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The New York Times

Dozens Killed As Russia Hits Ukraine by Air

One of War's Largest
Strikes, Officials Say

By **CONSTANT MÉHEUT**
and **DARIA MITIUK**

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia targeted Ukrainian cities with more than 150 missiles and drones on Friday morning, in what Ukrainian officials said was one of the largest air assaults of the war. At least 30 people were killed, and more than 160 were wounded, according to the Ukrainian government, and critical infrastructure was damaged.

“This is the biggest attack since the counting began,” Yuriy Ihnat, a Ukrainian Air Force spokesman, said in a brief telephone interview, adding that the military did not track air assaults in the early days of Russia's full-scale invasion, which began in February 2022.

For several hours on Friday, missiles, drones and debris slammed into factories, hospitals and schools in cities across Ukraine, from Lviv in the west to Kharkiv in the east, straining the country's air defenses and sending people scrambling for shelter.

Thanks to its powerful air defense systems, Ukraine has often been able to shoot down most, if not all, Russian weapons targeting cities in recent months. But on Friday the Ukrainian military said it had shot down only 114 missiles and drones out of a total of 158.

President Biden said in a statement that Friday's attack — which he called the “largest aerial assault on Ukraine since this war began” — showed that after nearly two years of relentless fighting and huge numbers of casualties on both sides, President Vladimir Putin's objectives in the war remain the same.

“He seeks to obliterate Ukraine and subjugate its people,” the president said. “He must be stopped.”

Oleksandr Musiienko, the head of the Kyiv-based Center for Military and Legal Studies, said that Russia's complex barrage of weapons including hypersonic, cruise and air defense missiles on Friday was intended to overwhelm and confuse Ukrainian air defenses. “They're changing the style of their attacks,” he said in an interview.

President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine said in a statement, “Today, Russia was fighting with almost everything it has in its arsenal.”

A Russian missile also traveled through a Polish border area near Ukraine for three minutes on Friday, the latest in a series of violations of NATO airspace by Russia, Poland's military said. But unlike at least three Russian drones that crashed in September in Romania — which, like Poland, is a NATO member — the rocket did not hit anything on the ground and caused no widespread alarm.

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OLEG PETRASUYUK/EPA, VIA SHUTTERSTOCK

A warehouse struck on Friday in Kyiv. Russia launched over 150 missiles and drones across Ukraine; at least 30 people were killed.

On All Fronts, Israeli Military Failed on Oct. 7

This article is by **Adam Goldman, Ronen Bergman, Mark Mazzetti, Natan Odenheimer, Alexander Cardia, Ainara Tiefenthäler and Sheera Frenkel.**

TEL AVIV — Far beneath the Israeli military headquarters in Tel Aviv, in a bunker known as The Pit, commanders were trying to make sense of reports of Hamas rocket fire in southern Israel early on the morning of Oct. 7, when the call came in.

It was a commander from the division that oversees military operations along the border with Gaza. Their base was under attack. The commander could not describe the scope of the attack or provide more details, according to a military official with knowledge of the call. But he asked that all available reinforcements be sent.

At 7:43 a.m., more than an hour after the rocket assault began and thousands of Hamas fighters stormed into Israel, The Pit issued its first deployment instructions of the day. It ordered all emergency forces to head south, along with all available units that could do so quickly.

But the nation's military leaders did not yet recognize that an invasion of Israel was already well underway.

Hours later, desperate Israeli citizens were still fending for

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America's Diet Is Feeding a Groundwater Crisis

This article is by **Christopher Flavelle, Somini Sengupta and Mira Rojanasakul.**

America's striking dietary shift in recent decades, toward far more chicken and cheese, has not only contributed to concerns about American health but has taken a major, undocumented toll on underground water supplies.

The effects are being felt in key agricultural regions nationwide as farmers have drained groundwater to grow animal feed.

In Arkansas for example, where cotton was once king, the land is now ruled by fields of soybeans to feed the chickens, a billion or so of them, that have come to dominate the region's economy. And Idaho, long famous for potatoes, is now America's largest producer of alfalfa to feed the cows that supply the state's huge cheese factories.

UNCHARTED WATERS

Farming and Food Choices

Today, alfalfa, a particularly water-intensive crop used largely for animal feed, covers 6 million acres of irrigated land, much of it in the driest parts of the American West.

