

IDF announces soldier killed in battle with Hamas in Gaza City's Zeitoun

Death of Staff Sgt. Ariel Tsym, 20, brings toll of troops killed in ground operation to 272; military orders more Rafah residents to evacuate as it presses ahead with offensive

By [Emanuel Fabian](#) Today, 11:56 pm



Staff Sgt. Ariel Tsym of the Nahal Brigade's 931st Battalion, who the IDF says was killed battling Hamas in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood on May 10, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)

The IDF announced Saturday the death of a soldier killed during fighting in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood the previous day, raising to five the number of troops who fell Friday during battles in the area.

He was named as Staff Sgt. Ariel Tsym, 20, of the Nahal

Brigade's 931st Battalion, from Modiin.

Tsym was **killed during a gun battle with Hamas operatives in Zeitoun**, according to an initial IDF probe. The incident happened not long after [four troops were killed](#) by an explosive device in the same area in the northern Gaza Strip.

His death brings the toll of slain troops in the IDF's ground offensive in Gaza and operations on the border with the Palestinian enclave to 272.

The IDF has returned several times to the Zeitoun neighborhood since the war's outbreak, as Hamas has managed to regroup in areas previously cleared by the army.

Troops of the 99th Division launched the pinpoint raid in Zeitoun in recent days. The IDF said **dozens of gunmen have been killed** and many weapons have been captured during the ongoing raid in the neighborhood. In one incident, troops located a cache of weapons at a health clinic, underlining Israel's repeated accusation that terror group Hamas uses civilians and civilian infrastructure as shields for its fighters.

One of the gunmen killed was a Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist who participated in the October 7 onslaught led by Hamas that opened the ongoing war. He was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Zeitoun, the military said Saturday, publishing footage of the strike. It did not name him.

The **military also said it was moving into other areas of northern Gaza where it asserted that Hamas had re-established itself.** Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee, the IDF's Arabic-language spokesman, told Palestinians in Jabaliya and Beit Lahiya and surrounding areas to leave their homes and head to shelters in the west of Gaza City, warning that people were in "a dangerous combat zone" and that Israel would strike with "great force."

Palestinian media outlets later reported a series of strikes in Jabaliya.

طائرات الاحتلال تشن احزمة نارية ثقيلة على جباليا ومعسكر جباليا pic.twitter.com/a7geTdFpCL

— AlHadeel News (@news_hadeel) [May 11, 2024](#)

Operations in the northern Gaza Strip came as the IDF pressed ahead with a controversial offensive in the southern city of Rafah.

Israel [ordered new evacuations](#) in Rafah, instructing tens of thousands more people to move as it prepares to expand its military operation closer to the heavily populated central area, in defiance of growing pressure from close ally the United States and others.

In Rafah, troops killed several more Hamas gunmen in the eastern part of the city, and located several tunnels, the IDF said.

Also over the past day, the military said airstrikes were carried out against dozens of sites belonging to terror groups, including rocket launchers, observation posts, and other infrastructure.

Israel ordered civilians out of the eastern outskirts of Rafah earlier this week. In the initial evacuation zone and other areas of Rafah, around 300,000 Palestinians have evacuated to a designated "humanitarian zone," according to IDF assessments.

Around a million more Palestinians, who fled other parts of Gaza during the war, remain in the city itself, and they have not been called to evacuate yet. The operation remains limited in scope amid

negotiations via mediators to secure the release of hostages who were abducted from Israel during the Hamas October 7 assault.

Israel has now evacuated the eastern third of Rafah. The United Nations and others have warned that Israel's planned full-scale Rafah invasion would cripple humanitarian operations and cause a disastrous surge in civilian casualties.

Israel says it has made plans to evacuate civilians from areas of combat, and that it must tackle Hamas's remaining battalions in Rafah to fully defeat the group in the enclave.

The war in Gaza erupted after Hamas's October 7 attacks, which saw some 3,000 terrorists burst across the border into Israel by land, air, and sea, killing some 1,200 people and seizing 252 hostages, mostly civilians, amid acts of brutality and sexual assault.

The ensuing war has killed over 34,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, though data issued by the Hamas-run authorities cannot be independently verified, and is believed to include both civilians and Hamas members killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups' own rocket misfires.

Israel has said it has killed some 15,000 terror operatives in Gaza, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-announces-soldier-killed-in-battle-with-hamas-in-gaza-citys-zeitoun/>

IDF calls on Gazans to leave additional Rafah neighborhoods as it presses operation 300,000 have left southern Gaza city to 'humanitarian zone,' military assesses; IDF also gearing up for fresh operation in north Gaza's Jabaliya, as Hamas renews presence there

By [Emanuel Fabian](#)

Today, 12:36 pm

The Israeli military on Saturday morning began calling on Palestinians in additional neighborhoods of Rafah to evacuate the area, as it pressed on with an operation against the Hamas terror group in the city in the southern Gaza Strip.

Last week, the Israel Defense Forces **issued an evacuation warning for the eastern outskirts of Rafah, before it pushed into the area.**

The latest warning covered the Rafah and Shaboura camps and the neighborhoods of Geneina and Khirbat al-Adas, slightly deeper into the city.

Around a million Palestinians, who fled other parts of the enclave during the war, are sheltering in Rafah.

