

ABC's *Good Morning America*

03/03/22

7:00:19 a.m. [TEASE]

45 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Russian Assault Intensifies]

GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Breaking news this Thursday, as the Russian assault on Ukraine intensifies, new cease-fire talks just started, and the Russian foreign minister joins us on *GMA*. Ukrainian civilians caught in the crossfire. Military sites pounded. Kyiv shelled overnight, as Russia steps up its attack. Bombed out streets, leveled homes. Emergency workers searching for survivors. Ukrainians trying to hold on to the country's second-largest city while five major cities appear to be encircled by Russian forces. A massive Russian convoy headed to the capital stalled, as the number of refugees fleeing the country tops 1 million. This morning, one of Vladimir Putin's closest advisers, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, talks to *GMA*.

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7:02:34 a.m.

27 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Russian Forces Encircle Major Ukrainian Cities]

T.J. HOLMES: We do have to start once again with, of course, war. The war in Ukraine. Reports now that their first major city may have fallen. This as Russian forces appear to be surrounding the major cities and, George, targeting civilians.

STEPHANOPOULOS: They are, T.J. The International Criminal Court is now investigating evidence of Russian war crimes. In a few moments, we're going to hear from Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov. You see him right there. He is one of Vladimir Putin's closest advisers. I questioned him earlier this morning in a press event that was actually aired live on Russian television.

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7:03:21 a.m.

2 minutes and 7 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Russian Forces Encircle Major Ukrainian Cities; Civilians Caught in Crossfire as Onslaught Intensifies]

IAN PANNELL: As you come to me, we are hearing the sounds of this war on the outskirts of the city. This morning, every few minutes, we're hearing the sounds of explosions. And overnight, the picture was pretty much the same. President Zelenskyy, addressing the nation in the last hour, saying you have come to destroy our cities, destroy our homes, go home. That's his

message to the Russian forces this morning, as they press their advance across Ukraine. This morning, with Russian attacks escalating, video circulating online, verified by ABC News, showing Ukrainian civilians increasingly in the crossfire. [EXPLOSION] And civilian infrastructure, also being targeted. [SIRENS] This morning, an oil depot hit by shelling. Ukrainian emergency services releasing images of the aftermath. Kyiv shelled overnight. This video surfacing online, appearing to show the aftermath of an explosion by Kharkiv's central rail station. Parts of this vast country have been laid to waste by this brutal invasion. Bombed out streets, homes leveled, and emergency workers searching for survivors. The Ukrainian military trying to hold on to the country's second-largest city, Kharkiv, which has been mercilessly shelled for days. [BUILDING COLLAPSE] Russian missiles striking the city's university, another clear civilian target. Western intelligence sources show five major Ukrainian cities almost encircled by Russian forces. And to the south, there are multiple reports that Kherson has fallen, which, if confirmed, would be the largest city to fall into Russian hands. President Zelenskyy, addressing the nation, claiming as many as 9,000 Russian forces have been killed, saying "We are a nation that broke the enemy's plans in a week... We stopped them. We beat them." But that number, much higher than the Russian claim of 498 dead troops. As in all wars, it's innocent civilians who are suffering the most. One million people now driven from their homes and their land. Ukrainian officials saying more than 2,000 have been killed in the Russian advance.

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7:06:08 a.m.

9 minutes and 47 seconds [6 minutes and 34 seconds on Lavrov]

PANNELL: In the capital, we go inside the country's largest children's hospital, where the patients, the children, have been moved to the basement amid fears an attack could come at any moment. This is what this war means for some of the weakest and most vulnerable. We're one floor underground of the city's main children's hospital, and you can see, it's full of kids who need care and are having to hide down here for their own safety. This young boy is Vover [sic?], only 13 years old. He was brought to the hospital after being badly injured when the family car came under attack. His father and cousin were killed and now, Vover [sic?] he is fighting for his life. The staff here, risking their own lives to take care of those most in need. Doctor Oleg Gordyk, says it's all hands on deck, including his own family.

DR. OLEGE GORDYK: This week was very, very terrible for me because my family is staying in our clinic. My daughter, 17 years old, now she works as nurse.

PANNELL: Some patients have been moved out of the country for safety. But others, like two-year-old David, who needs dialysis, can't be moved. Amid the desperation, there is still hope.

GORDYK: I believe in victory. I believe in maybe in future, tomorrow, maybe next week or next month. I see sun in our clinic.

[BOY LAUGHS]

PANELL: Well, it's incredible to see that hope and that resilience in the middle, really, of the disaster that's now unfolding before our eyes. I think it's important for people to know this, because of course, you always ask, what's going to happen to those people? Can they get out? And, as I said there, for some of them, there is no plan B. They cannot be moved, the elderly, the infirmed, the children, are stuck in place, as the Russian forces advance and that is why the Ukrainians are insistent that they need this no-fly zone. T.J.

