

# Thousands in Mariupol taken by force to Russia

LVIV/ODESA, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia's siege of the port city of Mariupol was "a terror that will be remembered for centuries to come," while local authorities said thousands of residents there had been taken by force across the border.

"Over the past week, several thousand Mariupol residents were deported onto the Russian territory," the city council said in a statement on its Telegram channel late on Saturday.

Reuters could not independently verify the claim.

Russian news agencies have said buses have carried several hundred people Moscow calls refugees from the strategic port on the Sea of Azov to Russia in recent days.

Air raid sirens sounded across major Ukrainian cities early on Sunday but there were no immediate reports of fresh attacks.

Some 400,000 people have been trapped in Mariupol for more than two weeks, sheltering from heavy bombardment that has severed central supplies of electricity, heating and water, according to local authorities. Rescue workers were still searching for survivors in a Mariupol theatre that local authorities say was flattened by Russian air strikes on Wednesday. Russia denies hitting the theater or targeting civilians. Russia's defense ministry said on Friday that its forces were "tightening the noose" around Mariupol and that fighting had reached the city center.

In a late-night broadcast, Mr. Zelensky said the siege of Mariupol would "go down in history of responsibility for war crimes."

"To do this to a peaceful city... is a terror that will be remembered for centuries to come."

Still, he said, peace talks with Russia were needed although they were "not easy and pleasant."

Russian forces have taken heavy losses since Feb. 24, when President Vladimir Putin launched what he calls a "special operation" aimed at demilitarizing Ukraine and purging it of what he sees as dangerous nationalists. Ukraine and the West say Putin launched an aggressive war of choice.

Long columns of troops that bore down on the capital Kyiv have been halted in the suburbs.

British intelligence believes Russia has been taken aback by Ukraine's resistance to its invasion and is now "pursuing a strategy of attrition," said Britain's defense attache to the United States.

Mr. Zelensky said the Ukrainian front line was "simply littered with the corpses of Russian soldiers."

Reuters could not independently verify the veracity of the comments.

On Saturday, Russia said its hypersonic missiles had destroyed a large underground depot for missiles and aircraft ammunition in the western Ivano-Frankivsk region. Hypersonic weapons can travel faster than five times the speed of sound, and the Interfax agency said it was the first time Russia had used them in Ukraine. A spokesperson for the Ukrainian Air Force Command confirmed the attack, but said the Ukrainian side had no information on the type of missiles used.

## NEUTRAL STATUS

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Moscow expected its operation in Ukraine to end with the signing of a comprehensive agreement on security issues, including Ukraine's neutral status, Interfax reported.

Kyiv and Moscow reported some progress in talks last week toward a political formula that would guarantee Ukraine's security, while keeping it outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), though each sides accused the other of dragging things out. Mr. Zelensky has said Ukraine could accept international security guarantees that stopped short of its long-standing aim to join NATO. That prospect has been one of Russia's primary stated concerns.

The Ukrainian president, who makes frequent impassioned appeals to foreign audiences for help, told an anti-war protest in Bern on Saturday that Swiss banks were where the "money of the people who unleashed this war" lay and their accounts should be frozen.

Ukrainian cities "are being destroyed on the orders of people who live in European, in beautiful Swiss towns, who enjoy property in your cities. It would really be good to strip them of this privilege," he said in an audio address.

Neutral Switzerland, which is not a member of the European Union (EU), has fully adopted EU sanctions against Russian individuals and entities, including orders to freeze their wealth in Swiss banks. The EU measures are part of a wider sanctions effort by Western nations aimed at squeezing Russia's economy and starving its war machine.

US President Joseph R. Biden warned his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, on Friday of "consequences" if Beijing gave material support to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

On Saturday, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China stood on the right side of history over the Ukraine crisis and that its position was in line with the wishes of most countries.

"China's position is objective and fair, and is in line with the wishes of most countries. Time will prove that China's claims are on the right side of history," Wang told reporters, according to a statement published by his ministry on Sunday. — Reuters

## Majority of Japanese worry China may invade Taiwan, poll shows



NINE IN 10 Japanese people are concerned that China may invade Taiwan, following Russia's attack on Ukraine, according to a domestic newspaper poll.

More than half of the 1,040 respondents polled on Saturday by the *Mainichi* and Saitama University's Social Survey Research Center said they have "strong concerns" about the prospect of Chinese action against Taiwan, according to the newspaper's

Sunday edition. About 33% said they have some degree of anxiety, according to the report.

Locked in a territorial dispute with China over a chain of islands in the East China Sea, Japan generally sees neighboring Taiwan's security as closely linked to its own.

