

US Government Actions

- **Abrams Confirmed:** President Biden has confirmed that the US is sending 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine. It may take months for the tanks to reach them ([source: AP](#)). However, training Ukrainian soldiers on the use of these tanks could begin in weeks, according to National Security Council Spokesperson John Kirby ([source: CNN](#)).
- **Specs on Abrams:** According to officials speaking on condition of anonymity, the US will be exporting Abrams A2 tanks, the more advanced version of Abrams, though without its classified armor package. It is not clear when the Abrams will reach Ukraine, as the sole plant which manufactures Abrams is currently working on filling an order of tanks for Taiwan ([source: Politico](#)).
- **Auditors Assured:** According to US Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland, the US has its auditors, along with auditors from both the World Bank and Deloitte, working in Ukraine to ensure all aid and weapons reaches its goal ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)). This is a critical point of reassurance from Undersecretary Nuland amidst questions among some US lawmakers and the firing of several Ukrainian officials over allegations of corruption.

Defense and Other Arms

- **Wagner Numbers Cratering:** The head of Russia Behind Bars claims that the majority of convicts who have been recruited by Wagner have deserted or been killed or wounded. She estimates that only around 10,000 of the 50,000 recruited remain in the rank of the group ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **EU Military Package Approved:** Foreign Ministers of the European Union agreed on Monday to allocate 500 million euros for military aid to Ukraine. It is the seventh

aid package of the like. Another 45 million has been advocated for “non-lethal equipment” ([source: Reuters](#)).

- **Estonia is All In (With Howitzers):** Estonia is reportedly handing over all of its 155mm howitzers to Ukraine as part of its latest aid package to Ukraine ([source Kyiv Independent](#)). This puts it in a similar category as Denmark, which is providing a similarly high level of its howitzers.
- **Swiss Help?:** A commission in Switzerland's lower house of parliament approved an initiative which may allow other countries to re-export weapons made in Switzerland to Ukraine. They believe this is within the country's law of neutrality. It has yet to be approved by both chambers of the parliament ([Source: Reuters](#)).
- **Leopards Update:** Germany has confirmed that they will allow Leopard-2 Tanks to go to Ukraine. They have also stated that they and allied countries have agreed to give around two battalions' worth of tanks (one battalion of tanks usually consists of around forty tanks) ([Source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **MiG Procurement?:** Slovakia is apparently ready to discuss transferring some of its MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine. ([Source: UNIAN](#)).
- **More Bayraktars:** Bayraktar has donated two more drones to Ukraine. It has provided several drones for free to Ukraine throughout the war ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Mass Attack:** Another mass Russian attack took place this morning. In total, eleven oblasts were attacked, with eleven deaths and eleven injuries. Russia launched fifty-five missiles, of which Ukraine shot down forty-seven ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Canada Joins the Tank Coalition:** Canada will be providing four Leopard-2 tanks to Ukraine, as well as deploying troops to train Ukrainian soldiers to use them.

According to Canadian Defense Minister, Canada may send more tanks later ([source: CTV](#)).

- **Missile Defense Deal:** Italy and France are nearing the end of a deal which will supply SAMP/T anti-aircraft missile systems to Ukraine. This system, also known as the Mamba, has been a major Ukrainian ask since November. It can reportedly intercept ten targets simultaneously and can even intercept ballistic missiles ([source: Ukrainian Pravda](#)).
- **Challenger Timeline:** Britain will send Challenger-2 tanks to Ukraine in late March ([source: Ukrinform](#)).
- **ISW Updates 01-25:** The most recent update from the Institute for the Study of War warns that Russia may be preparing for an offensive in Luhansk, the oblast which it has the most control over. However, it also states that due to the apparent dropping off of the pace of attacks around Bakhmut, the Russian offensive near there may have either culminated or may be near to culmination ([source: ISW](#)).
- **New Offensive:** Ukrainian intelligence now predicts that Russia will attempt to launch a new offensive on or near February 24, the anniversary of the initial invasion. While it's not entirely clear what the offensive would look like, there is some suggestion that it would include an escalation in the Donbas region. They are also reportedly testing Ukraine's capabilities in the Zaporizhia region ([source: Radio Svoboda](#)).
- **Missile Strike Update:** The recent missile strike reportedly damaged five high-voltage substations, according to Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal. It bears repeating both that Russia has declared Ukraine's energy infrastructure among its primary targets and that this action is a war crime ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)). Ukraine also reported that Russia used Kinzhal missiles, a ballistic

missile type which Ukraine does not currently hold the capacity to shoot down ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

- **ISW Updates 01-27:** The most recent update from the Institute for the Study of War corroborates Ukraine's above reporting and notes that Russia is likely planning an offensive in Luhansk specifically. It also noted a recent visual report that Ukrainian children being deported from Kherson oblast by Russian forces are ending up in Crimea ([source: ISW](#)).
- **Drone Unit Created:** Ukraine's army has announced the creation of drone assault companies to continue fighting the war. This would mark a development in their tactics ([source: Reuters](#)).

Other Diplomatic Developments

- **Asset Seizure and the EU:** The EU has the legal authority to use nearly 34 billion Euros' worth of seized Russian assets for the reconstruction of Ukraine, according to the EU Council Legal Service ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).
- **Next Asks:** Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba announced in a tweet discussing a call between him and the Polish Foreign Minister that Ukraine's next major ask is for Western fighter jets ([source: Kuleba on Twitter](#)).
- **More Swiss Sanctions:** Switzerland introduced more sanctions against Russia, restricting the export of goods and technologies that can be used in the Russian military sector ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

Other

- **Poll On NATO:** According to a new poll by the Rating Group, 86% of Ukrainians support joining NATO, a record-high number according to the pollsters. 87% of Ukrainians favor their country's aspiration to join the European Union ([source: Kyiv Independent](#)).

- **Intelligence Report on Wagner:** [This](#) report details some of the actions being committed by the Wagner Group in Ukraine. As a trigger warning, it features graphic descriptions of violence.
- **Odesa on UNESCO:** Odesa has been declared an endangered World Heritage Site, a decision reflective both of Odesa's "outstanding universal value" and its danger as a result of Russian shelling ([source: AP](#)).
- **Chinese Companies Helping Russia:** The US has determined that some Chinese companies are providing "non-lethal assistance" to Russia for use in the war. US officials are noting their "concern" to the PRC, though it is unclear whether the Chinese government is aware of the activities ([source: Reuters](#)).
- **Government Reshuffle:** Several deputy ministers, a deputy prosecutor general, some governors, and a deputy head of the President's Office have either been fired or resigned amidst several corruption scandals. [This](#) article details some of the implications better.
- **Tank Number:** Echoing an earlier statement by a former NATO commander, President Zelenskyy stated that Ukraine needs 300-500 tanks immediately in order to be victorious in the war. He expressed both his gratitude for the number of tanks already committed and concern with the speed at which they will reach Ukraine ([source: Sky News](#)). Ukraine's ambassador to France also stated today that a total of 321 heavy tanks have been promised to Ukraine by its allies. He did not provide a breakdown of the number, but if this is the case it would mean that Ukraine's tank needs will be met in the coming months ([source: Reuters](#)).

by **Allegra Hill**