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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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# Ukraine says Russian forces kill seven civilians in evacuation

LVIV, Ukraine, March 12 (Reuters) - Ukraine accused Russian forces on Saturday of killing seven civilians in an attack on women and children trying to flee fighting near Kyiv, and France said Russian President Vladimir Putin had shown he was not ready to make peace.

With Russia's invasion in its third week, the Ukrainian intelligence service said the seven, including one child, were killed as they fled the village of Peremoha and that "the occupiers forced the remnants of the column to turn back."

Reuters was unable immediately to verify the report and Russia offered no immediate comment. Moscow denies targeting civilians since invading Ukraine on Feb. 24. It blames Ukraine for failed attempts to evacuate civilians from encircled cities, an accusation Ukraine and its Western allies strongly reject.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said earlier that Moscow was sending in new troops after Ukrainian forces put 31 of Russia's battalion tactical groups out of action in what he called Russia's largest army losses in decades. It was not possible to verify his statements.

He also said about 1,300 Ukrainian troops had been killed so far and urged the West to get more involved in peace negotiations. The president suggested Russian forces would face a fight to the death if they sought to enter the capital.

"If they decide to carpet bomb (Kyiv), and simply erase the history of this region ... and destroy all of us, then they will enter Kyiv. If that's their goal, let them come in, but they will have to live on this land by themselves," he said.

Zelenskiy discussed the war with Chancellor Olaf Scholz and President Emmanuel Macron, and the German and French leaders then spoke to Putin by phone and urged him to order an immediate ceasefire.

A Kremlin statement on the 75-minute call made no mention of a ceasefire and a French presidency official said: "We did not detect a willingness on Putin's part to end the war".

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov accused the United States of escalating tensions and said the situation had been complicated by convoys of Western



arms shipments to Ukraine that Russian forces considered "legitimate targets".

In comments reported by the Tass news agency, Ryabkov made no specific threat, but any attack on such convoys before they reached Ukraine would risk widening the war.

Responding to Zelenskiy's call for the West to be more involved in peace negotiations, a U.S. State Department spokesperson said: "If there are diplomatic steps that we can take that the Ukrainian government believes would be helpful, we're prepared to take them."

Crisis talks between Moscow and Kyiv have been continuing via a video link, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by Russia's RIA news agency. He gave no details but Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Kyiv would not surrender or accept any ultimatums. read more

## HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS

Air raid sirens blared across most Ukrainian cities on Saturday, local media

reported.

Russian rocket attacks destroyed a Ukrainian airbase and hit an ammunition depot near the town of Vasylkiv in the Kyiv region, Interfax Ukraine quoted its mayor as saying.

The exhausted-looking governor of Chernihiv, around 150 km (100 miles) northeast of Kyiv, gave a video update in front of the ruins of the city's Ukraine Hotel.

"There is no such hotel any more," Viacheslav Chaus said, wiping tears from his eyes. "But Ukraine itself still exists, and it will prevail."

Britain's defence ministry said fighting northwest of the capital continued, with the bulk of Russian ground forces 25 km (16 miles) from the centre of Kyiv, which it has said Russia could attack within days.

People fleeing Russia's invasion of Ukraine arrive at Siret border crossing. Smoke rises after shelling near Kyiv. Russia's invasion of Ukraine

Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Mariupol remained encircled under heavy Russian shelling, it said.

Russia's invasion has been almost universally condemned around the world and that has drawn tough Western sanctions.

The Russian bombardment has trapped thousands of people in besieged cities and sent 2.5 million Ukrainians fleeing to neighbouring countries. Zelenskiy said the conflict meant some small Ukrainian towns no longer existed.

The United States said it would rush up to \$200 million in additional small arms, anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons to Ukraine, where officials have pleaded for more military aid. read more

Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special operation" that it says is not designed to occupy territory but to destroy its neighbour's military capabilities and "de-Nazify" the country.



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# WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

03/12/2022

## The Worries Of Ordinary People



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oceans, wearing famous watches, driving luxury cars and enjoying their retirement in old age. But they still talk about their old days back in their hometowns.

The war in Ukraine represents the ambitions of Russia's President Putin who wants to take back his old land that used to be a part of the Soviet Union. How could he ever tolerate NATO using Ukraine against

Russia?

Today the two sides of the Taiwan Strait are undergoing military and mental conflict. The ruling party of Taiwan DPP's Chinese policy is the biggest concern. We have always advocated that we will never want to see a war between the Taiwan Strait ruin the cities into ashes which is a great misfortune of the world.

