

Zelensky Claims Russians Are Building 'Torture Chambers' In Occupied South

[Breitbart London](#) 18 Apr 2022



ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP via Getty Images

1:36

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) – Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian troops in southern Ukraine have been carrying out torture and kidnappings, and he called on the world Sunday to respond.

"Torture chambers are built there," Zelensky said in an evening address to the nation. "They abduct representatives of local governments and anyone deemed visible to local communities."

Zelensky said humanitarian aid has been stolen, creating famine.

In occupied parts of the Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions, he said, the Russians are creating separatist states and introducing Russia's currency, the ruble.

Intensified Russian shelling of Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, has killed 18 people and wounded 106 in the last four days alone, Zelensky said.

"This is nothing but deliberate terror. Mortars, artillery against ordinary residential neighbourhoods, against ordinary civilians," he said.

He said a planned Russian offensive in eastern Ukraine "will begin in the near future."

Zelensky again called for increased sanctions against Russia, including its entire banking sector and oil industry.

"Everyone in Europe and America already sees Russia openly using energy to destabilize Western societies," Zelensky said. "All of this requires greater speed from Western countries in preparing a new, powerful package of sanctions."