

Russian Strikes Kill 19 in Ukrainian Region Under Pressure

By [AFP](#)

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Sumy after the overnight Russian attack. **State Emergency Service of Ukraine**

Russian missiles on Tuesday crashed into schools, hospitals and kindergartens in central Ukraine, killing at least 19 people and wounding nearly 300 in a region coming under mounting pressure.

The attacks came as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky arrived in the Netherlands to meet with allies on the sidelines of the NATO defense summit.

He is expected to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday to discuss new sanctions on Russia and weapons deliveries, a senior Ukrainian source told AFP.

Trump has struggled to deliver on his vow to quickly end the Ukraine war, now in its fourth year.

His bitter clash with Zelensky at the White House in February stunned Ukraine's Western allies.

Zelensky has since been at pains to try to mend the relationship and the pair had a brief sit-down at the Vatican in April.

In the aftermath of Moscow's latest attack, emergency services in the industrial Dnipropetrovsk region, now threatened by Russian battlefield advances, published photos of rescuers helping civilians covered in blood.

"Putin destroys lives, that's how he defines control. If he can kill people, destroy homes, blackmail others, he believes he has power," Zelensky said on X.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the strikes amounted to a "rejection of peace" from Russia, which has rebuffed U.S. and Ukrainian ceasefire proposals.

"It is a matter of credibility for allies to step up pressure on Moscow," Sybiha said.

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Dnipropetrovsk Governor Serhii Lysak said 17 residents of the central city of Dnipro were killed and 279 people, including children, were wounded.

Two more were left dead in the nearby town of Samar.

Police said an administrative building, shops, educational facilities and a children's hospital were damaged.

Toddler killed

Russian forces recently claimed to have reached the border of the Dnipropetrovsk region, gaining a foothold there for the first time in the war.

The attacks on Dnipro city, the region's capital, came just hours after deadly overnight drone attacks.

Three people including a toddler were killed earlier in the northeastern Sumy region, which borders Russia, during the barrage, local officials said.

Oleh Hryhorov, head of the regional military administration, said a five-year-old boy was pulled from the rubble of a destroyed house.

"The strike took the lives of people from different families. They all lived on the same street. They went to sleep in their homes, but the Russian drones interrupted their sleep — forever," Hryhorov said.

On the Russian side, one man died next to his spouse in a Ukrainian drone strike on Russia's western border region of Belgorod, the governor said, adding that the woman survived the

attack.

Another drone had targeted a residential building in Moscow overnight, wounding two people, including a pregnant woman, the local authorities said.

Russia occupies around one-fifth of Ukraine and claims to have annexed four Ukrainian regions as its own since launching its invasion in February 2022 — in addition to Crimea, which it captured in 2014.

Kyiv has accused Moscow of deliberately sabotaging peace talks to prolong its full-scale offensive and seize more territory.

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