

Bloodbath in Donesk: Kiev Unleashes Military Attack, Killing Civilians

By [RT](#)
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People are clearing shelves in Donetsk city shops, fearing a new wave of attack and storming of the city by Ukrainian troops. Fighter jets are buzzing overhead in the sky, as self-defense prepares for a fight in the occupied administrative buildings.

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For the first time since the Monday [attack](#), gunfire was heard at Donetsk's airport and Ukrainian military helicopters and fighter jets reappeared above the area.

Meanwhile, residents of the eastern Ukrainian city have rushed to the shops, sweeping foodstuffs from the shelves, as many fear a full-scale storming of Donetsk is being launched.

"We fear that there will be a storming, and the shops will stop working," a woman told RIA Novosti.

The most popular products bought are cereals, canned goods and water, as people expect a long-term assault amid very hot weather.

Many shops, banks and cafes have already been closed, and there are few people and cars seen on the streets, Itar-Tass reports. Schools are being evacuated and bomb shelter addresses are being distributed in the city's districts. The Kiev forces have blocked almost all roads to and from Donetsk, the agency says.



People donate blood for those injured in clashes between the Kiev forces and the self-defense in Donetsk on May 27, 2014. (RIA Novosti / Natalia Seliverstova)

The self-defense fighters of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic withdrew from the areas of Monday's battles to the city's center, barricading themselves inside administrative buildings, including regional administration and Ukrainian Security Service offices.

However, the people apparently do not feel safe anywhere in Donetsk, after Monday's shooting at the city's railway station, away from the airport area battleground. At least one woman was killed in the incident and two more civilians injured, including an 8-year-old boy.

The PM of Donetsk People's Republic, Aleksandr Boroday, meanwhile claimed that as many as 50 civilians and over 50 members of the self-defense were killed in clashes with the Ukrainian troops on Monday.

While the civilian toll has so far been unconfirmed, there are numerous reports confirming a [bloodbath](#) near the Donetsk airport, in which a truck carrying dozens of injured self-defense fighters was shot at from the air and then destroyed "at point-blank range from a shoulder-launcher." The survivors were allegedly finished off by snipers, according to the self-defense.

WARNING: GRAPHIC FOOTAGE

In the Donetsk Region city of Slavyansk, at least three civilians were also [killed](#) in Ukrainian army shelling of several apartment blocks.

A Twitter campaign against the Ukrainian military operation in Donetsk has been launched

under the hashtag [#SaveDonbassPeople](#). Hundreds of Twitter posts with tagged selfies together with a combination of photos showing civilians killed in eastern Ukraine have appeared since early Tuesday.

Donbas miners rising

Following the start of the latest wave of Kiev's offense, workers at several mines in Donetsk have gone on strike. The action has been launched indefinitely in protest of the military operation carried out by government troops against anti-Kiev forces.

"Miners from the Skochinskogo, Abakumova, Chelyuskintsev, Trudovskaya mines have not been working today," strikers, negotiating with the leadership of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DNR), told RIA Novosti. *"People have been standing by the entrances, not wanting to go underground, they are having rallies demanding the suspension of military actions."*



Members of Donetsk self-defense erect a barricade on the road leading to the Donetsk airport, May 27, 2014. (Reuters / Yannis Behrakis)

The industrial region of Donbas is strongly associated with mining and metallurgy, and the miners are believed to be a powerful driving force there. There have only been a few incidents of strikes at the mines since the start of the Ukrainian crisis, with workers being under pressure of losing their jobs and wages if they walk out.

On Sunday, hundreds of people in Donetsk [besieged](#) the residence of oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, who owns much of eastern Ukraine's industrial companies, demanding that he take the side of the protesters and start paying taxes to DNR, instead of Kiev. Akhmetov,

who initially issued statements against the military operation, has recently taken Kiev's side, reportedly pressing his employees to start taking part in "anti-separatist" rallies.

RT's sources in Donetsk working at Akhmetov-controlled companies said that employees were gathered en-masse at the city's Donbass Arena stadium. They have been ordered to attend anti-DNR rallies under a threat of losing their jobs.

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