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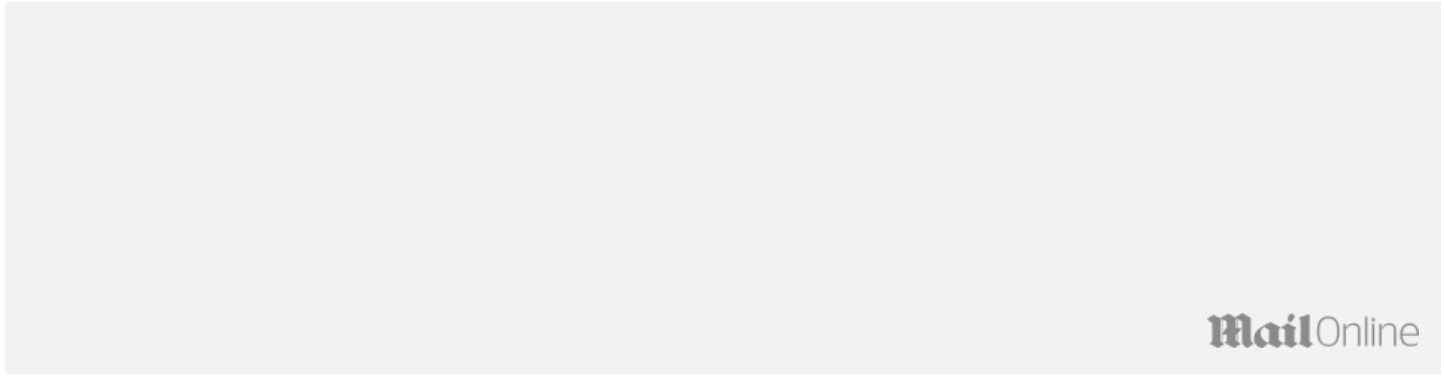
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## The Brits ready to die fighting Putin's elite troops: Soldier of fortune who battled ISIS with Kurdish militia is among expats on the Ukrainian frontline waiting for war

- Shaun Pinner, 48, is one of at least ten Britons who have travelled to Ukraine
- There they are taking on pro-Moscow separatists as the threat of invasion grows
- He is joined by Aiden Aslin, 28, a former carer who fought Isis in Syria for months

By [CHRIS MATTHEWS FOR MAILONLINE](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 20:21 GMT, 1 February 2022 | **UPDATED:** 20:31 GMT, 1 February 2022

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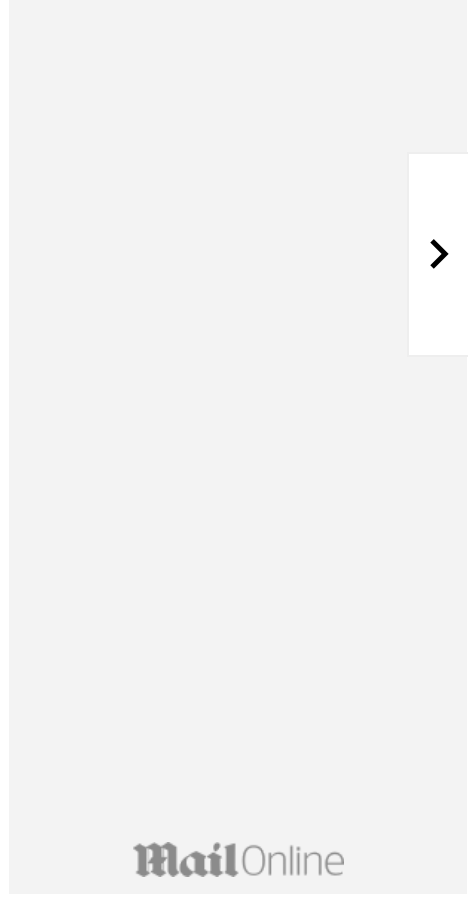
A soldier of fortune who battled **ISIS** with Kurdish militia is among expats on the Ukrainian frontline waiting for war.

Aiden Aslin, 28, is a former carer who previously fought against Isis in **Syria**.

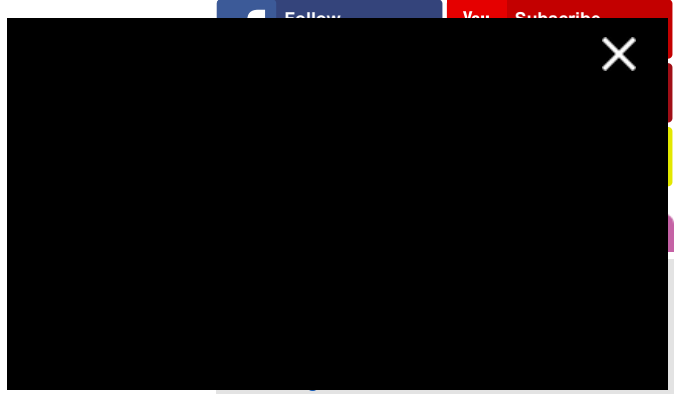
He said being on the frontline in **Ukraine** was 'mentally exhausting'.

