

# Ukraine, Russia Attack Each Other's Territory After Latest Round of Peace Talks



A view shows an apartment building hit by Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Odesa, Ukraine July 24, 2025.

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ukraine and Russia have attacked targets on each other's territory after brief direct talks between the two sides failed to make any progress on steps to end nearly three-and-a-half years of war.

Negotiators had earlier discussed further prisoner swaps at a brief session of peace talks in the Turkish city of Istanbul, but they remained far apart on ceasefire terms and a possible meeting of their leaders.

Russian forces staged the latest in a series of mass drone attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa, killing one person, injuring at least four and causing several fires as well as damage in the historic center, a UNESCO world heritage site.

The famous Pryvoz market in Odesa was among the places hit, Regional Governor Oleh Kiper said. "It is not just a place of trade, it is the living heart of Odesa," he added.

Kiper said the body of a man had been recovered from under rubble at a multi-

storey apartment building.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city in the northeast, two people were killed and at least 33 were wounded when Russian glide bombs struck a residential neighbourhood, officials said.

Another person was killed in a drone attack in Sumy region on the northern border, where Russian troops have established a foothold in recent months.

In Odesa, some residents were cleaning up shattered glass in the streets nearby.

Emergency officials in Russia's Krasnodar region on the Black Sea said debris from a falling drone struck and killed a woman in the Adler district near the resort city of Sochi. A second woman was being treated in hospital for serious injuries, they said on the Telegram messaging app.

The administrative head of the Sirius federal district south of Sochi said a drone hit an oil base, giving no further details. Russia's aviation authority said operations were suspended at Sochi airport for about four hours.

Russia also attacked the central region of Cherkasy overnight, injuring seven people, including a nine-year-old, and damaging more than a dozen residential apartment buildings.

"Yesterday, at a meeting in Istanbul, the Russian side was again presented with a proposal to immediately and completely cease fire. In response, Russian drones are striking residential buildings," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.

He said Russia had launched 103 drones and four missiles during its overnight attack, which deputy prime minister Oleskiy Kuleba said struck civilian infrastructure, including seaports, transport hubs, and residential areas.

Russian forces have in recent weeks intensified drone attacks on towns and cities far from the 1,000 km (620-mile) frontline across eastern and southern Ukraine.

Ukraine's military has been targeting energy and military sites in Russia in response to concerted Russian attacks which have destroyed towns and cities and devastated its energy infrastructure.

On Friday, the Kremlin said that a summit between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy could only happen as a final step to seal a peace deal.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that it was unlikely that such a meeting could occur by the end of August, as Ukraine has proposed.

"A summit meeting can and should put the final point on a settlement and cement the modalities and agreements worked out by experts. It is impossible to do it the other way round," Peskov told reporters.

"Is it possible to go through such a complex process in 30 days? Well, obviously, it is unlikely."

## Britain, Australia to Sign 50-Year Nuclear Submarine Treaty



David Lammy and John Healey met their Australian counterparts at the annual Aukmin meeting in Sydney.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Britain and Australia announced they will sign a cooperation treaty to build Australian nuclear-powered submarines and welcomed a review by President Donald Trump's administration of the United States' role in the trilateral defense deal.

Britain's Defense Secretary John Healey and Foreign Secretary David Lammy met Friday with their Australian coun-

terparts Richard Marles and Penny Wong in Sydney for an annual bilateral meeting.

Marles said he and Healey will sign a 50-year treaty Saturday that will underpin bilateral cooperation on building an Australian fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology.

"It is as significant a treaty as has been signed between our two countries since federation," Marles said, referring to the unification of several British colonies to

form the Australian government in 1901.

The three-way alliance was announced in 2021 to contend with growing Chinese military might in the Asia-Pacific region. It would deliver Australia at least eight submarines including three to five second-hand U.S. Virginia-class submarines. Britain and Australia would cooperate to build their own SSN-AUKUS submarines.

The Australian government confirmed this week it had paid the U.S. a second \$500 million installment on the AUKUS deal. The first \$500 million was paid in February.

The submarines are expected cost Australia up to \$245 billion.

The meeting comes as 3,000 British military personnel take part in the largest military exercise ever conducted in Australia.

More than 35,000 military personnel from 19 nations are taking part in Exercise Talisman Sabre, which began in 2005 as a biennial joint exercise between the U.S. and Australia.

Marles and Healey will inspect the British aircraft HMS Prince of Wales at the northern port of Darwin on Sunday. The carrier is in Australia to take part in the war games.

## Nigeria Faces Hunger Crisis as Food Needs Rise Across Africa, UN Says

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nigeria is facing "an unprecedented hunger crisis," and the need for food is rising across west and central Africa while funds are shrinking, the UN food agency's regional head said.