We attended a friend's wedding party last night. I met many old friends at the banquet. The restaurant was very crowded. It seemed like the people are not really worried about the Covid-19 pandemic anymore.

soaring. I sat with many Chinese Americans at the party. Most of them came to this country and finished their Master or Doctor degrees and devoted their whole lives to this land and became American citizens. They have enjoyed successful careers and now live rich lifestyles, traveling to the mountains and

Compared with the war in Ukraine, we are so lucky. We live in America even though the oil prices are



### Southern DAILY Make Today Different

### Editor's Choice



Demonstrators scuffle with riot police as they march to Taksim Square to mark International Women's Day in Istanbul, Turkey March 8. REUTERS/Kemal Aslan



A man carries a dog as people flee, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Irpin, Ukraine, March 9, 2022. REUTERS/Maksim Levin



Local residents look for cover as they escape from the town of Irpin, after heavy shelling on the only escape route used by locals, while Russian troops advance towards the capital of Kyiv, in Irpin, near Kyiv, Ukraine March 6. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



New members of the Territorial Defence Forces train to operate RPG-7 anti-tank launcher during military exercises amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine March 9. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



Alexandra, 12, holds her sister Esyea, 6, who cries as she waves at her mother Irina, while members of the Jewish community of Odessa board a bus to flee Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Odessa, Ukraine, March 7. REUTERS/Alexandros Avramidis



A man, part of group of locals who set up a barricade to protest against fuel shortages, covers his face as he speaks to a man recording video on a mobile device in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 21, 2021. REUTERS/Adrees Latif

# Russian War In World's 'Breadbasket' Threatens Global Food Supply



Farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia, July 21, 2021. The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands known as the "breadbasket of the world." Russia and Ukraine combine for about a third of the world's wheat and barley exports and provide large amounts of corn and cooking oils. (Photo/Vitaly Timkiv, AP File)

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region — known as the "breadbasket of the world."

Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made into bread, noodles and animal feed. And there are worries Russia, another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western sanctions.

While there have not yet been global disruptions to wheat supplies, prices have surged 55% since a week before the invasion amid concerns about what could happen next. If the war is prolonged, countries that rely on affordable wheat exports from Ukraine could face shortages starting in July, International Grains Council director Arnaud Petit told The Associated Press.

That could create food insecurity and throw more people into poverty in places like Egypt and Lebanon, where diets are dominated by government-subsidized bread. In Europe, officials are preparing for potential shortages of products from Ukraine and increased prices for livestock feed that could mean more expensive meat and

dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.



Farmers harvest with their combines in a wheat field near the village Tbilisskaya, Russia, July 21, 2021. The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands known as the "breadbasket of the world." Russia and Ukraine combine for about a third of the world's wheat and barley exports and provide large amounts of corn and cooking oils. (Photo/Vitaly Timkiv, AP File)

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports. Ukraine also is a major supplier of corn and the global leader in sunflower oil, used in food processing. The war could reduce food supplies just when

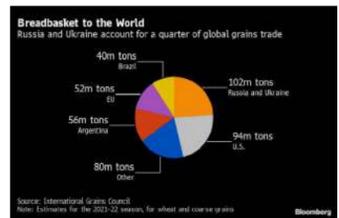
prices are at their highest levels since 2011. A prolonged conflict would have a big impact some 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) away in Egypt, the world's largest wheat importer. Millions rely on subsidized bread made from Ukrainian grains to survive, with about a third of people living in poverty.

"Wars mean shortages, and shortages mean (price) hikes," Ahmed Salah, a 47-year-old father of seven, said in Cairo. "Any hikes will be catastrophic not only for me, but for the majority of the people."

Anna Nagurny, a professor of supply chains, logistics and economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, said, "Wheat, corn, oils, barley, flour are extremely important to food security ... especially in the poorer parts of the globe."

With Ukrainian men being called on to fight, she said, "Who's going to be doing the harvesting? Who'd be doing the transportation?"

Egypt's state procurer of wheat, which normally buys heavily from Russia and Ukraine, had to cancel two orders in less than a week: one for overpricing, the other because a lack of companies offered to sell their supplies. Sharp spikes in the cost of wheat globally could severely affect Egypt's ability to keep bread prices at their current subsidized level.



"Bread is extremely heavily subsidized in Egypt, and successive governments have found that cuts to those subsidies are the one straw that should be kept off the camel's back at all costs," Mirette Mabrouk, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, wrote in a recent analysis.

