



## Updates on the War, 03-20-23

### US Government Actions

- **Aid Package:** Today, the US authorized another aid package to Ukraine worth around \$350 million. The package includes primarily ammunition and riverine boats (**source: Department of State**).

### Defense and Other Arms

- **More Leopard-2s:** Norway delivered eight Leopard-2 tanks and four support vehicles to Ukraine today. This is nearly a quarter of its total arsenal of Leopard-2s (**source: Kyiv Independent**). Ukraine now has at least 22 Leopard-2 tanks.
- **Marder Transfer Underway:** Germany has begun transferring Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine, though the exact number which has reached Ukraine is unknown. Germany had previously promised 40 Marder vehicles. (**source: Ukrinform**).
- **1 Million Rounds From the EU:** The EU has made a deal to send 1 million rounds of various ammunition types to Ukraine in the next year, both from its own stockpiles and that it procures from other places (**source: Politico**).
- **Avdiivka in Trouble?:** The UK's Ministry of Defense Intelligence notes the difficult situation in Avdiivka, immediately north of Donetsk City, which is slowly being encircled. While the defense of the city continues, the supply lines into the city are increasingly threatened by Russia (**source: MoD on Twitter**).
- **Explosions in Crimea:** An explosion in Dzhankoi in Crimea resulted in the destruction of Russian-owned Kalibr cruise missiles as they were being transported (**source: Ukrinform**).

### Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Putin-Xi Meeting:** Xi Jinping met today with Vladimir Putin, three days after the ICC's arrest warrant against Putin (note: the PRC is not a member of the ICC). The two leaders greeted one another as "dear friends" and spoke for over four hours. The United States denounced the meeting (**source: Reuters**). Xi also stated that he and Putin had "similar goals" and that he values close ties with Russia (**source: CNN**).

### Other

- **On China:** As an addendum to last week's Politico reporting that Chinese companies have sold rifles and dual-use material to Russia, Ukraine's Defense Intelligence has stated that there is no evidence of state-to-state cooperation on these actions. However, they are still checking the exact details of these sales (**source: Kyiv Independent**).



# Updates on the War, 03-21-23

## US Government Actions

- **New Abrams Tank Timeline:** The US will be sending an older model of Abrams tanks to Ukraine, which will be easier to be maintained and will be delivered faster to Ukraine. The exact timeline and number of tanks is unclear, but they will likely be able to arrive later in the year ([source: Associated Press](#)).

## Defense and Other Arms

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## Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Kishida in Kyiv:** Prime Minister Kishida of Japan became the last G7 leader to visit Ukraine today after arriving for an unexpected trip to Kyiv. He met with President Zelenskyy and announced \$30 million in non-lethal aid, as well as \$470 million in grant aid to help with the country's energy sector ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Xi, Putin and Peace Talks:** Xi Jinping called today for "peace talks" over Ukraine while meeting with Vladimir Putin today without making any suggestion of withdrawing Russian troops. Russian talking points echoed the call for peace talks and the two jointly blamed NATO for jeopardizing "the reasonable security interests of other nations" ([source: Politico](#)). In response, President Zelenskyy released a statement that while Ukraine has invited the PRC to join Ukraine's proposed peace formula, it has yet to hear an answer ([source: Reuters](#)).

## Other

- **Patriot Training Nearly Complete:** Ukrainian soldiers are apparently nearly done with training to use Patriot systems, ahead of what was expected of them by their American trainers. They have been praised for being quick studies ([source: Politico](#)).
- **Children Returned:** Ukraine has recovered 15 children who were forcibly relocated from Kherson and Kharkiv. In total, Ukraine has returned 308 forcibly relocated children ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **More Reporting on Chinese Drones:** Russia has imported nearly \$12 million worth in drones from China since the beginning of the war despite heavy sanctions. [This](#) article details more of the particulars.



## Updates on the War, 03-22-23

### US Government Actions

- **Kirby Statement:** National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby reiterated US support for Ukraine today, noting especially that Bakhmut has remained in Ukrainian hands for longer than expected and that the US defers to Ukrainian leadership in these areas. Kirby also noted that the next few weeks will be “critical” for Ukraine, as Russia may attempt an offensive and Ukraine will likely mount a counteroffensive (**source: CNN**).