In the initial evacuation zone and other areas of Rafah, around 300,000 Palestinians have evacuated to a designated "humanitarian zone," according to IDF assessments.



Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee, the IDF's Arabic-language spokesman, published on Saturday morning a list of the new zones that needed to be evacuated.

Palestinians load their belongings on the back of a truck as they flee Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to a safer location on May 11, 2023. (AFP)

The IDF also dropped flyers, sent text messages and made phone calls with the evacuation instructions.

The civilians were called on to move to the expanded humanitarian zone in the al-Mawasi and

Khan Younis areas in southern Gaza.

Adraee also warned Palestinians against moving toward the Israeli border.

This map issued by the IDF, May 11, 2024 shows zones in Rafah that are to be evacuated amid a military offensive in the area. (Israel Defense Forces)



The move came after Israel's security cabinet voted on Thursday night to approve a "measured" expansion of the IDF's operation in Rafah

The expansion was deemed as measured in what Israel hopes will not cross the line into what the United States sees as a "major operation."

US President Joe Biden warned earlier this week that he would halt certain offensive weapons shipments to Israel if it entered into the population centers of Rafah, due to concerns over the one million-plus civilians sheltering there.

In a highly anticipated report to Congress, the Biden administration [said](#) Friday it found "credible and reliable" Israeli assurances that it will use US weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law, allowing for the further transfer of American arms amid Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza.

However, in the strongest such statement from Biden officials, the US State Department report also said it was "reasonable" to assess that Israel has used US-supplied weapons since Hamas's October 7 attack in instances that were "inconsistent" with its international humanitarian law obligations, but that it does not have complete information to verify Israeli forces did so.



IDF soldiers standing atop a battle tank as part of the Givati Brigade operating in eastern Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, in a handout picture released on May 10, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces/AFP)

The IDF's operation in Rafah has so far been limited to the eastern part of the city and the border crossing with Egypt.

The IDF says troops have located several tunnel shafts and killed dozens of gunmen so far.

On Friday, Hamas launched two barrages of rockets from Rafah and central Gaza at Beersheba, the first attack on the southern city in nearly six months. The attack lightly wounded a woman and caused damage to a

public playground.

The military on Saturday said it was also preparing to launch a new operation in northern Gaza's Jabaliya, after identifying attempts by Hamas to regroup there.



This map issued by the IDF, May 11, 2024 shows zones in Jabaliya that are to be evacuated ahead of a military offensive in the area. (Israel Defense Forces)

A separate evacuation order was given for the Jabaliya area, where the IDF estimated between 100,000 and 150,000 Palestinians were.

Civilians were being told to move to shelters west of Gaza City.

"You are in a dangerous combat zone. Hamas is trying to rebuild its capabilities in the area, and therefore the IDF will

work with great force against the terror organizations in the area in which you are located," Adraee said in his announcement.

It would be the second time the IDF operated on the ground in Jabaliya after it was captured during the first months of Israel's ground offensive against Hamas. The IDF later withdrew from north Gaza.

The evacuation order came as the IDF continued to operate in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, after similarly identifying Hamas regrouping there.

Four soldiers were killed battling Hamas in Zeitoun on Friday. **IDF soldiers under the Nahal Brigade operate in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighborhood, in a handout picture released on May 10, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)**



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his government have long faced criticism over their refusal to make a plan for the management of Gaza after the war.

Hamas has reportedly reasserted significant civil control in a number of areas of the enclave after troops swept through and then left.

The war in Gaza erupted after Hamas's October 7 attacks, which saw some 3,000 terrorists burst across the border into Israel by land, air and sea, killing some 1,200 people and seizing 252 hostages, mostly civilians, many amid acts of brutality and sexual assault.

The ensuing war has killed over 34,800 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, though data issued by the Hamas-run authorities cannot be independently verified, and is believed to include both civilians and Hamas members killed in Gaza, including as a consequence of terror groups' own rocket misfires.

Israel has said it has killed some 15,000 terror operatives in Gaza, in addition to some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7, while 271 soldiers have been killed during the ground offensive against Hamas and amid operations along the Gaza border. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/idf-calls-on-gazans-to-leave-additional-rafah-neighborhoods-as-it-presses-operation/>

Egypt refusing to coordinate with Israel on entry of aid in Rafah — state media Israeli sources tell Channel 12 they cannot bring in aid without Egyptian cooperation, fear refusal will harm IDF's ability to operate in the area

By [Agencies](#) and [Tol Staff](#) Today, 9:24 pm

Egypt has refused to coordinate with Israel on the entry of aid into Gaza from the Rafah Crossing due to Israel's "unacceptable escalation," Egypt's state-affiliated Alqahera News satellite TV reported on Saturday, citing a senior official. [Then don't complain about 'essential humanitarian aid' not coming in. – rd]

The official also said that Egypt held Israel responsible for the deterioration of the situation in the Gaza Strip.

On May 7, Israeli forces seized the main border crossing at Rafah, closing a vital route for aid into the besieged enclave. Israel did so as it began operations against Hamas in the Rafah area, and as negotiations for a hostage deal and truce floundered.

The military says Hamas has used the crossing for terror purposes. It is widely believed arms and other banned items are smuggled into the Strip from Egypt.

