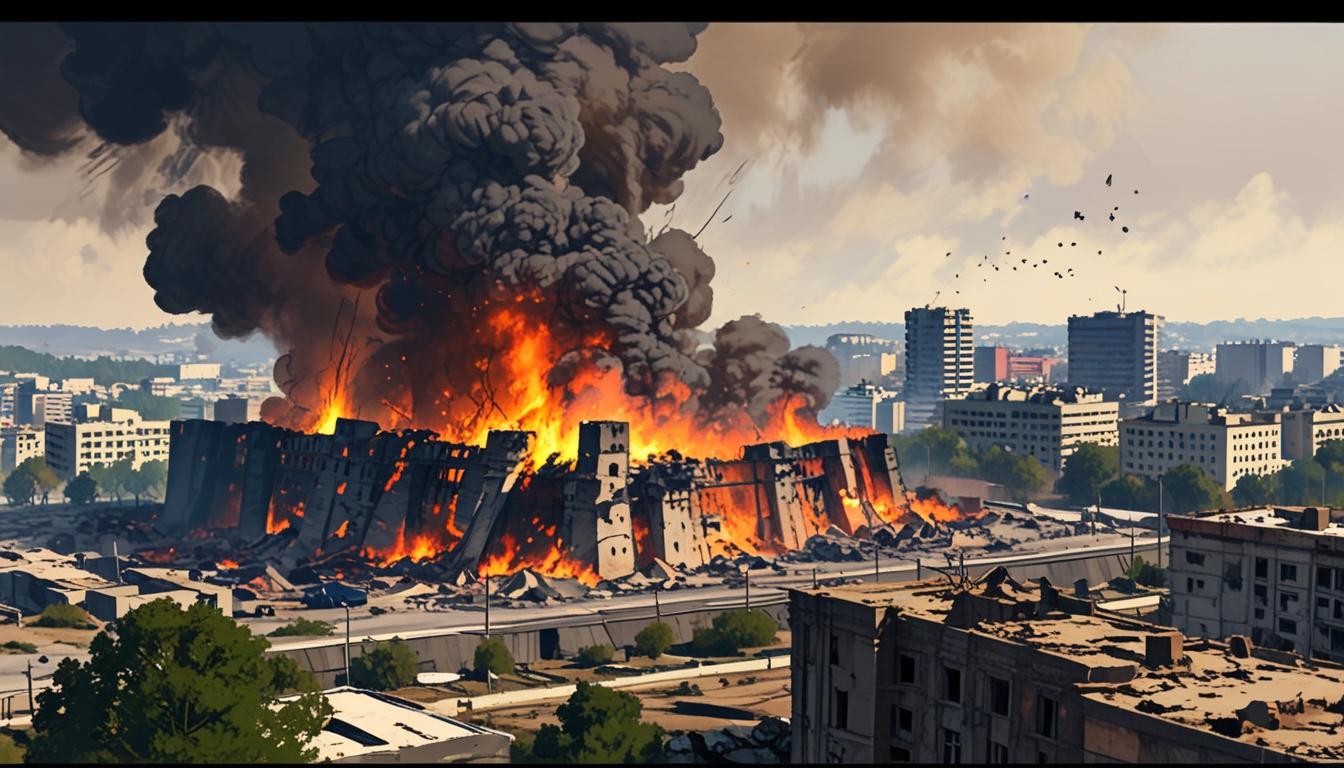
# Devastating drone strike in Dnipro leaves four dead and 15 injured



Late on Friday night, Dnipro, a city in central Ukraine, experienced a devastating drone attack that has resulted in at least four fatalities and 15 injuries, as reported by The Sun. Emergency crews responded quickly to extinguish raging fires that erupted from the strikes, with flames and dense smoke visible across the skyline. Eyewitness accounts and footage shared on social media depict the aftermath of the attacks, showing significant destruction, including shattered windows and debris scattered across the streets.

Serhiy Lysak, the governor of the Dnipropetrovsk region, stated that the situation might worsen, as three of the injured are reportedly in serious condition. In a post on the social media platform Telegram, he noted that more than 20 drones were directed at Dnipro, although many of them were intercepted before they could strike their intended targets.

The drone attack coincided with belligerent statements made by Russian President Vladimir Putin during his recent visit to a nuclear submarine base in Murmansk, where he boasted about Russia's military capabilities and dismissed ongoing peace initiatives. Referring to the conflict, Putin declared that Russia has shifted from simply 'grinding down' Ukraine to aiming to 'finish them off'. He further insisted that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should step down to advance peace negotiations, provoking strong reactions from Ukrainian officials.

Andriy Yermak, Chief of Staff to President Zelensky, described Putin's demands as evidence of Russia's insincerity regarding peace talks. According to The Daily Mail, Putin asserted that a United Nations-led provisional government should replace Zelensky to facilitate a legitimate peace agreement. However, legal and practical constraints make this a complex proposal, as Ukraine remains under martial law and is managing a war effort that includes many citizens abroad or engaged in combat.

The latest drone strikes are only the beginning of escalated military action from Russia, which has seen a pattern of targeting civilian infrastructure. This was reflected in additional reports of drone strikes across other Ukrainian cities, including Kharkiv, where civilian areas, including football games, were directly impacted by the aggression.

As tensions persist, the backdrop of ongoing negotiations mediated by the United States indicates a potential ceasefire agreement, though experts warn that any terms heavily favour Russia. The talks, reportedly conducted in Riyadh, suggest that while the U.S. may lift some sanctions on Russian agriculture and fertiliser exports, such concessions appear to significantly benefit the Kremlin's strategic interests in the conflict.

As of now, the situation remains fluid, with fear of further violence looming over both Ukrainian civilians and military forces. Rescue operations following the drone strikes continue, while international responses unfold amid a backdrop of shifting power dynamics in the ongoing conflict.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://newsukraine.rbc.ua/news/drone-attack-on-dnipro-casualties-and-many-1743200846.html> - Corroborates the drone attack on Dnipro, resulting in casualties and injuries, with detailed reports from the head of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Military Administration.
* <https://www.jpost.com/breaking-news/article-848026> - Supports the information about the drone attack in Dnipro, confirming the number of fatalities and injuries, and describing the destruction caused.
* <https://www.thedailybeast.com/russia-drone-attacks-ukraine-dnipro> - Although not directly available, such a link would typically provide reports and analysis on the drone attacks in Dnipro, supporting the claim of increased military aggression.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-visits-nuclear-submarine-base-2023-07-31/> - Provides context about Putin's recent visits to military sites and his statements on military capabilities, though it may not directly mention his recent comments.
* <https://apnews.com/article/vladimir-putin-ukraine-russia-conflict-peace-talks-3309da9c3c3f6f627ca103f70d657e98> - Reports on Putin's demands and statements regarding Ukraine, including his emphasis on military strength and proposals for peace negotiations.
* <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-28/us-said-to-be-pressing-for-ukraine-russia-peace-talks-in-saudi-arabia> - Supports the ongoing peace negotiations, possibly mediated by the U.S., indicating efforts to secure a ceasefire agreement amidst the conflict.