



# Updates on the War, 03-06-23

## US Government Actions

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### Defense and Other Arms

- **Bakhmut Update:** Concerns continue to grow around Bakhmut. US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said today that if Bakhmut were to fall to Russia, it would not represent a major strategic victory for Russia ([source: Reuters](#)). At the same time, NATO intelligence estimates that the ratio of Ukrainian soldiers lost to Russian could be as much as one to five, seriously impacting Russia's ability to carry out future offensives ([source: CNN](#)). At the same time, Ukrainian defense officials have apparently agreed to strengthen the front at Bakhmut despite some indications of a planned withdrawal and increasing concerns about cut-off supply lines ([source: Politico](#)).
- **Drone Strike Overnight:** Russia launched a drone strike overnight against Ukraine using Iranian drones. The Ukrainian Air defense managed to shoot down 13 of the 15 drones launched. It's not clear where the final two drones landed ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Defense Intelligence Update:** According to the UK's Ministry of Defense Intelligence, Russia is likely using old tanks as theirs are destroyed, creating a divergent story with Ukraine, who are starting to receive modern Western tanks ([source: UK MoD on Twitter](#)).

### Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Scholz on China:** German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said yesterday that the PRC declared it won't supply Russia with weapons for use in Ukraine. The PRC has not expressed anything public about not supplying weapons, so this declaration came as a surprise ([source: Politico](#)).
- **ICC Investigation Requested:** Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba asked the ICC to investigate the alleged execution of a Ukrainian prisoner of war, seen today in a widely-shared video ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

### Other

- **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast Stabilizing?:** The governor of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast has requested that civilians who received arms from the police in the previous year to return them now that the situation has "stabilized" ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **On Irpin:** [This](#) Article discusses some of the difficulties Ukraine will face in reconstructing its damaged housing stock, with a focus on Irpin.



# Updates on the War, 03-07-23

## US Government Actions

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### Defense and Other Arms

- **POW Exchange:** Ukraine returned 130 service members today, including 71 who had defended the Azovstal steel works last spring ([source Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Incoming Aid from Canada:** The Canadian government is preparing to supply Ukraine with hundreds of modern reconnaissance drones. These would signal a significant improvement over Ukrainian drones, which have some weaknesses which can be explored by Russian reconnaissance ([source: Ukrinform](#)).
- **More Leopard Tanks:** Poland will send Ukraine ten more Leopard-2 tanks this week. This will bring the total of Leopard-2s provided by Poland to fourteen ([source: Reuters](#)).

### Other Diplomatic Developments

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### Other

- **Raids on Russia:** While some Ukrainian units have recently participated in small-scale attacks against Russian soil, the Ukrainian government has denied participation in planning or coordinating these attacks ([source: Reuters](#)). This is an important clarification, as a common concern among those against arming Ukraine with greater capabilities say that the government will then use them to strike Russian territory.



# Updates on the War, 03-08-23

## US Government Actions

- **Warrant for Rosneft Plane:** The US District Court for the Eastern District of New York authorized the seizure of an aircraft owned by Russian oil company Rosneft. The seizure was authorized based on sanctions violations, and the plane is valued at over \$25 million (**source: Reuters**).
- **Visit Rejected:** After President Volodymyr Zelenskyy invited Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy to visit Kyiv, McCarthy rejected the idea, stating that he gets enough information from briefings. His predecessor, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, has visited Kyiv, as have Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and President Biden (**source: Reuters**).
- **DNI On Russia:** The Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, stated today that Russia lacks offensive capabilities, and therefore may switch to a strategy of holding the territory they have already gained. The specific issues they are having include a lack of troops, morale problems, and ammunition issues (**source: New York Times**).

## Defense and Other Arms

- **Stoltenberg on Bakhmut:** The head of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg, stated today that Bakhmut could fall in the coming days, but that it holds little strategic importance to Russia. This echoes similar claims by other military leaders watching the situation (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **More Gepards:** Germany has delivered two more Gepard anti-aircraft systems, two more border protection vehicles, and six mobile antenna systems (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **Tank Timeline:** According to current reporting, Ukraine will receive at least 21 Leopard-2 tanks by the end of March, three from Portugal and 18 from Germany (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **1 billion euro aid:** The EU have agreed to provide Ukraine with immediate military aid, including 155 and 152 mm artillery shells. There will also be 1 billion euros from the European Peace Fund to assist them (**source: Ukrinform**).

## Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Guterres in Kyiv:** UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres arrived in Kyiv to meet with President Zelenskyy and discuss the UN-brokered grain deal set to expire on March 18 (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

## Other

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## Updates on the War, 03-09-23

### US Government Actions

- **REPO Report:** The Russian Elites, Proxies and Oligarchs Task Force from the Department of the Treasury announced today that it has blocked or frozen over \$58 billion in Russian assets since February 24 of last year (**source: Treasury Department**).
- **Draft Budget With Ukraine Aid:** President Biden's 2024 Draft Budget includes around \$6 billion to assist "Ukraine, NATO and European allies", as well as smaller funds from the money allocated for the State Department and USAID (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

### Defense and Other Arms

- **Mass Strike:** Russia undertook a mass missile strike early this morning, the largest since January. The attack involved 81 missiles and 8 drones. This includes six Kinzhal missiles, a hypersonic missile which was first tested last spring. At least six people were killed, five in Lviv, and seven injured (**source: Kyiv Independent**). Ukraine was able to shoot down 34 cruise missiles and four drones. The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was disconnected from the grid for some time as a result of the attack, though it since has been reconnected (**source: Politico**).
- **Two More Years of War?:** According to the chief of Lithuania's military intelligence, Russia can fight in Ukraine at its current pace for two more years. This condition length of time could increase depending on how much more assistance it receives from North Korea, Iran, and whether China gets involved (**source: Reuters**).
- **Finally, MiGs:** Poland will be transferring a small number of MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine. The exact number has not been confirmed and will be significantly less than the number of Leopard-2 tanks they have pledged, by their own admission (**source: Kyiv Independent**). This appears to be the first major transfer of jets of any type to Ukraine since the war began.

### Other Diplomatic Developments

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### Other

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# Updates on the War, 03-10-23

## US Government Actions

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## Defense and Other Arms

- **NASAMS From Norway:** The day after a mass missile strike in Ukraine, Norway is agreeing to provide Ukraine with two NASAMS air defense systems in coordination with the United States (**source: Ukrinform**). NASAMS are considered one of the most effective air defense system in the world, protecting Washington D.C. among other places.
- **ISW Updates:** The Institute for the Study of War discussed the forming of defensive lines in Russian territory in areas that will likely never see fighting, likely a propaganda effort by the Russian government. It also brought up the increasing concerns by the US intelligence community that Russia-aligned actors will attempt an insurrection in Moldova (**source: ISW**).

## Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Canadian Aluminum & Steel Sanctions:** Canada is banning the import of Russian aluminum and steel in a move aimed to deprive Russia of revenue as it continues its war on Ukraine. (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **Holodomor Recognition by Belgium:** The Belgian Parliament voted today to recognize the Holodomor as a genocide. This comes in response to an appeal from Ukraine's government to recognize the event as a genocide internationally (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **Marin Visit:** Finnish Prime Minister Sanna Marin visited Kyiv today. Alongside President Zelenskyy, she visited wounded soldiers and attended the funeral of Dmytro Kotsiubailo, who was killed in action earlier this week (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

## Other

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