# Russian Missiles Target Kharkiv, Causing Significant Casualties and Infrastructure Damage



On May 23, Russian missile strikes targeted the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, resulting in significant casualties and infrastructure damage. The attack, which took place early in the morning, killed at least seven civilians and injured over 20 people. One of the sites hit includes a printing house, where employees were believed to be trapped under the rubble.

Russian forces have intensified their offensive in the region, seeking to create a buffer zone to protect the Belgorod region from Ukrainian attacks. This new wave of assaults has seen Russian troops advancing through Ukraine’s northeastern frontlines, capturing several towns and engaging in urban combat.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city and home to over 1.3 million residents, faced at least 15 missile strikes, according to regional governor Oleh Syniehubov. The missile barrage also damaged the Ukrainian state railway network, wounding six employees.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned the attacks as "extremely brutal" and emphasized the need for enhanced air defense systems to fend off further Russian advances. He highlighted the delay in receiving a crucial $60.8 billion U.S. military assistance package, which included air defense munitions, as a contributing factor to the region's vulnerability.

Ukraine’s national security and defense secretary, Oleksandr Lytvynenko, explained that the Russian goal is to push Ukrainian forces back and to protect their own regions, though he noted that the current effort may not be sufficient to capture Kharkiv city entirely.

The recent Russian offensive has displaced approximately 14,000 people, with ongoing combat forcing Ukrainian forces to defend against wellequipped Russian units from multiple directions around the city. This escalation has increased the urgency for Kyiv to secure more air defense and military aid from its Western allies.