officials in Nikopol accused Russia of using white phosphorus munitions on the city.³⁴ The [video published](#) doesn't support the accusation and shows thermite being used.

³⁴ <https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-ato/3544021-nikopol-shelled-with-white-phosphorus-last-night.html>



Myrivske, northwest of Kryvyi Rih, was struck by an Xh-59 cruise missile.³⁵ Houses were destroyed, but there were no injuries or deaths. Smerch rockets fired by Russian MLRS [hit the settlement](#) of [Shyroke](#), located south of Kryvyi Rih.³⁶

CHERNIHIV & SUMY REGION

Russian Objective: Lock Ukrainian military resources in places, break civilian will with continued terror attacks

³⁵ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/5/7361946/>

³⁶ <https://t.me/dnipropetrovskaODA/1470>

Ukrainian Objective: Maintain enough force strength on the border with Russia to prevent Russian troops from crossing

Dmytro Zhivytsky, Sumy Regional Administrative and Military Governor, reported that [Krasnopillya](#), [Shalyhyne](#), and a rural area near [Novoslobidski](#) were shelled, hit with mortars, and a cross-border skirmish with machine gun fire. There were no injuries reported.³⁷



³⁷ <https://t.me/Zhyvytskyy/3608>

In Chernihiv, the settlements of [Zaliznyi Mist](#), [Hay](#), [Hremyach](#), and [Mykhalchyna Sloboda](#) were shelled by Russian forces over the international border. There wasn't additional information on damage or casualties.³⁸

KYIV REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

BLACK SEA & ODESA REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

WEST REGION

There wasn't any significant military action in this region.

³⁸ [General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine - Facebook](#)

THEATERWIDE & EXTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

On August 3, Ukrainian forces targeted a Russian ammunition convoy in civilian vehicles moving north of Ternova, across the Russian border.³⁹ Several vehicles were destroyed. On August 4, another video was released indicating that Ukrainian SOF is across the border in Russia or partisans supporting Ukraine are mining roads across the international border.

North Macedonia confirmed that they donated four Su-25 ground attack aircraft to Ukraine.⁴⁰ Ukraine sold the planes to North Macedonia in 2001 during a conflict with Albania. The ground attack planes were parked in 2003 but were maintained.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that the war in Ukraine was the biggest threat to Europe since World War II, and Russia "must not be allowed to win."⁴¹

³⁹ <https://twitter.com/RALee85/status/1554826468340838401>

⁴⁰ <https://twitter.com/TpyxaNews/status/1555229283559395328>

⁴¹ [Reuters](#)

"It's in our interest that this type of aggressive policy does not succeed," the former prime minister of Norway said in a speech in his native country.

In the strongest message yet, Stoltenberg said, "If President Putin even thinks of doing something similar to a NATO country as he has done to Georgia, Moldova or Ukraine, then all of NATO will be involved immediately."

Canada announced that 225 military personnel would deploy to the United Kingdom for four months to assist in training Ukrainian soldiers in NATO tactics, weapons, and equipment.⁴² The current program is a reboot of Operation Unifier, which trained Ukrainian soldiers in NATO tactics before the Russian invasion on February 24. The first group of 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers started training in early July and will be ready to deploy. The program is set to run for four to six months and will train up to 50,000 Ukrainian troops.

⁴² <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/operation-unifier-canada-ukraine-training-1.6540588>

WAR CRIMES AND HUMAN RIGHTS

An Amnesty International Report claims that it documented almost two dozen cases of Ukrainian forces endangering civilians by setting up firebases and barracks in hospitals, empty schools, and civilian neighborhoods.⁴³ The report noted that in most cases, soldiers billeting in buildings were "kilometers" away from the frontlines.

"In one town in Donbas on May 6, Russian forces used widely banned and inherently indiscriminate cluster munitions over a neighborhood of mostly single or two-story homes where Ukrainian forces were operating artillery. Shrapnel damaged the walls of the house where Anna, 70, lives with her son and 95-year-old mother."

"Anna said: "Shrapnel flew through the doors. I was inside. The Ukrainian artillery was near my field... The soldiers were behind the field, behind the house... I saw them coming in and out... since the war started... My mother is... paralyzed, so I couldn't flee."