These transformations are tied to the changing American diet. Since the early 1980s, America's per-person cheese consumption has doubled, largely in the form of mozzarella-covered pizza pies. And last year, for the first time, the average American ate 100 pounds of chicken, twice the amount 40 years ago.

It's not just Americans eating more American-made meat and

cheese. Exports of poultry and dairy have risen more than tenfold since 1980, thanks to America's farming efficiency, combined with government subsidies and rising demand from countries like China. Exports of animal feed itself have soared, too, industry data show.

Most of America's irrigated farmland grows crops that don't directly feed humans but instead are used to feed animals or to produce ethanol for fuel. And most of that irrigation water comes from aquifers.

Those crops have expanded into areas that don't have enough water to sustain them, affecting some important aquifers across the country by contributing to groundwater overuse. Aquifer depletion for animal feed is occurring in many areas.

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RORY DOYLE FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

Moving poultry in Tennessee. Last year, the average American consumed 100 pounds of chicken.

After Rising During Pandemic, Murders Fell Sharply in 2023

By **TIM ARANGO** and **CAMPBELL ROBERTSON**

Detroit is on track to record the fewest murders since the 1960s. In Philadelphia, where there were more murders in 2021 than in any year on record, the number of homicides this year has fallen more than 20 percent from last year. And in Los Angeles, the number of shooting victims this year is down more than 200 from two years ago.

The decrease in gun violence in 2023 has been a welcome trend for communities around the country, though even as the number of homicides and the number of shootings have fallen nationwide, they remain higher than on the

eve of the pandemic.

In 2020, as the pandemic took hold and protests convulsed the nation after the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, the United States saw the largest increase in murders ever recorded. Now, as 2023 comes to a close, the country is likely to see one of the largest — if not the largest — yearly declines in homicides, according to recent F.B.I. data and statistics collected by independent criminologists and researchers.

The rapid decline in homicides

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Cohen Used Artificial Intelligence to Give Lawyer Bogus Cases

By **BENJAMIN WEISER**
and **JONAH E. BROMWICH**

Michael D. Cohen, the onetime fixer for former President Donald J. Trump, mistakenly gave his lawyer bogus legal citations concocted by the artificial intelligence program Google Bard, he said in court papers unsealed on Friday.

The fictitious citations were used by the lawyer in a motion submitted to a federal judge, Jesse M. Furman. Mr. Cohen, who pleaded guilty in 2018 to campaign finance violations and served time in prison, had asked the judge for an early end to the court's supervision of his case now that he is out of prison and has complied with the conditions of his release.

A Brand-New Example for Trump's Defense

The ensuing chain of misunderstandings and mistakes ended with Mr. Cohen asking the judge to exercise “discretion and mercy.”

In a sworn declaration made

public on Friday, Mr. Cohen explained that he had not kept up with “emerging trends (and related risks)” in legal technology and did not realize that Google Bard was a generative text service that, like ChatGPT, could show citations and descriptions that looked real but actually were not.”

He also said he had not realized

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Rethinking U.K.'s Elder Care

An integrated center brings doctors, physiotherapists, social workers and pharmacists under one roof.

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Addressing Civilian Deaths

A Pentagon document codifies procedures for U.S. combat but does not address support for Israel.

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NATIONAL A9-16

A Town Still Awaits Biden

The White House has said the president plans to visit East Palestine, Ohio, the site of a toxic derailment. But many residents feel disrespected.

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Year of Stunning Weather

California ended 2023 facing waves that topped 30 feet and flooded beachfront neighborhoods.

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Art of the Paperback Do-Over

Rethinking books' covers for their paperback editions helps publishers give books a second chance.

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TRAVEL C7-8

A Weekend in Andalusia

A visit to Córdoba, Spain, can involve Roman ruins, Moorish architecture and 15th-century palaces.

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Relaxing Like a Billionaire

Checking in at two luxury hotels in Mexico that began as estates of a corporate raider.

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BUSINESS B1-5

Push at Ports for Electric Trucks

A mainstay of cargo transport will be phased out at California's ports as the state bans new registrations of carbon-fuel trucks, in favor of nonpolluting vehicles.

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Four Straight Years of Losses

Investors who are worried about China's economy shunned Hong Kong's stock market, which was once considered one of the biggest and most important in the world.

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OPINION A20-21

Steve Inskeep

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SPORTS B8-11

Blame Game in Failed Deal

Many people were involved in Denver's trade for Russell Wilson. The deal will probably be regarded as one of the worst in the history of the N.F.L.

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