

News From Ukraine

Russian Invasion of Ukraine

February 5 2024

By: Bohdan Chomiak & Robert Homans

From Bohdan

Official at last. Zelensky said in an interview with the Italian press he intends to fire Zaluzhny. He also promised more changes at the top of the system.

This appears to be a move driven by Zelensky's fear that he is in second place in terms of public popularity.

The last thing we need is a king standing in front of a mirror asking who is the fairest one of all.

NOTE: I completely agree with Bohdan's assessment. I would add that it is not just Zelensky's assessment. It likely comes from the Presidential Administration, or what we in America refer to as the "Kitchen Cabinet," defined as a group of individuals close to the elected leader but without any constitutional authority.

From Illia Ponomarenko

"The other day, a filmmaker from Beverly Hills called me. He said he was really interested in making a documentary about the Battle of Kyiv. And he asked me if I was interested in joining the project and also asked if I had good ideas and thoughts that could be pitched to Hollywood bosses. And heaven knows I did have quite a few ideas on why people should tap into that page of modern history. I often get back to those days in my thoughts. This always gives me a new bit of strength and motivation.

On those days of February and March 2022, we in Ukraine were all alone. Half of the world was literally burying us alive. Our fate seemed to have been decided upon forever. We were surrounded by a cloud of darkness that was closing in. We had very few weapons sent to us from the West in the final moments before the H-hour. We all were facing a gargantuan wall of doomsday that was just about to bring an end to our little world. I don't think that many of us were seriously thinking about a new day to come when hundreds of Russian missiles were roaring from all around Kyiv in the invasion's initial hours.

Yet, there was this 'fuck this shit,' we're not going down that easy' kind of attitude. The spiritual uplift of the final stand or the finest hour, if I may. So many of us were doing what he or she should and ought to do. The military was ambushing and slaying gargantuan advancing Russian armored columns. Reporters were staying in the semi-encircled city and doing their job. Many ordinary people were getting rifles and ammo from the police just in the streets of Kyiv and were cooking up Molotovs to give Russians a warm welcome in the end.

Many, yours truly included, took care of their loved ones and got back to the city under attack to never ever feel ashamed of themselves. Businesses were keeping the city afloat and feeding the old and the poor. Those whom we elected to lead us were doing their thing. Those tragic days were about this very simple and basic moral principle: do what you must and come what may.

We did not come to terms with 'there's nothing that can be done' and 'Kyiv will inevitably fall within 72 hours.' And now, whatever happens, be it America abandoning us in the worst European war of aggression since Adolf Hitler or anything else, we'll still be doing what we all should. Because we still have no choice but to do what is right. that's repelling the biggest European war of aggression since Adolf Hitler for over 700 days and is not even thinking of giving up.

But until then - good night from the fighting Ukraine.”

6:01 PM · Feb 4, 2024

Amen – Yet the negativity keeps on coming. Today, in the Wall Street Journal, one of the “newspapers of record,” there was an Op-Ed entitled [“A New Strategy that Can Save Ukraine,”](#) by Stephen Hadley & Matthew Koenig, both of the Atlantic Council. Both Hadley and Koenig are very well-respected, and the Atlantic Council is very supportive of Ukraine, which makes their choice of words rather surprising.

Hadley and Koenig describe a strategy to “save” Ukraine consisting of five elements. All 5 have been previously described by other experts, so it’s not worth repeating here.

Ukraine doesn’t need “saving.” Ukraine needs all the support it can get to achieve victory. Does anyone really think that given what Ukraine has been through, especially in the early days of the war, that Illia Ponomarenko is thinking about Ukraine needing to be “saved?”

Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) and House Speaker Michael Johnson, and other Members of Congress who support their position to withhold military assistance to Ukraine, collectively the “Nattering Nabobs of Negativity” to quote the late Vice President Spiro Agnew, should think about what would’ve happened if the pundits had been correct, that Ukraine would’ve lost in 5 days. There would’ve almost certainly been a nasty partisan war without end on NATO’s eastern flank, with several NATO countries providing the partisans with weapons, thus exposing the entire Alliance to Russian aggression and a possible use of Article 5. What would NATO do? Tell these countries, all NATO members, to stop supporting the Partisans?