The United Nations and other international aid agencies said the closing of the two crossings into southern Gaza — Rafah and Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom (after rocket attacks targeted that crossing) — had virtually cut the enclave off from outside.

Red Crescent sources in Egypt said shipments had completely halted.

Israeli sources told Channel 12 that Israel wants to bring in aid but cannot do so without Egyptian cooperation. Israel fears the Egyptian refusal to coordinate the entry of aid will bring intense international pressure on Israel and harm its ability to operate in Rafah.



Palestinians displaced by the war in the Gaza Strip arrive at a makeshift tent camp west of Rafah, Gaza, Friday, May 10, 2024. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said Friday "every day that crossing is not available and usable for humanitarian assistance, there's going to be more suffering, and that's a deep concern to us. We urge the Israelis to open up that crossing to humanitarian assistance immediately. That aid is desperately needed, and we urge them... to be as careful, precise, and discriminate as they can." **[Who is the problem? Egypt and the US. Stupid trolls. –**

rd]

Meanwhile, Israel ordered new evacuations in Rafah, instructing tens of thousands more people to move as it prepares to expand its military operation closer to the heavily populated central area, in defiance of growing pressure from close ally the United States and others.

In the initial evacuation zone and other areas of Rafah, around 300,000 Palestinians have evacuated to a designated “humanitarian zone,” according to IDF assessments.

Lt. Col. Avichay Adraee, the IDF’s Arabic-language spokesman, published on Saturday morning a list of the new zones that needed to be evacuated. The IDF also dropped flyers, sent text messages and made phone calls with the evacuation instructions.

Israel’s military also said it was moving into an area of northern Gaza where it asserted that the Hamas terror group had regrouped. Adraee told Palestinians in Jabaliya and Beit Lahiya and surrounding areas to leave their homes and head to shelters in the west of Gaza City, warning that people were in “a dangerous combat zone” and that Israel would strike with “great force.”

Israel has now evacuated the eastern third of Rafah. The United Nations and others have warned that Israel’s planned full-scale Rafah invasion would cripple humanitarian operations and cause a disastrous surge in civilian casualties.



Palestinians displaced by the war in the Gaza Strip walk through a makeshift tent camp in Rafah, Gaza, Friday, May 10, 2024. (AP Photo/Abdel Kareem Hana)

Israel says it has made plans to evacuate civilians from areas of combat, and that it must tackle Hamas’s remaining battalions in Rafah in order to fully defeat the group in the enclave.

US President Joe Biden has said he will not provide offensive weapons to Israel for Rafah. Jerusalem has responded with defiance, saying it will act against the terror group alone if necessary.

More than 1.4 million Palestinians — half of Gaza’s population — have been sheltering in Rafah, most after fleeing Israel’s offensives elsewhere. The evacuations are forcing people to return north where areas are devastated from previous Israeli attacks.

In a highly anticipated report to Congress, **the Biden administration said Friday it found “credible and reliable” Israeli assurances that it will use US weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law, allowing for the further transfer of American arms amid Israel’s war with Hamas in Gaza.**

However, in the strongest such statement from Biden officials, the US State Department report also said it was “reasonable” to assess that Israel has used US-supplied weapons since Hamas’s October 7 attack in instances that were “inconsistent” with its international humanitarian law obligations, but that it does not have complete information to verify Israeli forces did so. [These people waffle like a hot cake on a griddle when it comes to Israel. – rdb’

The White House said Friday that the US does not believe the IDF’s [operation in Rafah](#) in recent days amounts to a wide-scale military operation.



IDF soldiers under the Givati Brigade stand atop a tank in eastern Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip, in a handout picture released on May 10, 2024. (Israel Defense Forces)

The US has offered tepid support for the limited operation to remove Hamas from the Rafah Crossing area, but warned that its stance could shift if the offensive widened to civilian areas or if the delivery of humanitarian aid was hampered for a sustained period. That came after the White House [confirmed](#) a delay in the transfer of 2,000- and 500-pound bombs over concerns that the IDF could use them in Rafah, as it has in other parts of Gaza.



On Monday, Hamas claimed to have accepted a truce agreement with Israel, though it later emerged that the proposal it said had come from Egyptian and Qatari mediators included several elements fundamentally different from what Israel had agreed to. Jerusalem swiftly rejected the proposal for falling short of its “vital demands,” but okayed dispatching a working-level delegation to the indirect talks in Cairo.

Thick, black smoke rises from a fire in a building caused by Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on May 10, 2024. (AFP)

The specifics of the proposal Hamas said it had

accepted Monday (Arabic text here) differed in numerous regards from the reported terms of what the US had hailed as an “extremely generous” Israeli offer.

Significantly, Hamas said on Monday night that it regards itself as having accepted terms for an end to the war, whereas both the Israeli-backed text and the Hamas response refer to restoring “sustainable calm.” In an introductory paragraph, however, the Hamas text says the “framework agreement aims for ... a return to sustainable calm in a way that achieves a permanent ceasefire.”

Hamas added Friday it is holding consultations to reconsider its negotiating strategy in light of Israel’s rejection of its counter-proposal in the talks, and the expanding IDF operations in eastern Rafah.

