
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Ukrainian Kherson Offensive in the Russo-Ukrainian War

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Civilians Evacuated from the East Bank of Russian-Controlled Kherson

On Tuesday, 2 NOV, Russian officials ordered Ukrainians on the eastern bank of the Dnieper River to evacuate the area. The Russian-installed head of the Kherson region, Vladimir Saldo, cited the possibility of a massive missile strike on the Kakhovka hydroelectric station, which could lead to the Kherson region being flooded. However, Ukraine has denied reports that it plans to attack the Kakhovka dam and suggested that repeated Russian claims that it might do so are a sign that Russia is considering staging an attack and blaming it on Ukraine. Russian officials have been evacuating thousands of civilians from the Kherson region in recent weeks due to Ukrainian forces advancing from the north and east. END

CMCD Note

We assess with high confidence that this evacuation may likely be an indicator of an imminent escalation on the Kherson front, but it is unlikely due to any potential attack on the dam. The Kakhovka dam lies just northeast of Kherson on the Dnieper River and provides a significant amount of money and power to the local area. The dam has already received minor surface damage from artillery strikes but is reportedly structurally sound. The destruction of the dam would be devastating, and it is unlikely that either Ukraine or Russia intend to destroy it. These evacuations are most likely a further continuation of the ongoing, large-scale evacuations across the Kherson region as the fighting intensifies.

Sources

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