To ensure against this happening in the future, the Nabobs need to get their heads out of the sand, and do the following:

- 1. Support a policy of giving Ukraine everything it asks for, when Ukraine asks for it;**
- 2. Get behind the roadmap laid out by 3 Republican Congressional committee chairs, and demand from the Biden Administration that it provide Congress with a strategy that will lead to Ukraine’s victory.**

[“Ukraine's New Strategy to Beat Russia in a Long war - and Why it Needs the West's Help”](#) / “Daily Mail”

It’s an 8 minute and 27 second minute video, and it’s worth watching every second. Chris Pleasanc, Daily Mail’s foreign correspondent is my new “hero.” He talks about the significance of Ukraine’s latest campaign to hit Russian infrastructure, often deep inside Russia, and how this could lead to Ukraine’s victory in a long war. It all depends on Western military support and the un-blocking of the frozen Russian Central Bank reserves, giving Ukraine a total of over \$400 billion for both reconstruction and military support.

News From the Battlefield

Both “[Reporting From Ukraine](#)” and the “[Latest Denys](#)” cover recent developments in Avdiivka, but from different perspectives. At 2:15 into his video, “Reporting From Ukraine” describes how the Russians got into Avdiivka proper, and they were able to attack the Ukrainians from behind. At 11:20 into his video, Denys describes how Russia is amassing troops in Kharkiv Oblast, to take Kupiansk.

2/5/2024 Sitrep

Abbreviations: RMA = Regional Military Administration

INTERNATIONAL

8:02 AM: States and Britain inflicted blows on 36 sites the Houthis control in Yemen.

8:02 AM: Speaker of the House of Representatives Mike Johnson announced that next week there will be a vote on a bill to provide Israel with \$17.6 billion in security assistance without support for of Ukraine.

8:02 AM: The White House called Johnson's statement about supporting Israel without helping Ukraine a "cynical maneuver."

8:02 AM: In Tehran, special services broke up a rally organized by the families of the dead passengers of the UIA plane, which was shot down by Iran in January 2020.

9:21 AM: White House opposes bill to support Israel without aid to Ukraine.

- White House spokeswoman Karin Jean-Pierre called it a "cynical political maneuver" by Republicans.
- The Biden administration emphasizes that Israel's security should not be a "political game."

11:30 AM: Allies of Ukraine plan to finance Kyiv with debt obligations and bonds issued by Western countries. Such obligations will be secured by frozen Russian assets.

- The Financial Times writes about it.
- According to the publication, already after the end of the war, "the coalition supporting Ukraine will demand that Russia pay the debt, and if it does not do so, then the frozen Russian assets will be confiscated."

12:37 PM: The Ministry of Defense of Lithuania confirmed that it signed a contract with NATO for the purchase of 155-mm artillery shells

- "Lithuania is one of the countries that buys 155-mm artillery shells as part of the large NATO contract signed at the end of January," the report says.
- The Ministry of Defense of Lithuania has confirmed to the media that under the signed contract, Vilnius is now among those participating in a large NATO purchase of 155 mm artillery shells for 1.1 billion euros. The contract was recently signed with French Nexter and German Junghans Microtec. Deliveries should begin at the end of 2025.

1:01 PM: The Polish government has announced the strengthening of border controls with Ukraine, — the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Poland.

- Warsaw wants to intensify inspections of goods leaving Ukraine.
- _"Excessive imports of agricultural products from Ukraine, which do not meet the production requirements of the EU, threaten the competitiveness of Polish agriculture," the ministry said in a statement.

2:46 PM: The signing of the security agreement between Ukraine and Germany may take place before the end of the month, - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

- Stefanishyna noted that the text "has not yet been finalized, but it is generally complete." According to information from government circles in Berlin, the agreement should be signed on February 16 during the Munich Security Conference in Berlin.
- The publication noted that this agreement should become part of a network of bilateral security agreements designed to support Ukraine in the fight against Russian aggression while the country is not yet a member of NATO.