Israel has consistently said it will not accept a deal that entails a permanent ceasefire, and that it will resume its military campaign after any truce-for-hostages deal to complete its two declared war goals: freeing the hostages and destroying Hamas’s military and governance capabilities.

War broke out between Israel and Hamas following Hamas’s October 7 attack on Israel which saw terrorists kill some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnap 252.

It is believed that 128 hostages abducted by Hamas on October 7 remain in Gaza — not all of them alive — after 105 civilians were released from Hamas captivity during a weeklong truce in late November, and four hostages were released prior to that. Three hostages have been rescued by troops alive, and the bodies of 12 hostages have also been recovered, including three mistakenly killed by the military.

The IDF has confirmed the deaths of 36 of those still held by Hamas, citing new intelligence and findings obtained by troops operating in Gaza.

One more person is listed as missing since October 7, and their fate is still unknown.

Hamas is also holding the bodies of fallen IDF soldiers Oron Shaul and Hadar Goldin since 2014, as well as two Israeli civilians, Avera Mengistu and Hisham al-Sayed, who are both thought to be alive after entering the Strip of their own accord in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The Hamas-run Gaza health ministry says more than 34,000 people in the Strip have been killed in the fighting so far, a figure that cannot be independently verified, does not distinguish between combatants and civilians and includes some 15,000 terror operatives Israel says it has killed in battle. Israel also says it killed some 1,000 terrorists inside Israel on October 7.

Two hundred and seventy-one soldiers have been killed during the ground offensive against Hamas and amid operations along the Gaza border. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-refusing-to-coordinate-with-israel-on-entry-of-aid-in-rafah-state-media/>

Emirati FM dismisses Netanyahu's suggestion UAE may help run post-war Gaza
Sheikh Abdullah says UAE would be prepared to support Palestinian government that met hopes and aspirations of Palestinian people

i24NEWS|15:51

United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan on Saturday dismissed a suggestion, made earlier by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, that the Gulf state has a role to play in the managing and restoration Gaza once the war ends.

“The UAE underscores that the Israeli premier does not have any legal capacity to take this step, and Abu Dhabi refuses to be drawn into any plan intended to provide cover for continued Israeli military presence in the Gaza Strip,” he wrote on the X platform.

تستنكر دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة تصريحات رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي، بنيامين نتنياهو، حول دعوة الدولة للمشاركة في إدارة مدنية لقطاع غزة القابع تحت الاحتلال الإسرائيلي.

إذ تشدد دولة الإمارات بأن رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي لا يتمتع بأي صفة شرعية تخوله باتخاذ هذه الخطوة، كما ترفض...
— عبدالله بن زايد (@ABZayed) [May 10, 2024](#)

“The UAE affirms that once a Palestinian government is formed that meets Palestinian hopes and aspirations and evinces integrity, competence and independence, Abu Dhabi will be fully prepared to provide all forms of support to that government.”



In an **interview that aired this week, Netanyahu said the UAE, Saudi Arabia and other countries could possibly assist a civilian government with Gazans in the enclave after the war.**

*United Arab Emirates Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahyan
(Photo: GPO)*

Prominent members of Netanyahu's Cabinet reject the idea of an independent Palestinian state and Netanyahu has said Israel would need to maintain security control of Gaza after the war.

Palestinians hope to establish an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza, an aspiration the UAE supports. <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/rjtgtitfa>

IDF kills Oct. 7 PIJ terrorist, announces field hospital built in central Gaza

As the IDF continues to operate throughout the Gaza Strip, the IDF and COGAT announced the creation of an additional field hospital to assist evacuated residents.

By [JERUSALEM POST STAFF](#) MAY 11, 2024 19:29 **Updated:** MAY 11, 2024 20:27

The IDF's Nahal Brigade located weapons, destroyed terrorist infrastructure, and eliminated terrorists in the Zeitun area in the Gaza Strip, the IDF announced on Saturday.

As part of the operation, Nahal soldiers destroyed terrorist infrastructure and found several weapons, including Kalashnikovs, combat vests, and grenades.

Additionally, the soldiers identified a number of terrorists that posed a threat. An air force aircraft worked in cooperation with the brigade to eliminate the terrorists. The IDF also killed a terrorist belonging to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad who participated in the [October 7 massacre](#).

Alongside the military's continued operations in the Strip, the IDF's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) also announced the establishment of an additional field hospital run by the International Medical Corps in the [Gaza Strip](#).



The hospital joins seven other field hospitals established in Gaza since the beginning of the Israel-Hamas war.

Field hospital in the Deir al-Balah area, in coordination by the IDF and COGAT. (credit: IDF SPOKESPERSON'S UNIT)

The hospital, which was established in the Deir al-Balah area in the central Gaza Strip, began operating in recent days and is part of the IDF and COGAT's initiative to bolster humanitarian aid to the civilian population of Gaza. The hospital's location is significant, as it will provide humanitarian aid to Gazan residents evacuated from the eastern

Rafah area.

Hospital seeks to assist evacuees from eastern Rafah

As part of the humanitarian efforts to ensure the temporary evacuation of civilians from eastern Rafah, some existing field hospitals were transferred to the expanded Humanitarian Area in

Al-Mawasi, in coordination with the international community, the IDF added. The field hospital has received an increasing number of tents, food, water, and medicine.

