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US President Biden expected to warn China against aiding Russia's invasion of Ukraine



US President Joe Biden was due to hold an online meeting with Chinese president Xi Jinping on Friday afternoon (CET) in order to discuss Russia's war against Ukraine and "...other issues of mutual concern", as the White House announced.

According to repeated press reports over the past two days, Biden is expected to tell Xi that China will face sanctions if Beijing provides military assistance to Russia and shelters the latter from very stiff western sanctions.

On the battle front, British defense intelligence analysts on Friday claimed that Russia is being forced to divert "large numbers" of troops to defend its supply lines, rather than continuing its attacks in Ukraine.

In the besieged country, air raid sirens sounded in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, followed by the sound of explosions and a thick column of smoke, a few miles from the city center.

In Kharkov, a rescue worker died and another was injured after a shopping center

was shelled on Thursday, sparking a fire that burned through the night. Two residential buildings were also damaged in the attack.