5:32 PM: At least 51 people have died in one of the deadliest wildfires in Chile's history, BBC.

- It is difficult for rescue services to reach the most affected areas, so the number of victims of the fires is expected to rise.
- A curfew was introduced in some cities. This should help clear the roads so that emergency vehicles can reach the victims more easily.

5:40 PM: "Ukraine is fighting for us to have a peaceful life": the speakers of the parliaments of the Baltic countries called on the US Congress to provide assistance to Ukraine

- Representatives of the Baltic countries met with the speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mike Johnson, and other lawmakers from both parties.
- "Ukraine is fighting for us to have a peaceful life, for our children to go to school and study there, for us to go to work and do our own business. Ukrainians pay a high price for us to have these opportunities. And that's why I want to emphasize that the war for Ukraine is a struggle for peace in the whole world", - emphasized the Speaker of the Latvian Saeima Daiga Mierinja.

7:11 PM: The US and Japan have named China as a hypothetical enemy for the first time during their joint command and staff exercise, Kyodo.

7:11 PM: North Korea is making millions of dollars selling false eyelashes, beards and wigs, hiding the product's origin under the label "Made in China," — Reuters.

7:11 PM: US President Biden wins South Carolina's Democratic primary with more than 95% of the vote, CNBC.

7:11 PM: The American company Google presented a new tool for converting text into images, ImageFX, based on artificial intelligence (AI).

7:28 PM: Photo of defenders from Ternopil Oblast and a student of UCU were placed on stamps in Liberia

- A total of six Ukrainian defenders are placed on the stamps. Two of them are from Ternopil Oblast. This is paramedic Kateryna Polishchuk and Inna Derusova, the first woman to be posthumously awarded the title of Hero of Ukraine.

8:50 PM: The Polish military has warned civil aviation of a "possible activation of military aviation" along the border with Ukraine, Belarus, the Russian Federation (Koenigsberg region) and Lithuania.

- "_ Navigational warnings — unplanned military activity related to ensuring national security — is a common message when it is necessary to ensure the safety of traffic in Polish airspace_" says the message of the Operational Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

11:22 PM: A 3-week training course for canine specialists of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine ended in France.

- Emergency services of the State Emergency Service received 5 Belgian Malinois sheepdogs, a specialized car with a trailer and small mechanization equipment.

NATIONAL

7:32 AM: Summary of the General Staff as of 06:00 February 4:

- During the past 24 hours, 66 combat clashes took place. In total, the enemy launched 2 missile and 65 air strikes, carried out 53 anti-aircraft fire at the positions of the Armed Forces and populated areas.
- During the past day, the aviation of the Defense Forces struck 12 areas where the enemy's personnel were concentrated.
- One Kh-59 guided air missile, 10 Shahed-136/131 type strike UAVs and 3 enemy reconnaissance UAVs were destroyed by the forces and means of the Air Defense Forces of Ukraine.
- Units of the missile forces struck 1 area of concentration of personnel and 1 artillery of the enemy.

12:02 PM: ZSU advanced southwest of Bakhmut - ISW.

- Geolocated footage released on February 3 shows units of the 85th Separate Motorized Brigade striking Ukrainian forces in a wooded area east of Klishchiivka.
- Also, in the Kherson Region, the Russian Federation is having great difficulty attacking the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in Krynyky, because ours completely control the airspace with the help of UAVs.

12:22 PM: The Russians focused on shelling energy infrastructure in the frontline regions, - Ministry of Energy

- "In this heating season, of course, we all see that there were no such massive attacks on the energy infrastructure. The enemy concentrated mainly on the frontline regions," he said.
- The official specified that both generation and distribution facilities were destroyed in such areas, and coal mines and the gas supply system were hit.

5:03 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi visited the "East" air command.

- They discussed the protection of Ukrainian cities and villages, critical infrastructure facilities and the front line from the air, as well as the peculiarities of the use of Western air defense systems.
- The President awarded combat pilots.