The hospital reportedly enables the entry of medical workers and medical equipment, including medicine, beds, food, water, tents, first aid equipment, ventilators, and other materials to construct the field hospital via the Kerem Shalom Crossing.

The field hospital will be operated by 150 international medical aid workers and dozens of beds will be prepared for emergency and routine medical treatments, the military added.

According to a KAN report, 200,000 liters of fuel were transferred to Gaza through the Kerem Shalom Crossing on Saturday. The fuel would be used for essential purposes, such as hospitals, humanitarian areas, logistical centers, and aid distribution. <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-800806>
<https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-800806>

Ukraine a ‘corrupt s**thole’ – ex-Boris Johnson adviser

Backing Kiev pushed Russia and China into an alliance, Dominic Cummings has said

10 May, 2024 17:01



File photo: Dominic Cummings, special adviser to the British PM Boris Johnson, September 3, 2019. © Daniel LEAL/AFP

The UK and its allies got tricked into backing a “corrupt mafia state” in Ukraine and getting into a war of attrition against a Moscow-Beijing partnership, Dominic

Cummings has said in an interview.

The **longtime Tory political strategist led the Vote Leave campaign for Brexit and was one of the key aides to then-PM Boris Johnson until resigning in November 2020.**

“We **should have never got into the whole stupid situation,**” Cummings told the outlet I News in an interview published on Wednesday, commenting on London’s full-throated support for Kiev. He also described Ukraine as a “**corrupt s**thole that doesn’t matter at all.**”

“This is not a replay of 1940 with the pumpkin [Ukrainian President Vladimir] Zelensky as the Churchillian underdog,” he added. “**This whole Ukrainian corrupt mafia state has basically conned us all and we’re all going to get f**ked as a consequence.**”

Western **sanctions have been “more of a disaster”** for the EU than for Russia, driving up the cost of living while pushing Moscow and Beijing closer together, according to Cummings. All the West managed to do is get into a war of attrition with Russia, “**who we pushed into an alliance with the world’s biggest manufacturing power.**”

Cummings **also addressed the argument that Russian President Vladimir Putin needed to be “taught a lesson” about invading neighbors.**

“**The lesson we’ve taught Putin is that we’re a bunch of total f**king jokers,**” he said. “I mean, Putin already knew that before the war. But this has emphasized it and broadcast it to the entire world, what a bunch of clowns we are,” he added.

Between the sanctions regime and the US trying to seize frozen Russian assets, the West is encouraging the emergence of alternative global financial systems, he explained.

That’s not teaching Putin any lesson, only that we’re idiots.

Cummings slammed Johnson – with whom he is no longer on speaking terms – for using the Ukraine conflict for “**acting out his Churchillian fantasies,**” as well as the Parliament, which “**swallowed all of his total bulls**t on Ukraine and actually took it seriously.**”

Johnson was the key figure in getting Kiev to reject a peace deal with Russia in April 2022, **according** to the top Ukrainian negotiator, as well as **Ukrainian media.**

The former PM **denied** his role in scuttling the talks, calling the account “**total nonsense and Russian propaganda.**” However, he confirmed that he told Zelensky the UK would back him “**a thousand percent**” and that any deal with Moscow would be bad. <https://www.rt.com/news/597357-dominic-cummings-ukraine-corruption/>

Germany to hand majority of army command over to NATO – Pistorius

The defense minister also announced that Berlin had purchased three HIMARS rocket launcher systems for Ukraine

10 May, 2024 14:09



US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin greets German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius at the Pentagon on May 9, 2024 © Getty Images via AFP / Win McNamee

The majority of the Bundeswehr (German Armed Forces) will be under NATO command by 2025, with around 35,000 soldiers placed on the “highest levels of readiness,” Defense Minister Boris Pistorius announced during a keynote speech at Washington’s Johns Hopkins University on Thursday.

The announcement comes as Germany struggles to resolve major personnel and equipment shortages in its army, with many replacement items purchased for the Bundeswehr being sent to aid Ukraine in its conflict with Russia. A parliamentary report in March revealed that the army is also “aging and shrinking,” with 20,000 unfilled positions and a “very high” dropout rate.

“The security of our allies is our security. Therefore, by next year, the majority of the Bundeswehr will be placed under NATO command,” Pistorius said in his Thursday speech, adding that “approximately 35,000 of them will be at the two highest levels of readiness.”

The **minister said Berlin’s focus remains on “protecting our allies on NATO’s eastern flank,”** and pointed to Germany’s recent moves to increase its military presence in the region.

Last month, Germany sent an advance team of soldiers to Lithuania as part of a plan to establish a full-strength armor brigade of 4,800 soldiers, which are to be permanently stationed in the Baltic nation bordering Russia by 2027. At the time, Moscow said the move would require “special measures” be taken in response.

Speaking about the Lithuanian deployment in the US, Pistorius called it “an unprecedented case in German history” and a “clear signal” to Russian President Vladimir Putin that “every inch” of NATO territory will be defended.