Margot van der Velden said nearly 31 million people in Nigeria are facing acute food insecurity and need life-saving food — a number "equivalent to the entire population of Texas going hungry."

But the regional director of the World Food Program said that due to severe funding cuts starting in August, "we will face the heartbreaking reality of having to suspend humanitarian aid for the populations in areas devastated by conflict."

That means over 1.3 million people in Nigeria will lose access to food and nutritional support, 150 nutrition clinics in Borno state in the northeast where Islamic militants are active may close and 300,000 children will be at risk of severe malnutrition, and 700,000 displaced people "will be left with no means of survival," she said.

The Trump administration has slashed foreign assistance and dismantled USAID, accusing the agency of waste and fraud and supporting a liberal agenda. Other Western donors also have slashed international aid spending.

Van der Velden said WFP urgently needs \$130 million to sustain its operations in Nigeria.

But she stressed that the crisis is not just in Nigeria but across west and central Africa, where WFP also is facing critical funding shortfalls that are forcing the Rome-based agency to reduce or suspend operations in some of Africa's "most fragile" countries.

"WFP's aid has dropped by 60%, now reaching only 5 million people, with Mali and Niger suffering cuts of over 80% in emergency support," van der Velden said. "In countries such as Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Cameroon and the Central African Republic, we are seeing the same pattern: rising needs, shrinking resources and growing risks."

She spoke by video from Niger at a UN press conference and provided additional

financial information Thursday.

According to WFP's latest data, Nigeria's appeal for over \$130 million for this year is only 21% funded.

The agency said the crisis in Africa's most populous country is driven by families' depleted food stocks, soaring food prices, inflation, currency depreciation and conflict — combined with "unprecedented funding cuts."

WFP also cited funding crises in other countries in the region — its appeal for \$65.1 million for Cameroon is just 19% funded; the \$35.8 million appeal for Mauritania is 39% funded; the \$29.7 million appeal for Central African Republic is 49% funded; the \$33.2 million appeal for Mali is 57% funded and the \$21.4 million appeal for Niger is 74% funded.

Van der Velden warned that when there is no food aid hunger deepens and tensions rise.

"Communities fracture and the risk of instability increases, making it more difficult to maintain peace and resilience in the region," she said.

## Tens of Thousands Flee Their Homes as Thailand, Cambodia Clash



Thai residents who fled homes rest at an evacuation center in Surin province, Thailand, Friday, July 25, 2025.

SURIN, Thailand (AP) — Tens of thousands of people sought refuge on Friday as border fighting between Thailand and Cambodia entered a second day, heightening fears of a broader conflict.

The Thai Health Ministry on Friday said more than 58,000 have fled from villages to temporary shelters in four affected border provinces, while Cambodian authorities said more than 4,000 people have evacuated from areas near the border.

The fighting has killed at least 14 people in Thailand, while Cambodia confirmed its first fatality on Friday.

Tensions over a disputed border area erupted into fighting after a land mine explosion along the border on wounded five Thai soldiers on Wednesday.

The Thai military reported clashes early Friday in multiple areas, including along the border at Chong Bok and Phu Makhuea in Thailand's Ubon Ratchathani province, at Phnom Dong Rak in Surin province, and near the ancient Ta Muen Thom temple.

The Thai army said Cambodian forces had used heavy artillery and Russian-made BM-21 rocket launchers, prompting what Thai officials described as "appropriate supporting fire" in return.

Thailand said one soldier and 13 civilians were killed, including children, while 15 soldiers and 30 civilians were wounded.

Cambodia's chief official in Oddar Meanchey province, Gen. Khov Ly, said a man died Thursday after a Thai rocket hit a Buddhist pagoda where he was hiding.

At least four civilians in the province were also wounded Thursday.

The Thai army denied it targeted civilian sites in Cambodia, and accused Cambodia of using "human shields" by positioning their weapons near residential areas.

Cambodia also claimed Thai airstrikes had landed near the Preah Vihear temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site that has been at the center of past disputes. Authorities in Phnom Penh released photos they said showed damage to the site and pledged to seek international justice.

The Thai military said the temple wasn't in its line of fire and accused Cambodia of distorting facts.

Around 600 people took shelter at a gymnasium in a university in Surin, Thailand, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the border. Evacuees sat in groups, on mats and blankets, and queued for food and drinks.

At the nearby Phnom Dong Rak hospital, periodic explosions could be heard Friday, and a military truck arrived with three injured Thai soldiers, including one who had both legs severed. Thursday's shelling shattered windows at one of the hospital's buildings and damaged its roof.

In the neighboring Sisaket province, more villagers took their belongings and left homes in a stream of cars, trucks and motorbikes after they received an evacuation order on Friday.

