08/03/2022

Humanitarian corridors in Ukraine dominate the day’s developments from the frontlines, as Russian invasion continues



War continued for a 13th straight day on the European continent on Tuesday, as a Russian invasion of its neighbor, Ukraine, grinded on, bringing death and devastation to the predominately Orthodox country.
In the latest news, the Ukrainian government has agreed over an evacuation corridor for civilians fleeing from the northeast city of Sumy, which has suffered sustained Russian attacks and airstrikes in recent days.

Ukrainian officials said the corridor had been agreed to by the Russian ministry of defense, in a letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The route for the evacuation corridor would lead away from Sumy to Poltava, a city in central Ukraine.

Several previous attempts to evacuate civilians failed earlier this week, with Western leaders accusing Russian forces of continuing to target pre-approved safe routes.

According to the Russian side, however, humanitarian corridors have also been opened for Kiev, Chernihiv, Kharkovo and Mariupol.

On Sunday, a Russian strike hit an evacuation crossing point outside Kiev, killing eight people, including two children trying to flee.

1.7 million refugees flee Ukraine

At least 1.2 million refugees have crossed the border from Ukraine into Poland since the Russian invasion began on February 24, the Polish Border Guard tweeted early Tuesday.

141,500 refugees passed through the border on Monday alone, according to the border guard.

In total, at least 1.7 million refugees have left Ukraine, according to the United Nations.

In Greece, 772 Ukrainian refugees entered the country over the past 24 hours, of which 259 are minors, over the past 24 hours. Since the invasion, a total of 5,421 Ukrainian citizens entered the country, of which 1,690 are minors.

In a slight glimmer of hope that the madness will stop, Ukraine’s foreign ministry on Monday evening confirmed that the country’s foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, will meet with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, in Antalya Turkey, on Thursday.

Kiev has also reiterated that it wants direct talks between the two countries’ leaders, Volodymyr Zelensky and invading Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Aid from Bulgaria

In a related development, the Metropolis of Sofia, in Bulgaria, this week announced that monasteries will open their doors to host 80 refugees from Ukraine, while special collection points will be set up in the Metropolis’ 46 parishes to collect aid for the victims of the war.

The Bulgarian Orthodox Church will also partner with the Bulgarian Red Cross to transport humanitarian aid to Ukraine.