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Aiden Aslin, 28, (pictured) is a former carer who previously fought against Isis in Syria. Now he is prepared to fight against a Russian invasion of Ukraine



Shaun Pinner, 48, (pictured) is one of at least ten UK nationals who have travelled to the country's wartorn eastern region, known as the Donbas, to take on pro-Moscow separatists

'The threat of danger is constant and something as simple as going to could end up with you getting injured because drones can drop gren Jazeera.

performance



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Mr Aslin previously spent ten months in **Iraq** fighting **Islamic State**.

On his return home in 2016 he was arrested.

He was held for 30 hours after officers boarded his plane at Heathrow, where members of his family were eagerly awaiting his arrival.



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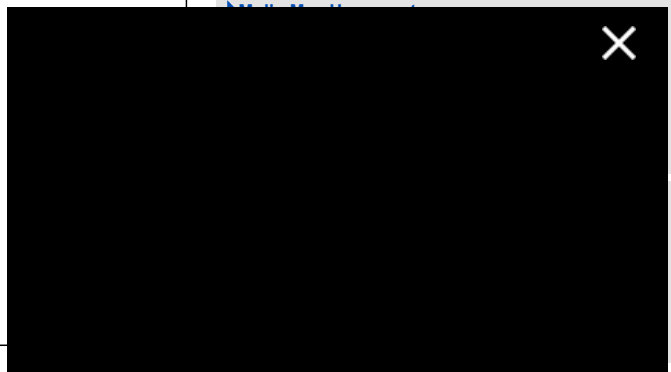
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▶ **David Beckham moans** that wife Victoria **ONLY** eats grilled fish and vegetables as he gets experimental in the kitchen

▶ **Strictly's Amy Dowden** is seen for the first time since being rushed to hospital for second time in eight weeks after suffering Crohn's flare up while on tour

▶ **Elizabeth Hurley, 56,** flaunts her incredible figure in a yellow bikini during her 'pretend vacation'



**Mr Pinner, who previously served in the Royal Anglian Regiment, said he fought with the Ukrainian army as a 'contract soldier'**

He was immediately taken to Nottinghamshire Police headquarters for questioning over a suspected terrorism offence.

Now, in Ukraine, he is not the only Britain ready to fight off a Russian invasion.

The former carer has been joined by ex-soldier Shaun Pinner, 48, from Bedfordshire.

Mr Pinner is married to a Ukrainian woman and has been in Donbas for the past four years.

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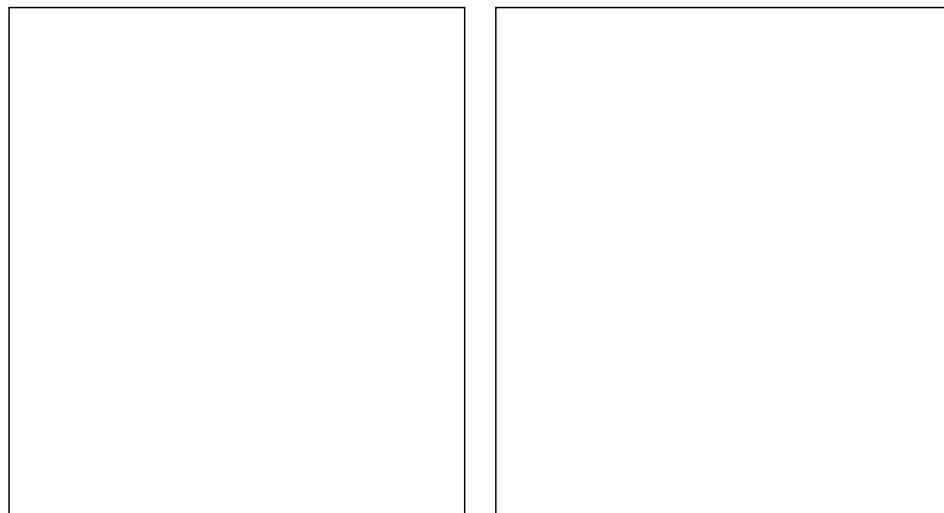


**'Don't let this madman force us from our homes again':...**

He previously served in the Royal Anglian Regiment and said he fought with the Ukrainian army as a 'contract soldier'.

