

Beat: Politics

## Russia activates its nuclear arsenal against NATO

Given her "aggressive attitude"

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**USPA NEWS** - Russian President Vladimir Putin put his nuclear arsenal on "special combat alert" this Sunday, in the face of NATO's "aggressive attitude." The Atlantic Alliance deployed defensive land and air forces in the eastern part of the Alliance, and maritime assets across the NATO area. They also activated "NATO's defense plans to prepare ourselves to respond to a range of contingencies and secure Alliance territory, including by drawing on our response forces," the Alliance explained. These statements were described as a "threat" by Putin, the same day that the next meeting between delegations from Russia and Ukraine in search of an end to the war was confirmed.

After the Russian invasion of Ukraine began, President Putin threatened NATO countries with a nuclear response for their deployment of forces on the Alliance's eastern flank; to Sweden and Finland if they persist in their desire to join the Atlantic Alliance, and even to Ukraine, where it could already have used nuclear weapons. According to several observers on the ground, the bomb that destroyed an oil pipeline this weekend near the city of Jakov, the second largest in Ukraine, generated a fungus characteristic of nuclear weapons.

Russia's strategic containment forces include all its nuclear missiles, including those with intercontinental range, as well as its anti-missile defense systems and its non-nuclear strategic forces. The latter include long-range bombers and submarines, surface ships and aircraft capable of carrying conventional long weapons. In addition, during the joint maneuvers with Belarus that took place in the weeks prior to the invasion of Ukraine, Russia fine-tuned its new hypersonic rockets, which, in March 2018, Putin presented to the National Assembly as "invulnerable" against anti-missile shield of NATO.

Putin is demanding that NATO expel members that joined the Alliance after 1997, including the Baltic states, Hungary and Romania. And he maintains his demand that Ukraine can never join NATO. Demands that the Atlantic Alliance rejects, while insisting that Russia withdraw from Ukraine. This Sunday, the Russian artillery continued to bombard Kiev. The Russian troops are seven kilometers from the center of the Ukrainian capital, where the population tirelessly manufactures Molotov cocktails to throw at Russian tanks. Those responsible for the offensive admitted this Sunday that they are advancing more slowly than expected, due to the resistance put up by the Ukrainian army.

And meanwhile, this Sunday it was confirmed that delegations from Russia and Ukraine will hold a meeting in the next few hours, on the border of Belarus, to negotiate the end of the war. The proposal came from the Kremlin, although at first the Ukrainian Government refused to hold the meeting in Belarus, from where missiles have been fired at Ukrainian cities. It was in the early afternoon when the Government of Ukraine agreed to hold the meeting, after a telephone conversation between the presidents of Ukraine and Belarus.

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**Editorial program service of General News Agency:**

UPA United Press Agency LTD

483 Green Lanes

UK, London N13NV 4BS

contact (at) unitedpressagency.com

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