HOLMES: Alright, Ian, thank you so much for that. And you mentioned the innocent civilians suffering the most, many of them now refugees. We want to turn to that growing crisis. U.N. Refugee Agency now saying a million people have fled Ukraine since the fighting began last week. Our Matt Gutman is in Lviv with more. Matt, good morning.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Growing Refugee Crisis; UN: More Than One Million Have Fled Since the Fighting Began]

MATT GUTMAN: Hey, T.J., good morning. A million refugees. It's a number that's hard to comprehend, but we're seeing just a sliver of it right here. These people are all here at the Lviv train station, waiting for buses to take them to Poland. You can see the Red Cross tents right here. They're giving out food. They're giving out water. Beyond is the train station. Every train in this country, heading westward, is now for refugees only. No tickets necessary. And I got to tell you what I just saw: A group of 60 orphans from Mariupol. Their orphanage has been obliterated. They are now here carrying the food in boxes. They have nowhere to go and this is just the beginning. The U.N. is now talking about four million refugees in total in European countries and, internally, they're talking about 12 million people inside Ukraine, who are not going to be able to get out, who are going to need humanitarian assistance, relief, and protection. George?

STEPHANOPOULOS: So many on the move. Matt Gutman, thanks.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Russian Foreign Minister One-on-One; Top Putin Adviser Speaks Out as Attacks on Ukraine Escalate]

And as I said, earlier this morning, I questioned Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, at a press roundtable that was aired live on Russian television. Thank you, Mr. Foreign Minister. The world is seeing civilians being killed in Ukraine by Russian bombs. The world is hearing the lies Russia's telling about those attacks. The world is uniting to contend those attacks and those lies. How can you defend them?

RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SERGEY LAVROV [voice of translator]: I cannot comment — conjectures and there is a great deal of these now. But you know, if you paid your attention — told it to the facts that Europe, mostly and the United States, are trying to close down all of the outlets, media outlets and information sources, broadcast by Russia from Russia, on how the special military operation progresses and advances and how the Ukrainian army and the neo-Nazi battalions behave towards the peaceful civilians. They rob and rip off the Donbas settlements. When — when they fall back, they take vehicles and property from Ukrainian residents living

there. They behave like pillagers and marauders. And, you know, there is a lot of information about the future provocations that are brewed in Mariupol and on the territories where the — the Ukrainians are trying to use the civilians as a human shield. Talk to the Indians, the Arabs, and the Africans that are trying to flee Ukraine. They are not allowed. And yesterday, the Indian prime minister spoke to president — to the president of Russia, concerned over death of an Indian student in Kharkiv. There are no Russian troops in Kharkiv now, but we saw the footage, like depicting foreigners trying to flee the Ukrainian soil by Russia, but — and they are not allowed to do so. I don't have enough time now to enumerate all of the facts. Please visit our website, the website of our ministry and you will be able to get a detailed transcription of what the Kyiv neo-Nazi regime is now doing. You like the word killer. You know, the real killers are siding with the Kyiv regime.

STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you believe that President Zelenskyy, the first Jewish president of Ukraine, whose families were [sic] killed in the Holocaust, is a Nazi?

LAVROV: I think that the Nazis and neo-Nazis manipulate him. Otherwise, it is hard to account for how President Zelenskyy can preside in a society — over a society where neo-Nazis make strife. They make marches and torch processions. And for those torch processions, President Zelenskyy allocates his personal guards from his company and they train constantly, studying acts of sabotage and warfare in urban areas and that is all happening under President Zelenskyy. When he keeps saying that his grandfather was a Tartan — look at the laws that President Zelenskyy, which claims to be a global citizen — well, look at the laws about the indigenous nations and ethnicities of Ukraine, not mentioning the Russian nation. How can not a neo-Nazi president support laws banning the Russian language at school, which is horrible, not only in education but in everyday life. They imposed a prohibition on just asking for — for drugs and medications in a pharmacy in Russian and in — in the — the Crimea — Russia, they have three official languages: Russian, the Crimea-Tartan language, and Ukrainian language. And any national or Russian living in Crimea has a right to turn to local authorities, to an office, speaking his vernacular language and they have to respond in that language. I can numerate facts for quite a long — you know those striking images and salient things and you don't have time to ruse and read the facts and just spend at least half an hour visiting our website, the foreign ministry website and the defense ministry website. You won't be allowed to raise your voices. I know that — a French journalist — you know, yesterday, actually, President Macron said that accusing Zelenskyy and Ukraine of the rampant nationalism is a lies [sic]. Well, he responded to him. But his compatriot, a French journalist, responded to him. She visited Donbass and she described the bombings and shelling of schools and the killings of two women, that worked in that school and — and she put to shame all of the western politicians that turn a deaf ear, a blind eye on to that. She wasn't allowed to put it on the air. But you know, it's available on social media. Please learn more facts. Don't try to pretend this — that this American action movie is developing according to your plan of absolute good and absolute evil.

STEPHANOPOULOS: You get the sense there why the American Treasury Department calls him Putin's propagandist. I mean, calling Zelenskyy — the Jewish president of Ukraine — a neo-Nazi, denying what the whole world —

ROBIN ROBERTS: Right.

STEPHANOPOULOS: — is seeing with their eyes on the killing of civilians. You also heard that comment he made about how I like the word killer. He was pretty clearly responding to this interview I had with President Biden I had last year. [TO BIDEN, on 03/17/21] So, you know Vladimir Putin. You think he's a killer?

PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN [on 03/17/21]: Uh-huh. I do.

STEPHANOPOULOS: That, of course, created an incident between President Putin —

ROBERTS: It did.

STEPHANOPOULOS: — and President Biden at the time.