Earlier in the day, Pistorius also met with his US counterpart, **Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, and revealed that Berlin had purchased three US-made HIMARS multiple rocket launchers for Ukraine.**

“They come from US armed forces’ stocks and will be paid for by us,” he said. HIMARS launchers are mounted on a truck chassis and can fire multiple missiles in quick succession

Pistorius also commented on the possibility of reintroducing compulsory military service in Germany to help solve its personnel issues, saying its decision to end conscription in 2011 was a “mistake.”

Times have now changed, he said, and “I am convinced that Germany needs some form of conscription.” German Chancellor Olaf Scholz appears less keen on the idea, however, saying last year that reintroducing the draft is “not a good idea.” <https://www.rt.com/news/597350-germany-pistorius-army-nato/>

Mishustin announces shake-up of Russian government

The prime minister is handing several regional governors cabinet positions

11 May, 2024 17:42



Russian PM Mikhail Mishustin speaks at the State Duma on May 10, 2024. © Sputnik / Alexander Astafyev

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on Saturday unveiled his first picks for the new cabinet, which is set to undergo a major reshuffle. It was announced on Friday that Mishustin, who has led the country’s government since 2020, would retain his post.

Acting Deputy PM and Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov has been tapped to become First Deputy

Prime Minister. *“The upgraded status of the Deputy PM in charge of industry is due to the importance of ensuring technological leadership, as stated in the new May decree signed by President [Vladimir Putin],”* government spokesman Boris Belyakov explained.

The new government will also see a new Deputy PM position created, with the official specifically tasked with the development of transport and logistics. Erstwhile transport minister Vitaly Savelyev has been tapped to fill the role. The cabinet is slated to include many new faces; several regional governors have been promoted. For instance, Kursk Governor Roman Starovoyt has been tapped to succeed Savelyev as transport minister.

“Roman Starovoyt has extensive political and management experience, which will be useful in his work as head of one of the key federal ministries,” Belyakov explained, adding that the governor led Russia’s federal road agency, Rosavtodor, between 2012 and 2018.

Another regional head who has been given a cabinet position is Khabarovsk Region Governor Sergey Tsivilev, who has been handed the reigns of the Energy Ministry. Kaliningrad Governor Anton Alikhanov has been picked to replace Manturov as Industry and Trade Minister. Mikhail Degtyaryev, the governor of the far-eastern Khabarovsk Region, will run the country’s Ministry of Sports.

The list of new cabinet names does not include new picks for the law enforcement, emergencies or defense ministries, given that these officials are selected through a different procedure. These ministers are introduced directly by the president into the parliament’s upper chamber, the Federation Council. The new names are expected to be presented to the legislature by May 15, the body’s Speaker Valentina Matviyenko said earlier this week. <https://www.rt.com/russia/597413-pm-mishustin-governement-reshuffle/>

China and EU member announce ‘new era’ of relations

Beijing and Budapest aim to establish an “all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership”

10 May, 2024 17:57

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping in Budapest on Thursday, where the two leaders agreed to elevate their partnership and establish a “new era” in bilateral relations.

Both Xi and Orban spoke highly of each other’s nations, with the host praising China as *“one of the pillars of the new world order”* during their joint press conference.

“Prime Minister Orban and I both agree that China and Hungary have always been good friends that trust and support each other as well as good partners that seek win-win cooperation over the years. We should further elevate our relations and enrich our cooperation,” Xi told members of the media at the press conference.

The **two leaders unveiled a declaration “on the establishment of an all-weather comprehensive strategic partnership for the new era.”** The document provides a vision for building a closer relationship between the two nations.

Beijing and Budapest originally established a *“comprehensive strategic partnership”* back in 2017, which was later deemed fruitful by both sides.

“China and Hungary view each other as a priority partner for cooperation, always respect and treat each other equally, and set a good example of mutually beneficial pragmatic cooperation,” the new document reads. It promises that both have *“agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, strengthen political mutual trust, and deepen cooperation for mutual benefit.”*

Xi’s **state visit to Hungary comes as a part of his first European tour** in five years.

Earlier this week, the Chinese leader visited France, holding talks with his counterpart Emmanuel Macron during a two-day stay. While Xi has expressed a readiness to *“maintain strategic communication with France,”* Macron praised the *“friendly relationship and productive cooperation”* the two countries enjoy.

Afterwards, Xi visited Serbia, with the trip coming on the 25th anniversary of the 1999 NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, which left three Chinese citizens dead and 20 more injured.

“The Chinese people cherish peace, but we will never allow such tragic history to repeat itself,” Xi wrote in an opinion piece published on Tuesday by the Serbian newspaper Politika.

The Chinese president met his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic during the visit, with the two leaders charting a *“shared future”* for their countries. *“Serbia became China’s first strategic partner in central and eastern*

Europe eight years ago, and it becomes the first European country with which we shall build a community with a shared future,” Xi said. <https://www.rt.com/news/597362-china-hungary-strategic-partnership/>

EMERGENCY: Dnieper or Odessa? – Moscow to Marines: “Prepare for night landing” – Russians control 110 sq. km. in Kharkiv – “Walk”

Large concentration of Marine forces in Kherson

A large concentration of Russian amphibious forces has been observed in Kherson for some time now as the Russian Ministry of Defense ordered a surprise night crossing exercise of the Dnieper in real war conditions.

If it is not a new distraction, Moscow is preparing for something very “big” as the forces of the Paratroopers are also on standby.