6:39 PM: After the change of Zaluzhny, we will lose time to establish new communications with Western partners, - former spokesman of the General Staff of the Armed Forces

- Colonel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine Vladyslav Seleznyov, ex-spokesman of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, noted that the lion's share of the military and technical support of the Ukrainian army is also due to direct communications between the commander-in-chief, his staff and our Western partners.

7:46 PM: Jerry Heil and alyona alyona are the winners of the final of the national selection "Eurovision-2024".

- They will represent Ukraine with the song "Teresa & Maria".

7:51 PM: Summary of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine as of 18:00 on February 4:

- During the day 59 combat clashes took place.
- In the Marinsky direction Defence forces continue to hold back the enemy near Georgiyivka and Novomykhailivka of the Donetsk region.
- Aviation of the Defense Forces struck 5 areas where enemy personnel were concentrated.

8:22 PM: Ukrainian defense forces have destroyed 6,640 Russian invaders and 924 units of enemy equipment and weapons in a week.

- This was announced by the First Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine, Lieutenant General Oleksandr Pavlyuk.

11:31 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed his intentions to release Zaluzhny.

- The President of Ukraine stated this on the air of the Italian TV channel Rai1, adding that he is also considering the dismissal of not only Zaluzhny, but also other senior officials.
- "Of course, a reboot and a new beginning is necessary. When we talk about this, I mean the replacement of a number of state leaders, not only in the military sphere. I am thinking about this replacement [Zaluzhnyi], it is true. This issue concerns the entire management group, who drives the country's car," Zelenskyi said.

MORDOR – ruZZia

12:51 PM: The presence of "Wagner" mercenaries in Belarus benefits the Russian Federation, as it forces Ukraine to maintain defensive positions and personnel along the northern border, British intelligence.

- At the same time, the report emphasizes that there are probably less than 1,000 Russian mercenaries left in Belarus, whose duties include training the Belarusian military and security forces.

9:21 PM: Sanctions increase number of air accidents in Russia, The Wall Street Journal.

- In 2023, there were at least 74 incidents involving passenger planes in the Russian Federation, while in 2022 there were 36.

- The breakdowns are related to sanctions, which prohibit foreign companies from servicing airline planes from Russia and supplying spare parts for them.

9:42 PM: Mi-8 helicopter "disappeared from radar" in Russia over Lake Onega in Karelia, — rosZMI.

- There were 3 people on board, the search for the aircraft is ongoing. The plane belongs to the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Russia and was flying from Petrozavodsk to the city of Vitegra, Vologda region.

10:21 PM: Russians have assembled 500 tanks, more than 600 combat vehicles, hundreds of howitzers and 40,000 soldiers to attack Kupyansk, — Forbes.

- It is noted that the occupiers plan to launch a major offensive in order to achieve military success closer to the spring against the backdrop of Putin's election campaign.
- The Armed Forces, despite the shortage of shells, are now actively strengthening and stocking FPV drones for this battle.

11:03 PM: Explosions are heard in temporarily occupied Sevastopol, local channels report.

11:42 PM: The Russian Federation is preparing "observers" among students for the presidential elections in the occupied territories

- The Russian invaders in the temporarily occupied territories are training "observers" among students who will be engaged in the organization of falsification of the results of the presidential elections. The CNS writes about it.
- It is noted that the occupation administration set a plan for the number of students for universities to "work for the elections". Each university should identify students who will be "observers" and then instruct them on future falsifications.

REGIONS

AMOUNTS



11:46 AM: Border guards neutralized several DRGs in Sumy Oblast

- "Yesterday at 6:20 p.m. on the approaches to the Glukhiv community, the soldiers of one of the strongholds noticed the movement of an armed group consisting of ten people. The Ukrainian soldiers immediately started a shooting battle and called anti-sabotage reserves from their battalion. Within a few minutes, mortars joined the battle, densely covering with fire the place of concentration of enemy forces," he wrote.

KHARKIV



2:13 AM: Kharkivska and Dnipropetrovsk region - threat application ballistic armament, reported Air Forces Armed Forces.

10:53 PM: The head of the Kharkiv RMA Oleg Sinegubov commented on the publication of Forbes about the alleged preparation of the Rashist offensive on Kupyansk.

