

Ukrainian Air Staff Suffer ‘Catastrophic Losses’ by Russian Forces

A source says that attempts to hire replacement pilots for Ukraine’s Air Force staff from other European countries have been unsuccessful.

By [Al Mayadeen](#)

Global Research, September 02, 2022

[Al Mayadeen English](#) 29 August 2022

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#)

In-depth Report: [UKRAINE REPORT](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the “Translate Website” drop down menu on the top banner of our home page (Desktop version).

To receive Global Research’s Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Ukraine’s Air Force staff have been essentially eliminated by Russia’s Aerospace Forces and air [defense systems](#), a military-diplomatic source told the Russian agency TASS on Monday.

“The entire qualified operating personnel of Ukraine’s former air force – of [Mig-29](#), Su-27 and Su-25 aircraft – have been practically eliminated by the effective actions of the Russian Aerospace Forces and the air defense systems,” the source declared.

The source also stated that the West’s vows to deliver more [Soviet-manufactured](#) combat planes will most likely remain void, adding that Ukraine was coerced to include poorly trained air cadets for combat sorties which led to “catastrophic losses among the remnants of the Ukrainian aviation.”

According to the source, attempts to bring on more pilots in Poland and other Eastern European countries were not fruitful. “The few who agreed are already in grave or in hospitals,” he explained.

This comes after Russian **President Vladimir Putin** [requested the increase](#) of the size of Russian military personnel from 1.9 to 2.04 million last Thursday and amid continuous attacks by Ukrainian forces on the [Zaporozhye nuclear power plant \(NPP\)](#).

Following the attacks, two power units of the Zaporozhye NPP have been automatically disconnected from the network after [a fire erupted](#) near a high-voltage line, Yevgeny Balitsky, the head of the Zaporozhye regional administration, said on Thursday, adding that one power unit is still connected to the network. Just a day later, the Ukrainian military targeted the Zaporozhye NPP, and four shells hit the area where [radioactive isotopes](#) are stored.

The concurrent damages have led to action by the [IAEA inspectors](#) who are due to be on their way to the Zaporozhye NPP amid mounting fears over a potential nuclear accident.

*

Note to readers: Please click the share buttons above or below. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Featured image: Su-34 bombers (Source: TASS)

The original source of this article is [Al Mayadeen English](#)

Copyright © [Al Mayadeen](#), [Al Mayadeen English](#), 2022

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Al Mayadeen](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca