After brief and frequently violated Easter ceasefire, the war resumes

Today's UK Defence Intelligence update on the battlefield situation in Ukraine.

As today's British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine indicates, the Russian forces continue to attack in the area south 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 southeast of Kupiansk, the area south of Siversk toward the cities of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk in the northern portion of Donetsk region, toward the area around Pokrovsk in the western portion of that region, in the area near the junction of Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions of southeastern Ukraine, and at many other points along the contact line between the forces. And as they do, the Ukrainian forces continue to attack the Russian forces at the southeastern corner of Dnipropetrovsk region and, indeed, at many other locations along the 1,000-kilometer contact line in eastern Ukraine.

Last Monday, President Zelenskyy called for a joint ceasefire with Russia during the Orthodox Easter period, including a joint ceasefire on strikes against the other country's energy infrastructure. The Orthodox Easter was on Sunday this year. Speaking with reporters, Zelenskyy said, "We are ready for a ceasefire during the Easter holidays, adding that "normal people who respect life" should aim for a permanent end of the hostilities. He said, "We're ready for any compromises, except those involving our dignity and sovereignty." And he added, importantly, "If Russia stops attacking our energy infrastructure, we will refrain from striking theirs." He asked the U.S. for assistance in conveying the suggestion to Russia.

At 10 p.m. last Thursday, an announcement appeared on President Putin's site stating that the Russian forces would observe a 32-hour ceasefire in connection with the Orthodox Easter holidays from 4 p.m., Moscow time, on Saturday, April 11 until the end of the day on Sunday, April 12. The Russian troops were instructed to cease combat activity on all fronts during that period but were told to be ready to counter any "provocation or other aggressive actions by the enemy." The announcement said, "It is assumed that the Ukrainian side will follow the example of the Russian Federation."

Unfortunately, the ceasefire appears to have been only partially observed; the Ukrainian General Staff reported more than 2,300 Russian violations of the ceasefire as of 7 a.m. on April 12, and the Russian military reported almost 2,000 Ukrainian violations of the ceasefire on April 11 and 12. And despite the hope that Russia would stop its attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure, it continued to fire missiles and drones at that infrastructure as well as other targets in Ukraine yesterday and today both during the day and at night. And so, after a brief and only partially observed ceasefire, the war continues with no end in sight.

David R. Cameron
April 14, 2026