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Odesa pounded by multiple missiles as Russia hits Ukraine's ports

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A firefighter works near a destroyed building on the outskirts of Odesa, which was hit by heavy Russian missile fire. (Max Pshybshevsky / Associated Press)

Moscow's ambitions to overtake southern Ukraine appeared to grow Tuesday with reports that

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Ukraine said firefighters were battling blazes in Odesa after seven missiles struck targets, including a shopping center and a warehouse, killing at least one person and injuring five. Video posted on Facebook by the Ukrainian army showed rescue groups surrounded by smoking rubble.

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Serhiy Bratchuk, a spokesman for the Odesa regional military, said in an update that a separate strike by three Kinzhal hypersonic missiles had also hit "tourism" locations in Odesa.

The Kinzhal is [more destructive than conventional missiles](#) because its speed — several times that of sound — enables it to better evade antimissile systems. Its use on Odesa could not be verified, though Russia first claimed to unleash the new weapons in March on targets in western Ukraine.



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Odesa, a strategic port city on the Black Sea, was targeted by Russian hypersonic missiles, Ukrainian authorities said Tuesday. (Max Pshybshevsky / Associated Press)

Pentagon analysts have noticed an uptick in Russian manpower and sorties by fighter jets deployed in Ukraine since Monday.

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A senior Defense official said Tuesday that an estimated 2,000 additional Russian troops were moved into the battlefield, probably by air. He could not say what part of the country they were deployed to but noted most Russian offensive attacks remain concentrated in the Donbas region and the ports of Mariupol and Odesa.

Air sorties, which have averaged 200 to 300 per day, totaled more than 300 in the last 24 hours, the official said.

Pentagon spokesman John F. Kirby told reporters that he could not cite "any evidence" that Russia used hypersonic missiles in its attack on Odesa, as Ukrainian officials have claimed. But he noted that Moscow has already fired such weapons in this war and that Russian forces are running through their precision-guided missiles "at a pretty fast clip."

Also Tuesday, U.S. officials sounded the alarm over their ability to continue supplying weapons to Ukraine. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III wrote Congress this week to urge lawmakers to approve up to \$40 billion in weapons and other aid for Ukraine before the current \$13.5-billion package is depleted. Tuesday evening, the House did just that, emphatically approving the \$40 billion, in a bipartisan commitment to thwart Russian

President Vladimir Putin's nearly 11-week-old war

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State Department spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday that the final \$100 million in that package runs out next week.

[Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky](#), meanwhile, called on world powers to break a Russian blockade of his nation's ports.

Citing the key role that Odesa, in the southwest near Moldova, plays in the global agricultural trade, Zelensky said in a video address that shortages of grain exports were bound to get worse if attacks continued and Western powers did not put an end to the Russian blockade of the Black Sea.

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