Russia’s war against Ukraine continues on the ground and in the air

UK Defence Intelligence update on battlefield situation in Ukraine as of Mar. 6, 2026.

As Friday’s British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine indicates, last week the Russian forces continued to attack in the area southeast of Sudzha toward the Ukrainian city of Sumy and at a number of points along the contact line between the Russian and Ukrainian forces in eastern and southeastern Ukraine from the area south and east of Kupiansk to the area south of Siversk toward the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk in the northern portion of Donetsk region, toward the area around Pokrovsk and Myrnohrad in the western portion of that region, and at several locations – most notably, in the area around Huliapole – along the contact line between the forces in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of southeastern Ukraine.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that over the seven days last week from Sunday, Mar. 1, through Saturday, Mar. 7, the Russian forces conducted a total of 1,121 attacks – on average about 160 a day – against the Ukrainian forces defending the cities and towns in northeastern, eastern, and southeastern Ukraine. That is roughly in line with the number of attacks the Russian forces conducted each week recently. As in previous weeks, the largest number of Russian attacks last week were 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 179 attacks against the forces defending Pokrovsk and the area around it. The Russian forces also conducted almost 170 attacks last week against the Ukrainian forces defending Huliapole, a small city in Zaporizhzhia region.

While the Russian forces continued to attack the Ukrainian forces defending the cities and towns of northeastern and eastern Ukraine, Russia also continued its air war against the people of Ukraine last week. On Friday night and early Saturday morning, for example, Russia fired two Zircon hypersonic missiles, 13 Iskander ballistic missiles, 14 Kalibr cruise missiles, and 480 drones at Kyiv, Kharkiv, and more than twenty other locations in Ukraine and killed or injured a number of Ukrainian citizens. For example, one of the missiles hit an apartment building in Kharkiv and killed seven residents and injured ten others.

While Russia's war against Ukraine continued both on the ground and in the air last week, there was an effort to resume the talks between the delegations of American, Ukrainian, and Russian officials that had taken place in Abu Dhabi in late January and early February. In late February, a delegation of Ukrainian officials headed by Rustem Umerov, the Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, met in Geneva with an American delegation headed by presidential envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner and discussed the details of a possible postwar recovery plan for Ukraine as well as preparations for another trilateral meeting of the American, Ukrainian, and Russian negotiating teams.

The trilateral meeting had been planned for this week in Abu Dhabi, but yesterday President Zelenskyy said in a post on X the talks had been postponed at the request of the U.S. because of the ongoing war involving the U.S., Israel, and Iran. He said Ukraine is ready for the meeting "at any moment, in a format that can help and that will be realistic in terms of ending the war." But, he added, "At the moment, the partner's priority and all attention are focused on the situation around Iran, and because of this, the meeting that had been planned for this week is being postponed at the proposal of the American side." He added that he had met with the Ukrainian negotiating team and said, "I instructed the team to once again communicate with the American negotiators in order, first, to reiterate our readiness for strategic joint work for security and, in particular, protections against strike drones, and second, to once again confirm our readiness to work substantively toward ending Russia's war against Ukraine."

Today, Zelenskyy spoke by phone with Turkish President Erdoğan, who urged that the conflict involving Iran not disrupt the effort to bring an end to the war between Russia and Ukraine and, toward that end, offered to host the next round of the trilateral talks involving Ukraine, Russia and the U.S. Erdoğan underscored the fact that safe navigation in the Black Sea is of critical importance for Türkiye and added that a ceasefire that would protect energy infrastructure and ports could build confidence between Russia and Ukraine. He said Ankara is ready to provide whatever support is needed toward that end. Hopefully, Ukraine will take Erdoğan's advice and will agree to continue the trilateral talks with the U.S. and Russia in Istanbul.

David R. Cameron
March 10, 2026