There is information that Kiev chose to reinforce Kharkiv with forces from Kherson and not from the wider Donbass front....

Video: “Northern” Forces destroy Ukrainian MLRS in Kharkiv

#UkraineRussiaWar

📍 Place: #Tsyrykuny

📅 Date: ~11.05.2024

📍 Coordinates: 50.093937,36.401336

👤 Squad: #GroupNorth

📄 Description: The Russian military destroyed the MLRS of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Tsyrykuny.

📄 id: 11052024.1510

📄 source: <https://t.co/xYXughWEZg>

Map: ... <pic.twitter.com/Zr33Q7H8l8>

— Military Summary (@MilitarySummary) May 11, 2024

Under Russian control 110 sq km in Kharkiv

At the same time, the Russian troops of the “North” seem to be walking in Kharkiv so far, as according to updated data, Moscow’s forces control more than 110 square kilometers.

A Ukrainian unit commander reported that several units in the Kharkiv region abandoned their positions, forcing Kiev to move reserves from Kherson.

According to the Russians, the Armed Forces of Ukraine continue to surrender en masse.

The retired General of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, Sergei Krivonos, emphasized that the Ukrainian army may face significant problems in the defense of Kharkiv.

Krivonos told Ukrainian television that if logistical support is destroyed, it will be extremely difficult for the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend the regional center.

At the same time, the Ukrainian general believes that the Russian Army will surround the city and not invade head-on.

That is why, according to Krivonos, the Russian Armed Forces destroyed the logistics of the Ukrainian ED by bombing roads and fortresses.

Video: Russian Air Force destroys another bridge over Volchya River near Volchanskie Khutora settlement in Kharkiv

⚡ Russian aviation destroyed a bridge across the Volchya River near the village of Volchanskie Khutora in the Kharkov region, reports Source: <https://t.co/984g7cyHAq> <pic.twitter.com/6KMU6vIwKy>

— MD (@distant_earth83) May 11, 2024

Large concentration of amphibious forces in Kherson

The Russian Command has ordered the Marine Corps of the Russian Navy’s Northern Fleet to begin large-scale Dnieper crossing exercises.

“ Marine Forces of the Northern Fleet of the Russian Navy began landing exercises in Kherson. The scenario envisages a landing in a part of Kherson controlled by Ukrainian formations,” the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation reports.

We also remind: [Fears in Kiev of “Maskirovka” and strike in Odessa with nuclear shield activated: Paratroopers gather in Crimea](#)

According to the War News 24/7 report:

“Every day Russian marines practice crossing water obstacles and disembarking troops from floating vessels of the Russian Navy.

All exercises are as close to reality as possible, while each Marine will have to complete his own task in the overall process of crossing a water obstacle and subsequent integration of amphibious forces ashore.

Each Marine carries thirty pounds of cargo. Most of the cargo consists of weapons and ammunition.

During intensive exercises, Marines must learn to quickly and carefully assess the situation on the battlefield.

Battles can be fought in complete darkness, so special attention is paid to carrying out landing actions at night.”

https://warnews247-gr.translate.google.com/war-monitor/oukraina/ektakto-dnei-peros-h-odhssos-mosxa-pros-pezonantes-etoimasteite-gia-nuxterinh-apobash-h-dunamh-borras-kanei-peripato-sto-xarkobo-y-po-elegxo-110-t-xlm/?_x_tr_sl=el&_x_tr_tl=en&_x_tr_hl=en

Poke the bear and find out: Here's why the West should finally listen to Russia's warnings

The latest scuffle over provocations which tested Moscow's red lines shows that simply brushing off the Kremlin won't work anymore

10 May, 2024 19:35



By [Tarik Cyril Amar](#), a historian from Germany working at Koç University, Istanbul, on Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe, the history of World War II, the cultural Cold War, and the politics of memory

[@tarikcyrilamartarikcyrilamar.substack.com](#)

[tarikcyrilamar.com](#)

We have been through an intense, if muffled crisis in the ongoing political-military confrontation between Russia and the West by way of Ukraine. The essence of this crisis is simple: Kiev and its Western supporters have lost the initiative in the Ukraine proxy war and may be on the verge of defeat, as high Western officials increasingly [admit](#).

In response to this self-inflicted quandary, several important Western players have threatened further escalation. Most prominently, Great Britain's Foreign Secretary David Cameron publicly encouraged Kiev to use British Storm Shadow missiles to strike inside Russia. French President Emmanuel Macron continued to threaten a direct – not covert, as at present – intervention by French, that is, NATO, troops (In addition, an intriguing and much-discussed [article](#) reported that a deployment of 1,500 troops from France's Foreign Legion had already begun. While its sources were hard to assess, its claims appeared too plausible for easy dismissal.)

Moscow, in return, issued a set of stark warnings, laying down – or highlighting – red lines. It [announced drills](#) with tactical nuclear weapons. Belarus [did the same](#); in Minsk's case, the weapons in question are, of course, also Russian. In addition, the British and French ambassadors received extremely straight talk about the risks their respective governments were running.

Addressing London, Moscow made clear that Kiev striking inside Russia with British missiles would expose Britain to “catastrophic consequences,” in particular, [Russian retaliation against British forces anywhere](#). Regarding France, Moscow blasted its “[belligerent](#)” and “[provocative](#)” conduct [and defied as futile](#) French attempts to produce “[strategic ambiguity](#).”

