



Summary (As of 1400 Hrs UTC)

As of 7 March, maritime ports in Ukraine remain closed as per orders from the Ukrainian military. Last week, a number of incidents involving vessels were reported in the Black Sea, including the sinking of a vessel. The NATO Shipping Centre continued to warn that there is a high risk of collateral damage on civilian shipping in the north-western part of the Black Sea.



On the Ground

Day 12 of Russia's invasion in Ukraine has seen Russian artillery targeting residential areas of the southern city of Mykolaiv, near the Black Sea. In the eastern region of the country, Ukrainian forces say that they have recaptured the city of Chuhuiv. Over the weekend, fighting continued across Ukraine, and while two ceasefires were imposed in Mariupol to allow civilians to leave, Russian forces continued to shell the city, resulting in the ceasefire to collapse over the weekend.

In the southern city of Mariupol, which is encircled by Russian forces, there is no electricity or running water, and people have run out of food. Dead bodies are also lying in the streets. Currently there are six proposed routes to get civilians out of the country, though four of those go to Russia in the east or to Belarus, Russia's key and now one of its very few allies, to the north. The move has been condemned by many, including the UK and Ukraine, which has called the condition "completely immoral."

Ukrainian President Zelensky has called for more sanctions against Russia and for a boycott of Russian exports, in particular to Russian energy. It comes as the US has hinted at a ban on purchasing Russian energy, as it looked to other countries to increase supplies. A third round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian negotiators is expected to begin at 16:00 Kyiv time (14:00 GMT) on Monday, according to Ukrainian officials, while Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is expected to meet with Ukrainian Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Thursday in Antalya, Turkey. Russia has demanded that Ukraine meet its conditions, stating that it can stop operations at "any moment" if Ukraine recognizes Crimea as Russian and Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov disclosed that in addition to this, Ukraine must amend its constitution and reject claims to enter any bloc (example, NATO), adding that Russia will finish the "demilitarisation" of Ukraine, and if these conditions are met, Russian military action will "stop in a moment." The Kremlin spokesman insists that Russia is not seeking to make any further territorial claims on Ukraine. Russia seized and annexed Crimea in March 2014 and weeks later, it threw its support behind pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Russia has also refused to attend an International Court of Justice (ICJ) hearing where Ukraine is calling for a halt to the invasion. The Russian ambassador in The Hague, Alexander Shulgin, indicated that his government did not intend to participate in the proceedings. The head judge at the UN's highest court disclosed that she regretted the non-appearance of the Russian Federation.

In Russia, protests against the invasion in Ukraine have continued, with rights groups and Russian authorities saying that more than 4,300 people were detained at anti-war protests across the country on Sunday 6 March. Ria news agency reports, citing the interior ministry, that some 1,700 people were detained in Moscow alone, with the OVD-Info rights group reporting that detentions took place in 53 cities. While protests have increasingly become restricted

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in Russia in recent years, numerous rallies have occurred across the country since the 24 February invasion. OVD-Info reports that in the last 11 days, more than 10,000 people have been detained at protests. Around the world, protests were also held on Sunday. In Kazakhstan, an ally of Moscow, a peace rally was permitted in Almaty and was attended by around 2,000 people with anti-war protests also occurring in Brussels, Belgium and London. In Ukraine, Russian troops occupying the southern city of Nova-Kakhovka opened fire to try to disperse demonstrators. A video from the city showed protesters calling for the Russians to “go home” amidst the sound of gunfire and stun grenades. The demonstrators appear to hold their ground.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson held talks with his Canadian and Dutch counterparts on Monday as Western powers prepare to agree further sanctions on Russia. UK Parliament is expected to pass legislation targeting money laundering by oligarchs close to Putin.

Advisory

MS Risk continues to advise any vessels currently within Ukrainian Ports to leave immediately, if it is deemed safe to do so. Vessels should ensure that they are broadcasting on AIS and clearly state their intentions across VHF. In the event that any vessel is challenged by Russian military vessels, they are advised to comply fully with instructions. MS Risk further advises all commercial operators at this time to avoid any transit or operation within the EEZ of Ukraine or Russia, notably in the vicinity of the Crimean Peninsula within the Black Sea. As of 7 March, the Black Sea ports of the Russian Federation are functioning normally. All transit inbound Western thermals should be made out with Ukrainian and Russian EEZ south of the Crimean Peninsula. While Commercial operations within the EEZ of Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania remain unaffected at this time, the Romanian Ministry of Defence has announced that Russian military vessels are diverting and stopping commercial ships en-route to Ukrainian ports north of Romania’s EEZ. Consequently, such vessels are advised to void transiting within 50 nautical miles of the north-east extremity of the Romanian EEZ. Any vessels transiting through this region are advised to maintain close contact with national and local maritime authorities. Any incidents or suspicious activity should be reported via their respective national channels and to the local maritime authorities.



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24 hr Contact Information:

Email: operations@msrisk.com