

## G7 issues strong condemnation of Russian annexations & missile attacks as Ukrainian offensive continues in Donbas and Kherson regions



UK Defence Intelligence update on Russian attacks and troop locations as of October 12.

Yesterday, as Russian cruise missiles hit cities throughout Ukraine for a second day, the leaders of the G7 met online to discuss the missile attacks as well as Russia's recent annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of Ukraine. The leaders subsequently issued a statement condemning the missile attacks "in the strongest possible terms." Recalling that indiscriminate attacks on innocent civilian populations constitute a war crime, they said, "We will hold President Putin and those responsible to account." And they said they "firmly condemn and unequivocally reject the illegal attempted annexation by Russia of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions in addition to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. We solemnly reiterate that we will never recognize this illegal annexation or the sham referenda that Russia uses to justify it." Saying "Russia has blatantly violated the principles enshrined in the UN Charter," the leaders called upon all countries to "unequivocally reject these violations of international law and demand that Russia cease all hostilities and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its troops and military equipment from Ukraine."

The leaders said, "We have imposed and will continue to impose further economic costs on Russia, including on individuals and entities – inside and outside of Russia – providing political or economic support for Russia's illegal attempts to change the status of Ukrainian territory." And they said, "We deplore deliberate Russian escalatory steps, including the partial mobilization of reservists and irresponsible nuclear rhetoric, which is putting global peace and security at risk. We reaffirm that any use of chemical, biological or nuclear weapons by Russia

would be met with severe consequences.” They also condemned Russia’s actions at Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant and the pressure exerted on the personnel of the facility: “This is a further irresponsible escalation and we will hold Russia responsible for any incident caused by their actions.”

The leaders reaffirmed their “full support for Ukraine’s independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty in its internationally-recognized borders” and said, “Ukraine has the legitimate right to defend itself against Russian aggression and to regain full control of its territory within its internationally-recognized borders.” They said they had “reassured President Zelenskyy [who attended the online meeting] that we are undeterred and steadfast in our commitment to providing the support Ukraine needs to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity. We will continue to provide financial, humanitarian, military, diplomatic and legal support and will stand firmly with Ukraine for as long as it takes.”

Turning to the question of a viable post-war peace settlement, the G7 leaders said, “We remain ready to reach arrangements together with interested countries and institutions and Ukraine on sustained security and other commitments to help Ukraine defend itself, secure its free and democratic future, and deter future Russian aggression. We will continue to coordinate efforts to meet Ukraine’s urgent requirements for military and defense equipment.” They welcomed Zelenskyy’s “readiness for a just peace. This should include the following elements: respecting the UN Charter’s protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty; safeguarding Ukraine’s ability to defend itself in the future; ensuring Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, including exploring avenues to do so with funds from Russia; pursuing accountability for Russian crimes committed during the war.”

Strong words. But in the meantime, the war goes on. After taking back much of Kharkiv region in recent weeks, Ukrainian forces are moving against the Russian forces in the easternmost portion of that region and the northernmost portion of Donetsk region. And in Kherson region in the south, Ukrainian forces have been steadily clawing back territory over the past several weeks. But despite those local successes, much of eastern Ukraine is still in Russian hands, and it is hard to imagine that Russia will at some point agree to walk away from Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions, especially, of course, now that it has incorporated them into the Russian Federation. And so the war goes on, with no end in sight.

David R. Cameron  
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