Across the border in Cambodia, villages on the outskirts of Oddar Meanchey province were largely deserted. Homes stood locked, while chickens and dogs roamed outside.

## Doctors in England Start a 5-Day Strike Over Pay



NHS resident doctors hold placards outside St Thomas' Hospital in London, begin a five-day strike after talks with the government collapsed over pay, Friday, July 25, 2025

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of doctors in England's state-funded health system walked off the job Friday in a five-day strike over pay that the government says will disrupt care for patients across the country.

Resident doctors, those early in their careers who form the backbone of hospital and clinic care, took to picket lines outside hospitals after talks with the government broke down.

The National Health Service said emergency departments would be open and hospitals and clinics would try to carry out as many scheduled appointments as possible.

The doctors are seeking a pay raise to make up for what their union, the British Medical Association, says is a 20% real-terms pay cut since 2008.

Dr. Melissa Ryan and Dr. Ross Nieuwoudt, chairs of the union's resident doctors committee, said "pay erosion has now got to the point where a doctor's assistant can be paid up to 30% more than a resident doctor."

The government says doctors have received an average 28.9% increase and it will not offer more, but is willing to dis-

cuss improved working conditions.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer urged the doctors to go back to work.

"Most people do not support these strikes. They know they will cause real damage," he wrote in the Times newspaper.

"Behind the headlines are the patients whose lives will be blighted by this decision. The frustration and disappointment of necessary treatment delayed. And worse, late diagnoses and care that risks their long-term health," Starmer wrote.

Health sector staff staged a series of rolling strikes over more than a year in 2023-24, seeking pay rises to offset the rising cost of living. The strikes forced tens of thousands of appointments and procedures to be postponed.

The strikes hit efforts by the National Health Service to dig out of an appointment backlog that ballooned after the COVID-19 pandemic and led to longer waiting times to see a doctor.

The strikes stopped after the Labour government elected in July 2024 gave doctors a raise, but the union held a new strike vote last month.

## News in Brief

MOSCOW (Reuters) - An Antonov An-24 passenger plane carrying 48 people crashed in Russia's far east on Thursday as it was preparing to land, killing everyone on board in an incident that spotlighted the continued use of old, Soviet-era aircraft. The burning fuselage of the plane, which was made in 1976, was spotted by a search helicopter after it disappeared from radar screens. It had been attempting to land for a second time after failing to touch down on its first approach, the Far Eastern Transport Prosecutor's Office said in a statement. Operated by the privately owned Siberian regional airline Angara, it had been en route from the city of Blagoveshchensk near the Chinese border to Tynda, an important railway junction in the Amur region. It was carrying 42 passengers, including five children, and six crew.

BEIJING (AFP) -Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for stronger trust and cooperation with the EU in a turbulent world, while EU leaders pressed Beijing for concrete progress on trade issues and its ties with Russia during a tense summit marking 50 years of diplomatic relations. Chinese President Xi Jinping said China and the EU must deepen trust in a turbulent world but the bloc's chiefs called for "real solutions" to move past an inflection point as they met in Beijing on Thursday. China's leadership has sought to draw the European Union closer as it positions itself as a more reliable partner than the United States and a bedrock of stability in a troubled world.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A Venezuelan man filed a formal complaint on Thursday against the U.S. government for sending him to El Salvador's most notorious prison, a new legal strategy that could be duplicated by others who have said they were falsely accused of gang membership by President Donald Trump's administration. Neiyerver Adrián Leon Rengel, 27, filed what it called an administrative complaint with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, contending that federal employees wrongfully removed him from the United States without cause or due process. Rengel's complaint, which seeks \$1.3 million in monetary damages, is not a lawsuit brought in a court but rather an action filed with the government alleging a violation of law. It is the first of its kind brought by one of the 252 Venezuelan men who were deported by the Trump administration to El Salvador in March.

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's notorious paramilitary group rampaged through a village in the southern Kordofan region, which has become a key frontline in the country's civil war, killing more than 30 people in a two-day offensive, an activist group said Thursday. The Rapid Support Forces attacked Brima Rashid village, north of the key town of al-Nahud, which the paramilitaries seized earlier this year in West Kordofan province, said the Emergency Room in the area, an activist group tracking the war. The group said it documented the killing of 32 people, including siblings, in the offensive which lasted until Thursday morning. More than 50 others were wounded, it said on its Facebook pages.

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Seven children were killed and 20 injured in India's western state of Rajasthan on Friday when the roof of a school building collapsed, authorities said, after all those trapped under the rubble had been accounted for. The school building was old and collapsed as a result of heavy rainfall in the region, Amit Kumar, a local police officer, told media. All seven who died were students, he added.