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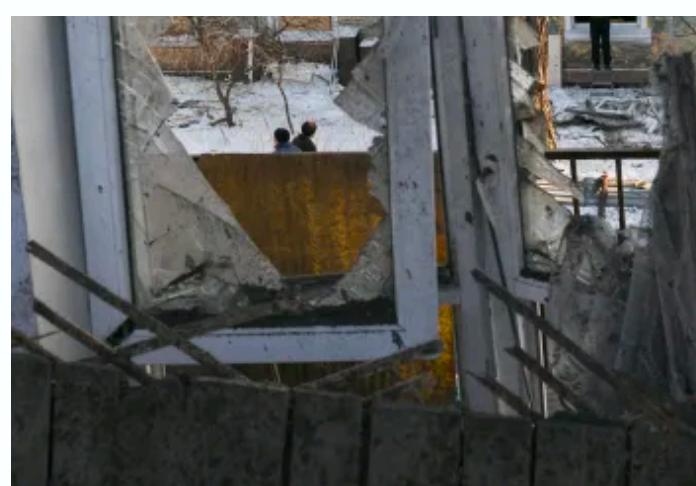
HEAVY SHELLING AND RENEWED MISSILE STRIKES IN UKRAINE

On Saturday, Russia unleashed its fourth missile and drone onslaught since two weeks ago in Ukraine. These attacks were used around the nation in order to target aircrafts and the Ukrainian air defense. While Ukrainian forces were able to intercept eight of the inbound missiles and use other electronic countermeasures to disrupt 20 others, Chernihiv and Dnipro were among the areas that suffered direct hits.

Chernihiv has previously endured damage, and this time the missiles have struck unoccupied residential buildings. Fortunately, there were no casualties due to the fact that locals have already evacuated the area. Similarly, Dnipro, another strategically important center in eastern Ukraine, also faced incoming strikes. However, no people were hurt during the process. Moscow claimed that the attacks were aimed only at Ukrainian military-industrial facilities that produced drones, ammunition, or at unmanned aircrafts. Nevertheless, Ukrainian officials condemned the indiscriminate nature of the strikes and the effect it leaves on civilians, as well as populated regions.



The most recent strikes occur as Ukraine intensifies diplomatic attempts to persuade its foreign partners to provide more military and humanitarian support. During a recent visit to Kiev, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak made a major commitment to provide significant new military and financial help. Stephane Sejourne, France's new foreign minister, also visited the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, which highlights the continued attention that this is receiving on a global scale.



Despite the diplomatic flurry, it is evident that the increased Russian strikes mean that there are little prospects for a swift, fast resolution to the situation. This is because the scope and regularity of the bombardments reveals fears about a ground and aerial offensive and a potential new phase of the war. This growing anxiety highlights a critical necessity, that is the necessity for sustained international assistance and redoubled efforts towards finding a peaceful settlement.

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