As the leaders of the Coalition of the Willing met in Paris, Russia's war against Ukraine continued on the ground & in the air.

UK Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine as of Dec. 12.

On Tuesday, the leaders of the states participating in the Coalition of the Willing, which is preparing to deploy a military force to secure and, if necessary, defend the territory held by Ukraine once there is a ceasefire in Russia's war against Ukraine, met at the Elysée Palace in Paris to discuss their plans regarding the organization, territorial location, and, if necessary, reinforcement of that force. But as the leaders discussed those plans, Russia's war against Ukraine continued on Tuesday and thereafter, as it has all year, with no end in sight.

Indeed, as the most recent British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine, above, indicated was the situation as of Dec. 12, last week the Russian forces continued to attack Ukraine south of Sudzha in Russia's Kursk region toward the city of Sumy, along the border north of Kharkiv, and at a number of points along the long contact line between the forces in eastern and southeastern Ukraine from the area around and just to the east and south of Kupiansk to the area in Donetsk region toward Lyman and the cities of Slovyansk, Kramatorsk, and Kostyantynivka (not shown) that are still held by the Ukrainian forces and, in particular, the area around the city of Pokrovsk and at several locations along the contact line between the forces in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions in southeastern Ukraine.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that over the seven days last week from Sunday, Jan. 4, through Saturday, Jan. 10, the Russian forces conducted a total of 1,421 attacks – on average about 200 attacks each day – against the Ukrainian forces defending the cities and towns in northeastern, eastern, and southeastern Ukraine.

As in previous weeks, the largest number of Russian attacks last week were directed against the Ukrainian forces defending the area in and around Pokrovsk which, if taken, would open a pathway northward toward the territory in Donetsk region still held by Ukraine. The General Staff reported that over the seven days last week the Russian forces conducted a total of 341 attacks – on average nearly 50 attacks each day – against the forces defending Pokrovsk and the area around it. And notwithstanding the winter weather and the extraordinary numbers of losses on both sides, both the total number of Russian attacks last week and the total number of attacks last week against the forces defending Pokrovsk were considerably greater than the numbers – 1045 attacks in all, 255 attacks against the forces defending Pokrovsk – in the previous week.

While the Russian forces continued to attack the Ukrainian forces defending Pokrovsk and the other cities and towns in northeastern and eastern Ukraine, Russia also continued its air war against the people of Ukraine last week. In the night of Jan. 3-4, the Russians fired 52 drones at a number of Ukrainian cities. In the night of Jan. 4-5, they fired 165 drones and 9 Iskander ballistic missiles at several cities, hitting apartment buildings, electric infrastructure, and a medical facility in Kyiv. In the night of Jan. 5-6, they fired 61 drones and more than 170 missiles at several cities in Ukraine. In the night of Jan. 6-7, they fired an Iskander ballistic missile and 95 drones at several cities in Ukraine. In the night of Jan.. 7-8, they fired 97 drones at Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine. In the night of Jan. 8-9, they fired 36 missiles – 13 Iskander ballistic missiles, 22 Kalibr cruise missiles, and one medium-range missile – possibly an Oreshnik, an intermediate-range, hypersonic ballistic missile - at a number of cities in Ukraine. In the night of Jan. 9-10, they fired 121 drones and one Iskander ballistic missile at a number of cities in Ukraine,. And in the night of Jan. 10-11, they fired 154 drones at various targets and damaged or destroyed a number of apartment buildings and public facilities, including electricity generation plants. A number of people have been killed or injured in these attacks, approximately 1.5 to 1.7 million who live in Kyiv and the surrounding region reportedly have no heat or hot water, and in the country as a whole between 2.2 and 2.5 million have no electricity as the temperatures, which have generally been in the 10-to-20 degree range during the day, have dropped into single digits at night. In their effort to weaken public support for the Ukrainian government and its continuing defense of the country, the Russian forces are obviously committing crimes against humanity every day and every night.

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