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Ukraine Bombs Key Bridge at Russian-Held Kherson

By AFP

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Antonovsky road bridge across the Dnipro River in Kherson. **Sergei Bobylev / TASS**

Ukrainian forces bombed a strategic bridge over the Dnipro river overnight in the Russian-held city of Kherson, the army announced Monday.

"What a night for the occupiers in the Kherson region. Strikes in the area of the Antonovskiy bridge," regional deputy Sergei Khlan wrote on Facebook.

Southern army command spokeswoman Natalia Gumeniuk confirmed the attack.

"The firing system we have developed in recent days shows results," she said.

"The impact (of the strike) has been considerable for both the Antonovskiy and Kakhovskiy bridges," she told Ukrainian television.

The Antonovskiy bridge is the main land supply link between the city and the south bank of

the Dnipro.

It was partly destroyed on July 27, forcing the Russian invaders to rethink supply lines and possibly resort to using pontoons to cross the water.

Pro-Russian authorities also confirmed an attack.

"There was one strike, a construction booth and a cement mixer caught fire. There is damage to the bridge floor, which means we will continue restoring it," deputy head of the Russian-led regional administration, Kirill Stremusov, told RIA Novosti news agency.

"There is no critical damage, the structural elements of the transport crossing were not damaged," he added.

Kherson, capital of the region bearing the same name, lies just a few kilometers from the frontline.

Ukrainian forces in recent weeks have been clawing back territory in the Kherson region, which borders the Crimea peninsula that Russia annexed in 2014.

Russian forces seized Kherson on March 3, the first major city to fall to Moscow since the start of the invasion on Feb. 24.

Deploying Western-supplied long-range artillery Kyiv's forces have pushed closer to Kherson city, which had a pre-war population of under 300,000 people.

The Russian occupiers are planning to hold a referendum seeking support to annex the Kherson region, a major agricultural area for Ukraine, and the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region.

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