

## Russia's Advance Slowed Down. Ukrainian Forces Resist

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What is happening in Ukraine has serious geopolitical implications. It could lead us into a World War III Scenario.

It is important that a peace process be initiated with a view to preventing escalation.

Global Research does not support Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A bilateral Peace Agreement is required.

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Throughout February 26, sporadic exchanges of fire occurred on the streets of **Kyiv** between groups of residents who had previously been given weapons, including SBU officers, militia from the territorial defense units, employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU). The armed groups have no system of identification of their friends or foes. The actions of armed looters and criminal gangs instigate the chaos. Dozens of civilian casualties are reported as a result of such exchanges of fire.

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Russian forces near Kiev:

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Ukrainian policemen detained an SBU employee

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In the first half of the day, the large settlement of Stanytsia Luhanska came under the

control of LPR forces. Along with Stanytsia Luhanska, the LPR units occupied **Krymskoye** and **Markovka** in the same direction. However, it was not possible to pass through the AFU units at their positions north of Luhansk. No breakthroughs of the LPR units succeeded. The AFU withdrew its troops from the **Starobelsk** and will now be able to engage them to stabilize the front line near Severodonetsk and Izyum.

The LPR corps did not receive the necessary support from the Russian Armed Forces to accomplish the constraining offensive task. This significant miscalculation by the Russian command may lead to a change in the situation in other parts of the front.

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The DPR People's Militia took control of Novoapostolovka, 6 km east of **Volnovakha**, and other locations in the vicinity of Volnovakha. At the same time, the successes of DPR and Russian forces in this direction are purely tactical in nature. Volnovakha has not been taken, and they have not even been able to get close to it.

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Despite the continuing offensive of the DPR units in the <u>Mariupol</u> direction and the occupation of Pavlopol and Pischevik, there is no "blockade" of Mariupol yet. The information on the complete blockade of the city does not correspond to the reality as on 8 p.m. local time. The Ukrainian units are resisting relatively successfully and in an organized manner, which threatens the likelihood of a breakthrough from the encirclement if the "Crimean" group's offensive slows down.

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The exit of civilians from Mariupol is blocked by fighters of nationalist battalions. There is video evidence of civilians being shot, when they were trying to leave the city, including women and children.

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There are battles with the use of MLRS, artillery and tanks in the **Kharkiv direction**. This is currently the most difficult battlefield for the Russian Federation. The Russian Armed Forces suffered significant losses there, and several columns of equipment were destroyed. Sources familiar with the situation near Kharkiv report that there is poor coordination of the Russian units, communication failures and errors of command.

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By the afternoon of February 26, it became known that the AFU had regained control of **Kherson**. In the afternoon, fighting in the outskirts of the city continued.

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Near the city of **Zhytomyr**, the AFU air defense forces reportedly shot down a Russian Air Force aircraft.

In turn, over the **Chernihiv region** Russian air defense shot down 2 Bayraktars.

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The AFU blew up a bridge between the Odessa and Mykolaiv regions. On the evening of February 26, Russian units began to enter **Nikolaev.** 

The Russian military is strengthening its position in **Melitopol, Zaporizhia region**. The city of Melitopol is completely under Russian control. In this direction, the Russian grouping is developing success in the direction of Molochansk and Tokmak, as well as in the direction of Mariupol. Near Molochansk, an AFU column was destroyed. At the same time, the advancing Russian units encounter strong resistance.

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The Russian Defense Ministry reported that 16 Ukrainian naval boats, using "swarm tactics", attempted yesterday to attack Russian Black Sea Fleet ships, which had evacuated 82 surrendered Ukrainian servicemen from **Zmeiniy Island**.

Part of the attacking boats acted under the cover of civilian vessels. The purpose of the attack was primarily to retaliate against the laid down soldiers and to accuse the Russian army of destroying prisoners, the report said. Six Ukrainian boats were destroyed. None of the 82 Ukrainian servicemen from Snake Island were injured.

When the Ukrainian boats attacked the Russian ships near the Snake Island, the US strategic drones RQ-4 Global Hawk and MQ-9A Ripper were barreling over the area of provocation. It is highly probable that it was the American drones that guided the Ukrainian boats to the ships of the Russian fleet.

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