# Ukraine Implements Nationwide Rolling Blackouts Amid Russian Attacks on Power Infrastructure



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As Ukraine faces continued Russian advances, the country’s officials have announced the first nationwide rolling blackouts of 2024 to conserve energy. The government-enforced blackouts, scheduled from 6 p.m. to midnight on Monday, May 20, expand on the regional blackouts that have become common in recent weeks due to escalating strikes on power plants by Russian forces.

According to Maxim Timchenko, CEO of DTEK, Ukraine’s largest private electricity company, restoring power amidst these attacks has become a critical race against time. The stepped-up Russian attacks have raised concerns that ongoing power cuts will not only impact civilians but could also impair Ukraine’s defense industry.

In response to these challenges, Ukraine is requesting assistance from Western allies, seeking power grid equipment and emergency electricity imports. The country also continues to press for additional air defense systems, especially the U.S.-made Patriot system, to safeguard its electricity grid and counter Russian offensives in the northeastern Kharkiv region.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky acknowledged the situation and called upon Ukrainians and businesses to use electricity responsibly. He has also expressed concerns over the timeliness of military aid from Western allies, which he indicated has been delayed by nearly a year. New U.S. support has begun arriving following a $61 billion package approved last month after congressional delays.

As Russian forces advance in the Kharkiv region, capturing parts of Vovchansk, the Ukrainian military is bolstering defenses. Despite these pressures, Ukrainian officials report that the situation remains under control, though the front line continues to be a site of intense conflict.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin III admitted that Ukraine and its allies are facing a significant challenge, with no new aid packages currently announced. However, he reaffirmed the commitment to keep U.S. arms flowing to support Ukraine.

The conflict has also seen heightened military activity in other regions such as Donetsk, with Russian forces making territorial gains. Despite these movements, Ukrainian defenses hold, though the situation remains fluid and challenging.