Of those surveyed, 87% said they are worried about the Russian invasion of Ukraine, while 30% believed the Japanese

government should step up sanctions against Moscow, the newspaper said.

Japan's decision to send Ukraine bullet-proof vests was "reasonable," 61% of respondents said. About 11% said Japan doesn't need to help Ukraine militarily, but twice as many said their country should consider more actively providing the east European nation with military support. — Bloomberg

### E-TRACK PRESENTERS



SLAY WITH US ON OUR 3-DAY FESTIVAL, A MOVEMENT WHERE WOMEN RUN THE WORLD!

## MARCH 23 | EMPOWERED | HOSTED BY: ISSA LITTON & RJ LEDESMA

10 AM

### SLAY KWEENs

WOMEN REDEFINING LEADERSHIP



LORELIE QUIAMBAO-OSIAL  
President & CEO  
Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation



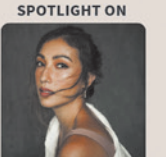
JOSEPHINE SANTIAGO-BOND  
Chief, NASA KSC Safety and Mission  
Assurance Institutional Division



GINA ROMERO  
CEO & Co-Founder,  
Connected Women



MINETTE NAVARRETE  
President and Co-Founder,  
Kickstart Ventures, Inc.



SPOTLIGHT ON  
SOLENN HEUSSAFF  
Ambassador,  
Cetaphil Bright Healthy Radiance

1 PM

### GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUNDS

WOMEN AS ASSETS IN THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY



MICA TAN  
Chief Executive Officer,  
MFT Group of Companies



AYESHA MONTES  
Financial Advisor  
InLife



GINGER ARBOLEDA  
Chief Operating Officer,  
Taxumo



NICOLE ALBA  
Financial Content Creator,  
YouTube

2 PM

### E-COMMERS

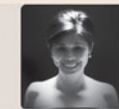
WOMEN AS ENTREPRENEURS



KARLA ZULUETA  
Founder  
Aperitif Philippines, Inc.



MAINE UY  
Founder,  
The SHEeo Society



PILO SANTOS-REYES  
Managing Director,  
Wishcraft Group of Companies

3 PM

### WOMEN AS BUILDERS OF THE FUTURE

WOMEN BUILDING THE COUNTRY



LIZA DEL ROSARIO  
Head of Planning and Business Development  
NSDR and Partners



LYNN DEL ROSARIO  
Senior Architect  
NSDR and Partners

## MARCH 24 | ENERGIZED | HOSTED BY: INKA MAGNAYE

1 PM

### LOCAL STYLE, GLOBAL RUNWAY

FASHION TRENDS & HEAD-TURNING STYLES



AMINA ARANZ-ALUNAN  
Designer



RITA SANCHEZ  
Vice Chairperson for Fashion Department  
SoFA Design Institute

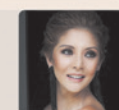
2 PM

### MAKE ME UP BEFORE YOU GO GO

BEING YOUR OWN MAKE UP GURU



PONG NI  
Make Up Master



CAT ARAMBULO-ANTONIO  
Social Media Personality & Entrepreneur

3 PM

### STATE OF WOMEN'S WELLNESS

WOMEN WELLNESS PRESENTATION



DR. ZARINAH GONZAGA  
Director,  
Institute for Women's Health in The Medical City

3:30 PM

### TEAMMUNITY

PET YOGA & GUILT-FREE DESSERT BAKING CLASS



SHALOE PEREDO  
Yoga Instructor



ANNE ANIG  
Fitness Coach

## MARCH 25 | ENGAGED | HOSTED BY: ISSA LITTON

1 PM

### FANGIRLING & FILM

WOMEN OF THE FILM INDUSTRY



MONSTER JIMENEZ  
Filmmaker



SIGRID BERNARDO  
Filmmaker

2 PM

### CONTENT CREATION

THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF CONTENT

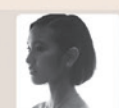


CORINNA VISTAN-TAKAHASHI  
Head of Originals  
VIU

2:30 PM

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

KNOWING THE BEST WAY TO TAKE PICTURES



AYA CABAUATAN  
Photographer



WAWI NAVARROSA  
Photographer

3:30 PM

### A MUSIC FESTIVAL

JAM ALONG WITH OUR FILIPINA ARTISTS



NO LORE  
Artist,  
Off The Record



DIA MATÉ  
Artist,  
Umusic



DANI IDEA  
Artist,  
Off The Record



JENSEN GOMEZ  
Artist,  
Off The Record

### MAJOR SPONSORS



### MINOR SPONSORS



### DONORS

### MEDIA PARTNER

SCAN TO REGISTER FOR FREE!