⁴³ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/ukrainian-fighting-tactics-endanger-civilians/>

Ukrainian officials derided the report as ill-timed in light of the Olenivka Penal Colony attack. Amnesty International has yet to release a formal statement beyond social media on the incident that killed 53 Ukrainian POWs and wounded 130. In that incident, the Russian Federation blocked the Red Cross from investigating in violation of international law.

The most critical part of the report identified five cases where Ukrainian forces used hospitals as military bases.

"Amnesty International researchers witnessed Ukrainian forces using hospitals as de facto military bases in five locations. In two towns, dozens of soldiers were resting, milling about, and eating meals in hospitals. In another town, soldiers were firing from near the hospital.

A Russian air strike on April 28 injured two employees at a medical laboratory in a suburb of Kharkiv after Ukrainian forces had set up a base in the compound."

The report concluded, "Many of the Russian strikes that Amnesty International documented in recent months were carried out with inherently indiscriminate weapons, including internationally banned cluster munitions, or with

other explosive weapons with wide area effects. Others used guided weapons with varying levels of accuracy; in some cases, the weapons were precise enough to target specific objects."

"The Ukrainian military's practice of locating military objectives within populated areas does not in any way justify indiscriminate Russian attacks. All parties to a conflict must at all times distinguish between military objectives and civilian objects and take all feasible precautions, including in the choice of weapons, to minimize civilian harm. Indiscriminate attacks which kill or injure civilians or damage civilian objects are war crimes."

The Ukrainian government called out that the report does not effectively explain the difference between a violation of international law and military protocols versus war crimes – which the report did not accuse Ukraine of committing.

Mykhailo Podoliak, an adviser to the Head of the President's Office, said, "The only thing that poses a threat to Ukrainians is the Russian army of executioners and rapists that came to Ukraine to commit genocide."

Dmytro Kuleba, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, wrote, "This behavior by Amnesty International is not about the search for truth and bringing this truth to the world. It is about creating a false balance between criminal and victim, between a country which is destroying thousands of civilians and whole cities, and a country which is desperately defending itself, saving its population and the whole continent from this onslaught."

"Stop creating a fake reality where everyone's a little guilty of something. Get on with telling the truth about what Russia today really is."

ASSESSMENT: One area where we take exception with the report is that Amnesty International claims that civilians were never told to evacuate. There are countless documented public appeals by government and military officials asking civilians to evacuate, trying to negotiate green corridors, and providing safe passage. In Amnesty's report, one of the people they interviewed stated they were incapable of evacuating because their mother could not move.

The report came out less than two months after another report condemned Russia for widespread cluster munitions

in Kharkiv.⁴⁴ That report accused Russia of killing “hundreds” in indiscriminate attacks, which are still ongoing.

An August 3 Russian Smerch rocket attack fired by MLRS on Chuhuiv left one dead and two wounded.⁴⁵



⁴⁴ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/hundreds-killed-russian-shelling-kharkiv/>

⁴⁵ <https://t.me/chuguiv/3018>

In [Toretsk](#), Russian artillery struck a bus stop, killing eight, including three children.⁴⁶ In a stunning post on Telegram, The Pro-Russian Donetsk channel implied that the attack happened within a district of Donetsk city. (NSFW, viewer discretion advised, you can view the pictures by [clicking here](#))⁴⁷

WNBA and two-time Olympian gold medalist Brittney Griner was sentenced to nine years in a Russian penal colony for possessing hashish oil for a vape pen.⁴⁸ Griner entered a guilty plea in court, likely under advisement that she might receive a more lenient sentence.

In a joint statement, the WNBA and NBA said: "Today's verdict and sentencing is unjustified and unfortunate."

The United States Department of State considers Griner "wrongfully detained," and her situation is being handled by the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs.

⁴⁶ https://t.me/info_zp/12637

⁴⁷ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/24686?single>

⁴⁸ [USA Today Sports](#)

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the Kremlin would break diplomatic relations with the United States if the nation were declared a terrorist state.⁴⁹ United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken continues to resist the measure, despite the House and Senate passing non-binding resolutions with near unanimous support to make the designation.