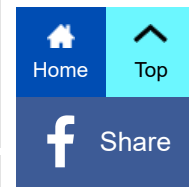
Speaking from a trench ten miles outside Mariupol, he said: 'I am here defending my family and adopted city. Russia started this war – it's funded by Russia and driven by Russia. But we will fight them, make no mistake about that.'

Mr Pinner said fighting in the trenches was 'like Hell', with snipers 'less than 600m away'.



**Both Mr Aslin (left) and Mr Pinner (right) are prepared to fight off a Russian invasion in Ukraine as they wait on the frontline**

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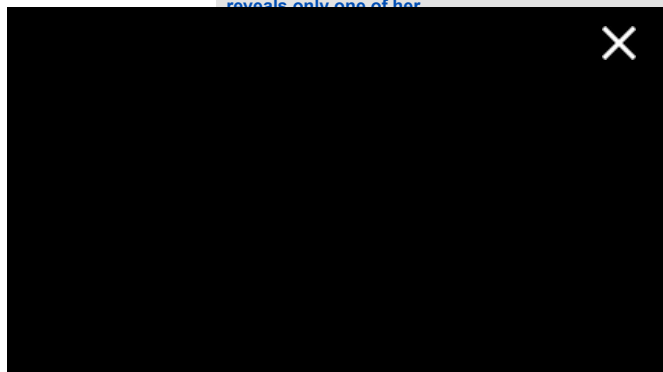
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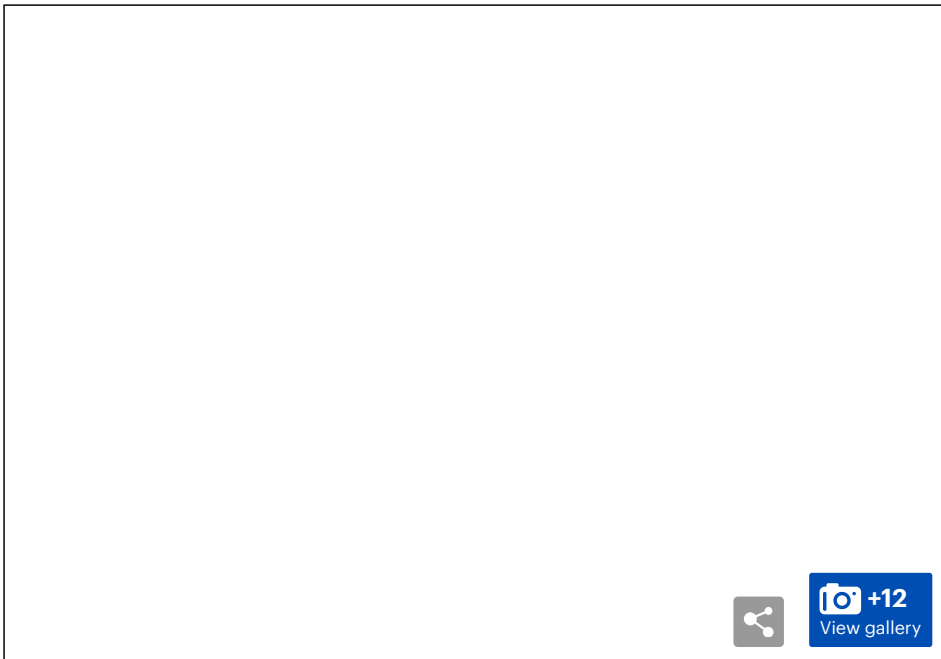
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▶ **Louise Thompson reveals only one of her**