For now, this particular crisis seems to have abated. There are some signs that the West got the message. NATO figurehead [Jens Stoltenberg](#), for instance, has insisted that NATO is not planning to send troops – openly, that is – into Ukraine.

Yet it would be wrong to feel too reassured. For this crisis was, at its core, a clash between, on one side, a Western problem that has by no means gone away and, on the other side, a persistent Russian policy that, it seems, all too many in the West refuse to take seriously enough.

The Western problem is that a defeat at Russia's hands would be worse by orders of magnitude than the fiasco of the rout-like retreat from Afghanistan in 2021. Ironically, that is so because the West itself has charged its needless confrontation with Russia with the power to do unprecedented damage to NATO and the EU:

First, by insisting on treating Ukraine as a de facto almost-NATO-member, which means that by defeating it, Moscow will also defeat Washington's key alliance. Second, by investing large and growing sums of money and quantities of supplies into this proxy war, which means that the West has weakened itself and, perhaps even more importantly, revealed its own weakness. Third, by trying to ruin both Russia's economy and its international standing; the failure of both attempts has resulted in a stronger Russia across these two domains and, once again, revealed more limits of Western power. Fourth, by radically subordinating the EU to NATO and Washington, the geopolitical damage has been, as it were, leveraged.

In short, when the Ukraine crisis started in 2013/14 and then greatly escalated in 2022, Russia had vital security interests at stake; the West did not. By now, however, the West has made choices that have charged this conflict and its outcome with the capacity to do great, strategic harm to its own credibility, cohesion, and power: Overreach has consequences. That, briefly, is why the West is at an impasse and remains there after this crisis.

On the other side, we have that persistent policy of Moscow, namely its nuclear doctrine. Much Western commentary tends to overlook or downplay this factor, caricaturing Russia's repeated warnings about nuclear

weapons as “*saber-rattling*.” Yet, in reality, these warnings are consistent expressions of a policy that has been developed since the early 2000s, that is, for almost a quarter-century.

A key feature of this doctrine is that Russia explicitly retains the option of using nuclear weapons at a relatively early stage in a major conflict and before an adversary has had recourse to them. Many Western analysts have described the purpose of this posture as facilitating a strategy of “*escalating to deescalate*” (sometimes abbreviated as E2DE), here meaning specifically to end a conventional conflict on favorable terms through a limited use of nuclear weapons to deter the adversary from continuing.

The term “*escalate to de-escalate*” emerged in the West, not Russia, and this Western interpretation of Russian policy has played an important role in Western politics and debates and, thus, [has its critics as well](#). In addition – but this is a separate question – some analysts point out that the idea of E2DE is less of any country’s national property than something inherent in the logic of nuclear strategy, that other nuclear powers have had similar policies, and that the whole idea, whoever adopts it, [may not work](#).

In addition, Russia’s nuclear doctrine is, as you would expect, complex. And, while France’s President Emmanuel Macron has made a habit of strutting a constant inconstancy he calls “*strategic ambiguity*,” Moscow is capable of inflicting some genuine calculated uncertainty on its adversaries, with less bragging but more effectively. Thus, one side of its nuclear doctrine stresses that nuclear weapons could only be used if the existence of the Russian state was in danger, [as has just been underlined again by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov](#). But to misunderstand this as a promise that Moscow would *only* use nukes if Moscow were under siege and half of Russia’s territory or population gone already, would be foolish.

In reality, there also is room in its nuclear doctrine for treating the “*unconditional territorial integrity and sovereignty*” of Russia as critical thresholds. How do we know? From multiple Russian documents, which need not be cited here because Ryabkov has reminded us of this facet of Moscow’s policy, too. In the same statement in which he emphasized the criterion of “*state existence*.” Take that, Emmanuel.

A final point, it seems, needs highlighting as well: Russia has never restricted its option of using nuclear weapons, indeed any type of weapons, to the area of a specific local conflict, for instance, Ukraine. The opposite is the case. Moscow is explicitly reserving the right to strike beyond the confines of such a battlefield. That is something that President Vladimir Putin has made crystal clear in his address to Russia’s Federal Assembly in February of this year. It is exactly that message that Britain has received as well in the recent crisis.

Whichever way you parse it, official Russian nuclear doctrine has specific messages for potential adversaries. Moscow has consistently applied this doctrine throughout the Ukraine War and in its recent warnings – by drill and by diplomatic demarche – to its Western opponents.

But there is the rub: The West has a history of obstinately not hearing Russian messages. That is how we ended up in this war in the first place. Russia had warned the West repeatedly since, at the latest, President Vladimir Putin’s well-known speech at the Munich Security Conference in – wait for it – 2007. The last major warning came in late 2021, when Russia – with Sergey Ryabkov, incidentally, in the forefront – offered the West what turned out to be a last chance to abandon its unilateralism and specifically NATO expansion and, instead, negotiate a new security framework. The West brushed this offer off. With nuclear weapons in play, it is time that Western elites learn to, finally, listen when Russia sends a serious warning. <https://www.rt.com/news/597364-west-russia-warnings-nuclear/>