# Tensions Rise as Kyiv Accuses Russian Forces of Gruesome Act Amid Conflict



### Kyiv Accuses Russian Forces of Beheading Ukrainian Soldier Amid Ongoing Conflict

Kyiv officials have accused Russian forces of decapitating a Ukrainian soldier and placing the severed head on a damaged armoured vehicle in the Donetsk region. Ukraine's Prosecutor General, Andriy Kostin, reported the discovery during an aerial reconnaissance mission. A photo shared by Kostin appears to show the head on a Kozak-2 armoured vehicle. The Ukrainian military claims to have received information that Russian soldiers had orders to behead prisoners rather than taking them captive.

Ukraine has initiated an investigation, with Kostin calling the act "dreadful barbarism" and further evidence of systemic war crimes by Russian forces. This incident is one of several reported executions of Ukrainian POWs since the start of the conflict.

### Ukrainian Troops Capture Russian 'Turtle-Tank,' Highlighting Ongoing Equipment Struggles

Ukrainian forces have captured a Russian "turtle-tank," named for its protective metal sheeting, during a frontline operation. Drone footage shows the Ukrainian troops taking the tank crew by surprise and then driving the tank back to their base. The event underscores the severe losses in Russian military equipment, with Ukraine claiming to have destroyed thousands of Russian tanks since the war began in February 2022.

### Putin Thanks North Korea for Support and Promises Deepened Cooperation

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years, expressing gratitude for North Korea's support during the Ukraine conflict. In an op-ed published in North Korean state media, Putin emphasized plans to deepen economic, military, and cultural ties between the two nations. He condemned Western sanctions and proposed developing trade systems independent of Western control. Putin's visit comes amid allegations that North Korea has been supplying Russia with artillery and military equipment for use in Ukraine, a claim both countries deny.

### Kyiv Hosts Pride March Amid War, LGBTQ+ Troops Demand Equal Rights

Kyiv held its first Pride march since Russia's invasion in 2022, using the event to highlight not only LGBTQ+ rights but also resistance against Russian aggression. LGBTQ+ soldiers, including Mariia Volia, who is serving in the Donetsk region, participated to protest Ukraine's policies that do not recognize same-sex partnerships, leaving their partners without rights or benefits. Despite facing regular harassment, the soldiers continue to demand equal treatment and benefits.

### Summary

These events collectively paint a picture of an ongoing and multifaceted conflict, with troubling reports of war crimes, equipment captures, international diplomatic developments, and internal struggles for equality within Ukraine.