War-ravaged Syria recently announced it would cut spending and ration staples. In nearby Lebanon, where a massive explosion at the Beirut port in 2020 destroyed the country's main grain silos, authorities are scrambling to make up for a predicted wheat shortage, with Ukraine providing 60% of its supply. They are in talks with the U.S., India and Canada to find other sources for a country already in financial meltdown.

Even before the war threatened to affect wheat supplies in sub-Saharan Africa, people in Kenya were demanding #lowerfoodprices on social media as inflation eroded their spending power. Now, they're bracing for worse.

African countries imported agricultural products worth \$4 billion from Russia in 2020, and about 90% was wheat, said Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist for the Agricultural Business

Chamber of South Africa. In Nigeria, flour millers believe a shortage of wheat supplies from Russia would affect the price of products like bread, a common food in Africa's most populous country.



"All of us need to look elsewhere" in the future, said Tope Ogun with Honeywell Flour Mills Plc, one of Nigeria's biggest flour milling companies. "We might not get what we need to, and there is likely going to be an increase in the price."

Nigeria has taken pains to reduce its reliance on Russian grains, with farmers moving to plant more wheat fields to try to meet 70% of the country's demand in five years, said Gambo Sale, national secretary of the Wheat Farmers Association of Nigeria.

"We have the land, we have the people, we have the money, we have whatever we can need in Nigeria" to grow wheat, he said. "All we need now is time."

The disruption can be felt as far away as Indonesia, where wheat is used to make instant noodles, bread, fried foods and snacks.

Ukraine was Indonesia's second-largest wheat supplier last year, providing 26% of wheat consumed. Rising prices for noodles, in turn, would hurt lower-income people, said Kasan Muhri, who heads the trade ministry's research division.

Ukraine and Russia also combine for 75% of global sunflower oil exports, accounting for 10% of all cooking oils, IHS Markit said.

Raad Hebsi, a wholesale retailer in Baghdad, said he and other Iraqis are bracing to pay more for their cooking oil.



"Once the items stored are sold, we will see an increase in prices of these items," he said. "We will likely purchase alternatives from Turkey, and Turkey will no doubt take advantage of the situation in Ukraine and raise its prices."

Farmers in the United States, the world's leading corn exporter and a major wheat supplier, are watching to see if U.S. wheat exports spike. In the European Union, farmers are concerned about rising costs for livestock feed.

Ukraine supplies the EU with just under 60% of its corn and nearly half of a key component in the grains needed to feed livestock. Russia, which provides the EU with 40% of its natural gas needs, is similarly a major supplier of fertilizer, wheat and other staples.

Spain is feeling the pinch both in sunflower oil, which supermarkets are rationing, and grains for the all-important breeding industry. Those imported grains go to feed some 55 million pigs. Jaume Bernis, a 58-year-old breeder with 1,200 swine on his farm in northeast Spain, fears the war will further increase the pain his business is facing because of climate change and drought. Since October, Spanish pork products have been taking a loss from high costs, Bernis said. Those costs are driven by China stockpiling feed for its pigs as it claws its way out of a devastating outbreak of African swine fever.



In the first two days of Russia's assault on Ukraine, the price of grain for animal feed jumped 10% on the open market in Spain.

"We are facing a moment of very elevated costs, and we don't know what lies ahead," Bernis said. "This is another cost of waging a war in the 21st century." (Courtesy <https://thewesternnews.com>)

## Related/Summary Russian Invasion Threatens Global Food Supply

**The big picture:** The two countries combine for nearly one-third of global wheat and barley exports, AP reports. Ukraine is a major exporter of corn.

• **Lebanon, Egypt and Syria** are among the countries most dependent on affordable wheat. "Any [price] hikes will be catastrophic not only for me, but for the majority of the people," Ahmed Salah, an Egyptian father of seven, told AP.

• **Supplies were already tight** because of droughts hitting the wheat belts of North America.

• **European livestock farmers** are heavily reliant on Ukraine for corn and other grain additives for animal feed.

• **Between the lines:** This also threatens efforts to help famine-stricken countries like Afghanistan, Yemen and Ethiopia, the Financial Times reports.

• **The bottom line:** Ukraine and Russia "account for about 12% of the calories the world trades," NPR reports. (Courtesy [axios.com](https://www.axios.com))

# "The Embattled City" 2022

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Kiev, The Capital Of Ukraine -- Founded In 482



"We Fear No One." Ukrainians Raise Flags To Defy Russia Invasion