A Year of War: A Timeline of the Russia-Ukraine War

According to the UN Humans Rights Office, since the outbreak of the Ukrainian-Russian war, at least 8,000 non-combatants have been killed and nearly 13,300 injured. The conflict has also left nearly 18 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, and it has displaced 14 million people. While every day brings new developments, below are a few key events that have occurred since the war started.

February 24, 2022- President Vladimir Putin announces the launch of a "special military operation" in Ukraine on Russian state television. Soon after, Russian forces begin their full-scale invasion of Ukraine from the north, south, and east. Russia captures a major cargo airport north of Kyiv, but Russian forces are soon surrounded by Ukrainian military forces. The airport is damaged and no longer able to serve as a resupply hub.

March 2, 2022- Russia invades and conquers Kherson, a southern city in Ukraine. In early March, Russian military fighters also occupy the neighboring region of Zaporizhzhia and occupy Europe's largest nuclear power plant.

March 9, 2022- The Mariupol Maternity Hospital is hit by a Russian missile after Russia agreed to a 12-hour ceasefire to allow refugees to evacuate.

March 16, 2022- Russia strikes a theater in Mariupol, where civilians have been sheltering, and kills close to 600 people. It is considered one of the war's deadliest attacks. According to the UN, more civilians were killed in Ukraine in March 2022 than in any other month of the war to date.

March 29, 2022- After weeks of fighting, Ukrainian troops force Russia to withdraw from Kyiv and the surrounding region. Russian leaders claim that the country will focus on the eastern provinces of Ukraine.

April 1, 2022- Russian troops withdraw from Bucha. Evidence of war crimes begins to emerge as hundreds of civilian bodies are found in streets and buried in mass graves.

April 14, 2022- The Moskva, Russia's flagship of the Black Sea Fleet, sinks. Ukrainian forces claim that they hit the ship with missiles that detonated the ship's stored ammunition.

May 17, 2022-After months of Russian attacks, the Mariupol steel plant surrenders.

June 30, 2022- Russian troops retreat from Snake Island located off the Black Sea port of Odessa.

July 22, 2022- Turkey and the United Nations mediate a deal between Russia and Ukraine to unblock grain in Ukraine's Black Sea ports, preventing famine.

August 9, 2022- Ukraine launches a counteroffensive in the Kherson region with Western-supplied weapons. Ukraine strikes an airbase in Crimea, and attacks continue over the next few weeks, signaling Russia's vulnerability.

September 1, 2022- Ukrainian forces regain territory in the Kharkiv region, the second largest city and municipality of Ukraine, and force Russian forces to flee. Russia says that it is regrouping.

September 21, 2022- President Putin announces the country's first military draft since World War II. Protests erupt within the country, and young men begin to flee Russia into neighboring regions.

September 30, 2022- President Putin annexes the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia regions.

October 8, 2022- The Crimean Bridge, a strategic and symbolic landmark that links Crimea to Russia's mainland, is damaged by an explosion.

October 10, 2022- Russia begins to target Ukrainian power sources and energy infrastructure. Much of Ukraine is left without power and water.

November 12, 2022- The city of Kherson, in the south of Ukraine, is liberated. Kherson was the only Ukrainian regional capital that Russian forces had captured.

December 21, 2022- President Zelenskyy travels to Washington D.C. to meet with President Biden and to address Congress. Prior to his visit, President Biden sends an additional two billion dollars in aid to Ukraine.

January 1, 2023- Ukraine uses American rockets to kill at least 89 Russian soldiers, who were being housed in a building in Donetsk Province. The attack changes the momentum of the war.

January 12, 2023- Russia declares that it has captured Soledar, a salt mining town. Russian airstrikes on Ukrainian energy facilities also intensify during this period.

February 20, 2023- President Biden makes a surprise visit to Kyiv to meet with President Zelenskyy.

February 21, 2023- President Putin addresses Russian parliament and Kremlin officials as he announces that the arms control treaty between Russia and the U.S. has been suspended.

March 17, 2023- A U.N. backed inquiry accuses Russia of war crimes. President Putin and Russian officials are accused of deporting thousands of Ukrainian children to Russia, torturing and killing Ukrainian civilians in occupied regions, and targeting Ukrainian infrastructure, leaving thousands without heat and electricity.

April 4, 2023- Finland becomes the 31st member of NATO and part of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which doubles the length of NATO member states' borders with Russia.

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Information sourced from: "UN Rights Chief Deplores Ukraine Death Toll One Year After Russian Invasion," The United Nations News (news.un.org); "Michael Ray's "Russia-Ukraine War" in *Encyclopedia Britannica* (Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., March 24, 2023); Ivana Kottasova's "Russian Invasion of Ukraine: A Timeline of Key Events" in *CNN,* Feb. 23, 2023; "Key Moments in a Year of War After Russia Invaded Ukraine" in *The Associated Press,* Feb. 21. 2024; Matthew Mpoke Bigg's "How Russia's War in Ukraine has Unfolded, Month by Month" *in New York Times*, Feb. 24, 2023; Paul Kirby and Jonathan Beale's "NATO's Border with Russia Doubles as Finland Joins" in *BBC News*, April 4, 2023; "Interactive Time-Lapse: Russia's War in Ukraine," The institute for the Study for War and AEI's Critical Threats Project (understandingwar.org).