- " _The army of the Russian Federation has been advancing in this direction since February 2022. And since the counteroffensive of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, the occupiers have not abandoned their intentions to recapture these territories, since this is a logistically important direction for them_," he noted.
- The head of the OVA emphasized that "the Armed Forces are ready for any further scenarios, actions of the enemy and quick response to intelligence results."

DONETSK



2:12 PM: As a result of Russian shelling in Toretsk, one person was killed and 2 others were injured.

- This was reported by the head of the Donetsk RMA, Vadym Filashkin.
- The injured were taken to the nearest hospital for medical assistance.

ZAPORIZHZHIA



2:18 PM: Volodymyr Zelenskyi visited Robotyn of the Zaporizhzhia region.

- structures and work at the facilities of the military-industrial complex," the message reads.

2:57 PM: Location of Robotyny in the Zaporizhzhia region.

- In fact, zero positions.

3:09 PM: Ivan Fedorov was officially appointed as the head of Zaporizhzhia OVA.

- The corresponding decree was published on the website of the President of Ukraine.
- Fedorov previously held the post of mayor of Melitopol.

4:00 PM: The President held a meeting on the security situation in the Zaporizhzhia region.

- Among the important issues: the situation on the battlefield, defensive operations in the Avdiyiv direction, the situation in the Robotyny district and other areas of the front, fortifications.
- They also discussed the protection of critical infrastructure facilities and the defense-industrial complex of the region from the enemy.

DNIPRO



10:35 AM: Yesterday's attack on the energy infrastructure of Kryvyi Rih is already the third in a week and one of the most massive in a year, Ukrenergo.

- "The restoration work was not easy: since after the attacks, the reliability of the power supply to the damaged power station decreases, the repair crews had to return the light to consumers in the region twice during the day," - explain the energy experts.

6:36 PM: Volodymyr Zelensky arrived on a working visit to Dnipropetrovsk region.

- "Now - Kryvyi Rih, the entire district and other communities of the region, a meeting on the energy and water supply of the cities and villages of the Dnipro Oblast, in particular Kryvyi. Protection of energy facilities. Strengthening of mobile fire groups, anti-aircraft defense, electronic warfare. Restoration of energy capacities_ [...]" , - comments the president in the address.

Kherson



1:41 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

4:53 PM Social Networks: Explosions are heard in Kherson.

6:21 PM: 35 residents, including 3 children, were evacuated from the de-occupied territories of the Kherson Region.

- Kherson RMA writes about this.

Comparing Soviet invasion of Afghanistan to Russian invasion of Ukraine using Wikipedia and Ukraine Ministry of Defense Daily Bulletins. Soviet and Russian military losses not including captured equipment.

	Soviet Afghani stan	Jan 31	Feb 1	Feb 2	Feb 3	Feb 4
Duration	9 years and 9 months	After 706 days	After 707 days	After 708 days	After 709 days	After 710 days
Military Personnel Liquidated	14,453	386,230	387,060	387,940	388,750	389,560

Material Losses

Tanks	147	6322	6331	6341	6343	6348
Armored Personnel Carriers	1,314	11,773	11,792	11805	11818	11822
Artillery, Mortars, and Ballistic Rocket launchers	433	10,214	10,252	10,279	10,310	10,328
Cruise Missiles		1847	1847	1847	1848	1848
Fighters Bombers	118	332	332	332	332	332
Helicopters	333	324	32	324	324	324
Drones		7136	7146	7161	7173	7173
Anti Aircraft Missile Batteries		663	663	663	663	664
Cargo/Fuel/other transport	11,369	12,267	12,316	12,352	12,393	12412
Naval Vessels		23+(1 submarine)	24 + 1 (Submarine)	24 + 1 (Submarine)	24 + 1 (Submarine)	24 + 1 (Submarine)
Specialized equipment		1462	1470	1473	1479	1486

SOURCES2

- <https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/>
- <https://espreso.tv/>

- <https://t.me/uawarinfographics>
- [https://t.me/svoboda radio](https://t.me/svoboda_radio)
- <https://deepstatemap.live/en#11/47.9070/37.6927>
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