Russian State Media claims that Ukrainian forces targeted the funeral of Colonel Olga Kachura, who was considered one of the founders of the 1st Army Corps of the Donetsk People's Republic.⁵⁰ On August 3, Kachura, who went by the call sign Korska, was killed in an artillery strike on Russian-controlled Horlivka. Ukraine is accused of shelling the drama theater where the funeral was being held and a nearby hotel for an hour, killing eight.

Pictures on social media showed the hotel was still open with lights on and several first-floor windows boarded up.⁵¹ The lights were on in hotel rooms one or two floors above the street level. Ukraine claims the hotel is holding Chechen soldiers as a barracks and accused Russia of

⁴⁹ [USA Today](#)

⁵⁰ <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2022/08/4/7361832/>

⁵¹ <https://t.me/itsdonetsk/24813>

targeting the funeral to build sympathy among an increasingly frustrated local population.



Russian State Media's interview of Czech hockey player Dominik Hasek turned into a Public Relations disaster. The RIA spiked the interview, which Hasek expected. He provided a transcript of what he told the RIA in Czech and Russian, published on iSport in the Czech Republic.

"First, let's talk about what fascism is. Among its main features are militarism, a strong leader at the helm of the state, nationalism, i.e., the superiority of one's nation over others, and a dislike of foreigners."

"It is a fact that the Russian Federation spends the most or almost the most of any country in the world on armaments in proportion to the number of inhabitants and its GDP."

"It is also a fact that the Russian Federation has long been led by a personality who is almost above the law, who defines the laws, and who influences the state and not just the state media."

"And the fact that the Russian Federation is headed by a person who often prevents people from gathering and publicly criticizing him and many other things is also true. And I also often hear nationalism, that is, words that make you feel a certain superiority over the Ukrainian nation

from the political and media representatives of your country. This means that your country's policies radiate many forms of fascism."

GEOPOLITICAL

Penny Ying-Yen Wong, the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, walked out of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers forum and East Asia Forum during Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's speech to his counterparts.⁵²

"Minister Wong could not sit through Lavrov's attempt to justify the murder of innocent Ukrainians," a spokesperson said.

ECONOMIC

Three more grain ships sailed from Ukrainian ports late on Thursday Los Angeles time, bound for inspection in Turkey before heading to their final destination.⁵³ Two left from the port of Chornomorsk and the third from Odesa. The Panamanian-flagged bulk carrier Navistar will sail to

⁵² [AFR](#)

⁵³ [Reuters](#)

Ireland with 33,000 tonnes of corn. The other two vessels are heading to Great Britain and Turkey carrying 13,000 and 12,000 tonnes of corn.

The first ship carrying grain that left Odessa on August 1 arrived off the coast of Istanbul, Turkey, late on August 2.⁵⁴ The sailing from Odesa to the mouth of the Bosphorus Strait took 36 hours. The final destination for the Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship Razoni is Lebanon, carrying 26,500 tonnes of corn. Officials coordinating the grain shipments aid that the goal is for one ship to depart from Ukraine per day for the foreseeable future.

The rouble was unchanged on Thursday. The “official” exchange rate at 60 for 1 US dollar. An iPhone 13 Pro Max with 128GB memory sells for 111,000 roubles in Russian. Compared to United States prices, the “iPhone exchange rate” has the actual rate at 101 roubles for 1 US dollar.

Oil prices continue to plummet and are now at pre-war levels. A new trading range of \$80 to \$95 a barrel has started. WTI crude closed at \$88 a barrel while Brent

⁵⁴ [Reuters](#)

dropped to \$94. United States RBOB wholesale gasoline crashed to \$2.78 (74 cents a liter).

If oil drops below \$85 a barrel, it will impact Russia's attempts to prop up its economy, eroding its market discount. The Russian government needs oil at \$85 a barrel or higher to maintain services and the governmental budget.

SRW Chicago wheat futures dropped to 77 cents a bushel for December 2022 delivery. Wheat has also dropped to a pre-war level.