

Statement on the attack on Kakhovka Water Dam

L'Internationale Confederation

11 Jun 2023

L'Internationale confederation is deeply appalled by the news of the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam controlled by russian forces on 6 June, 2023. We strongly condemn the vicious attack on critical infrastructure that will cause irreversible damage, threatening to flood areas downstream along the Dnipro river and creating a human and environmental disaster that will devastate populated settlements and ecosystems in Southern Ukraine.

The destruction will result in the displacement of thousands of people, impacting the global food crisis and affecting access to drinking water in multiple cities. This act of environmental terrorism may also have terrible consequences for the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, which relies on the Kakhovka reservoir to access cooling water. The destruction of the dam is another infrastructural, ecological and epidemiological war crime. It is a deadly escalation of the russian attack on Ukraine by deploying ecocide and pollution as weapons alongside traditional instruments of war.

As Svitlana Matviyenko argues in her article "Pollution as a Weapon of War", the russian war machine uses ecocidal mechanisms as war tactics, discarding poisonous heavy metals that enter the groundwater and turn Ukrainian land into minefields; emitting huge amounts of carbon pollution into the air; destroying the biodiversity of fauna and flora on the territory of Ukraine; and putting occupied cities at risk of cholera epidemic.

We condemn this most recent human and ecological disaster. We ask friends and colleagues to join us in calling for a process of international investigation that immediately includes funds for the reconstruction of the region. We remain deeply worried about the ongoing escalation and see each day of war as an irreversible catastrophe. L'Internationale confederation again urges those who can to donate to the relief efforts. Please find a list of recommended organizations below.



View of the maritime district of Kherson flooded after destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam controlled by Russian forces. Photo: Albert Lores.

VOSTOK SOS

Fundraiser for: helping evacuate people with limited mobility and families with children and pets

PayPal: info@vostok-sos.org

Donate here: vostok-sos.org

Kyiv Animal Rescue Group

Fundraiser for: evacuating animals

PayPal: karg.paypal@gmail.com

Donate here: karg.kiev.ua

Ukrainian Firefighters Foundation

Fundraiser for: additional motorized pumps for the Kherson Emergency Service

PayPal: bimbirayte@gmail.com

Donate here: firefighters.com.ua

Rescue Now UA

Fundraiser for: helping the locals

PayPal: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=WYLAFCJ7PHG2Y

Donate here: rescuenow.com.ua

Helping To Leave

Fundraiser for: immediate evacuation

Donate here: buy.stripe.com

Bogdan Logvynenko, Ukrainian Founder

Fundraiser for: helping evacuate people

Donate here: <https://send.monobank.ua/jar/8E7RWMjKaM>

Or here: quicknote.io

UNITED24

Fundraiser for: rescue vessels, motor pumps, flashlights, diving suits, portable water filtration stations, underwater drones for identifying explosives, and rescue equipment

Donate here: u24.gov.ua

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