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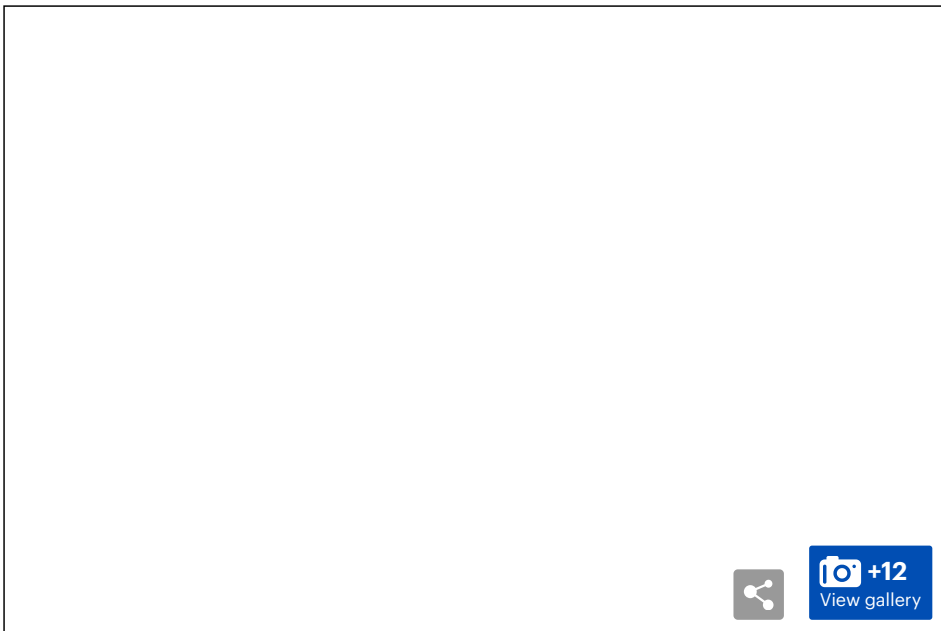
**Aiden Aslin, 28, was held for 30 hours by Nottinghamshire Police on his return to the UK from Iraq in 2016**

Mr Pinner said there has been tension in Ukraine' for years'.

'It's only new to Europe, who have finally woken up to what's happening here,' he told Al Jazeera.

Mr Pinner is one of the oldest in his unit, which has three Brits and one Croatian as well as Ukrainians.

The team is known as the Marines First Battalion. 'I've always got something to prove,' Mr Pinner added.



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**A photograph shows tanks of the 92nd separate mechanized brigade of Ukrainian Forces parked in their base near Klugino-Bashkirivka village, in the Kharkiv region**

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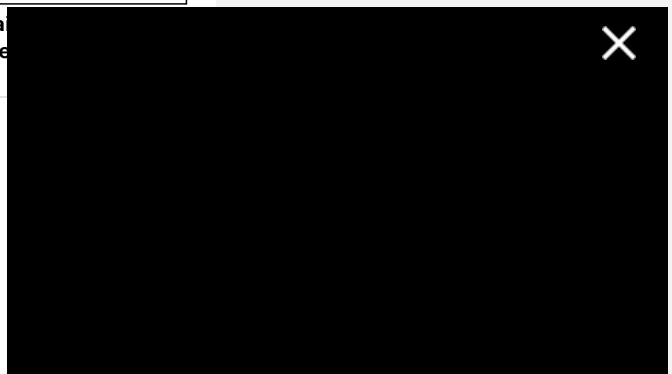
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▶ Kristen Bell models an all black outfit in Los Angeles... after sharing her daughter Delta, six, questioned if she was really a 'zombie'

▶ Nick Cannon reveals he started his 'celibacy journey' after telling therapist he was expecting EIGHTH child: 'I felt like my life was out of control'

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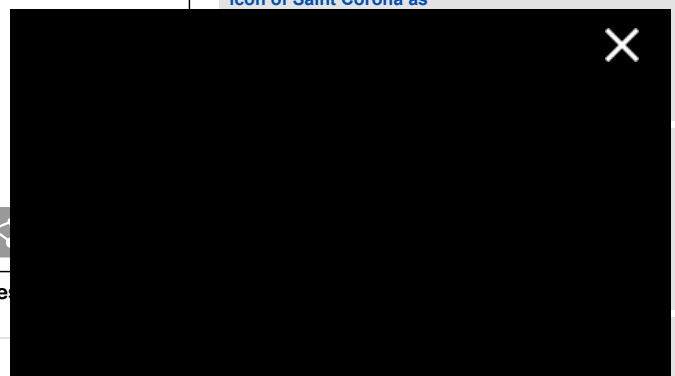
Putin is now believed to have up to 130,000 troops on Ukraine's borders (military drills pictured in Ivanovo region)

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A Ukrainian serviceman adjusts the strap of his weapon in a trench at a frontline position in the Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine on Monday, Jan. 31

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Pictured: An instructor trains members of Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces military units of the Armed Forces, in a city park in Kyiv, Ukraine



He said: 'Separatists are now using drones to drop bombs and mortars – along with automatic grenade launchers and RPG rockets. Snipers are always present and there's small arms fire almost daily.

'Ukrainian forces respond if we deem our lives to be threatened whereas separatists seem to shoot whenever they fancy.

'Sometimes it's very scary no matter how used to it you are. Sometimes you hear it [explosions] start further down the contact line, then it ripples through your position.

'That's why you get time to dive into cover and sometimes you may get a warning beforehand. Snipers are less than 600m away.'