### Defense and Other Arms

- **Zaporizhzhia Strike:** At least one person has died and 33 people have been injured as a result of a Russian strike on two apartment buildings in Zaporizhzhia this morning. This number includes at least three children, though their injuries are described as “light” (**source: Kyiv Independent**).

### Other Diplomatic Developments

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### Other

- **European Support for Ukraine in EU:** According to a new survey, 65% of Europeans polled think that Ukraine should join the EU in the next three years. 61% also support the EU providing Ukraine with weapons, while 67% support moving away from Russian energy even if it raises energy costs (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **IOC Update:** Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee, has defended the IOC’s continued decision to have Russian and Belarusian athletes compete under neutral flags. He justified the decision using such rhetoric as appeals to human rights and the fact that the IOC should not mediate in “political disputes” (**source: Reuters**).



# Updates on the War, 03-23-23

## US Government Actions

- **Blinken on Funding:** Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated today in a hearing on Capitol Hill that congressionally-approved money for Ukraine should last for much of the year. He also highlighted measures that have been put in place to ensure it is spent properly. He also noted both the “generosity of US taxpayers” and of the burden shared by over 50 other countries ([source: Reuters](#)).

## Defense and Other Arms

- **Aid Roundup:** Slovakia has handed over the first four of thirteen MiG fighter jets that it promised Ukraine ([source: Ukrinform](#)). Sweden has approved a \$600 million aid package which will include Leopard-2 tanks, Archer artillery systems, Robotsystem 97s, and ammunition ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)). Finland has pledged three more Leopard-2 tanks, bringing its total pledged contribution to six ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **More Stingers Needed:** Ukrainian soldiers are claiming that more Stinger missiles are needed to counter the growing threat from Russian drones that Ukraine is facing ([source: Reuters](#)).
- **Drone Attack in Kyiv:** A drone attack in Kyiv overnight on March 22 has resulted in nine deaths and nine further injuries. In the attack, 21 Shahed drones were launched, with 16 later downed by Ukraine’s air defense ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

## Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Iceland Recognizes Genocide:** The government of Iceland has recognized the Holodomor as a genocide against the people of Ukraine ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **ICC Office To Open in Ukraine:** Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andrii Kostin and ICC Registrar Peter Lewis signed an agreement today to open an ICC office in Ukraine. This move will hopefully help assist in the investigations of war crimes committed in the country ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

## Other

- **More Children Returned:** Ukrainian Human Rights Ombudsman Dmytro Lubinets reported today that two more children have been returned to Ukrainian-held territory from where they were being held in Russian-occupied territory ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **\$411 Billion Now Needed:** The World Bank now estimates that Ukraine will need \$411 billion to recover from the damage caused by the first year of Russia’s full-scale invasion. This is equivalent to 2.6 times Ukraine’s normal annual economic output ([source: Bloomberg](#)).



## Updates on the War, 03-24-23

### US Government Actions

- **US-Canada Pledge:** In a joint press conference today, President Joe Biden and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised joint support for Ukraine as long as it takes (**source: Kyiv Independent**). Prime Minister Trudeau was one of the first G7 leaders to visit Ukraine, and Canada was the first country to ship Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine, though due to Poland's proximity its tanks got there first.

### Defense and Other Arms

- **ISW Updates:** According to the Institute for the Study of War, Russian voices are preparing for a potential Ukrainian counteroffensive. Furthermore, they noted that the head of occupied Crimea has created a Wagner Group-affiliated PMC which has been deployed to Russian-held areas of Kherson (**source: ISW**).
- **German Aid:** Germany has delivered Dachs vehicles and machine guns to Ukraine, as well as spare parts for Leopard-2 battle tanks and Marder fighting vehicles (**source: Kyiv Independent**).
- **On Avdiivka:** The Ukrainian general forces assess that while Russia is continuing to try and surround Avdiivka, it is running out of offensive capability in the area (**source: Ukrainian Pravda**).

### Other Diplomatic Developments

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### Other

- **On Water:** Due to Russia's strikes on infrastructure in Ukraine, nearly 5 million people do not have access to clean drinking water. There is also ongoing concern about issues at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant due to the draining of water from the Kakhkova Reservoir (**source: Kyiv Independent**).