Mr Pinner added: 'This is my ninth war tour. Death has been a part of my life for so long. You can't go into each day thinking you will be killed or injured.

'I fear for my life. The Russians will treat us differently if we are captured because we are British. This is always on my mind – that I will be captured.

### 'I'm not just a war junkie', says Briton ready to defend Ukraine



'I'm not just another war junkie. I have excelled better than most Ukrainians. I am the first Westerner to complete all aspects of parachute training as a Ukrainian soldier.'

More than 14,000 people have been killed over the past eight years of conflict since Kremlin-backed forces seized large areas of eastern Ukraine alongside the border with Russia.

They include the Donbas region which is currently run by Vladimir Putin stooges in their own mini-fiefdoms from the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Meanwhile, with more than 100,000 Russian troops camped on Ukraine's northern, eastern and southern borders, the US has sent 90 tons of 'lethal aid' to the country.

The military aid package, worth £147 million, included ammunition for 'front-line defenders'. It arrived a day after US Secretary of State Antony Blinker... of tough US response if Russia invaded.

This weekend, Ukraine's intelligence service accused Russia of sending fuel to pro-Russian militia on the frontline in Donbas.

The Russians sent 7,000 tons of fuel, several tanks and self-propelled the frontline regions, it said.

It came as Boris Johnson arrived in Ukraine today as pro-Kremlin med mocked his Partygate woes and marriage - and Vladimir Putin snubb calls.

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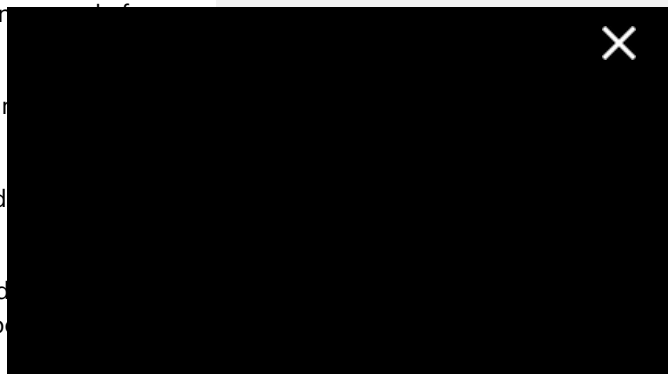
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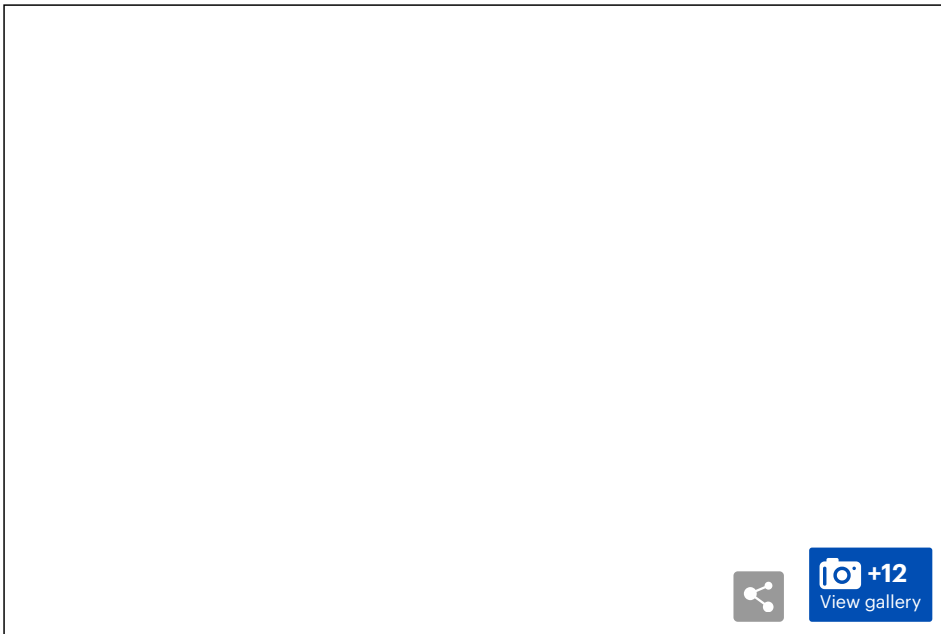
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▶ [Farrah Abraham beams at Beverly Hills bash with her father Michael and daughter Sophia... after saying she's been 'really suicidal' since arrest](#)

▶ [Ronnie Wood, 74, is joined by wife Sally, 44, as he proudly unveils his new painting of The Rolling Stones Rock icon](#)

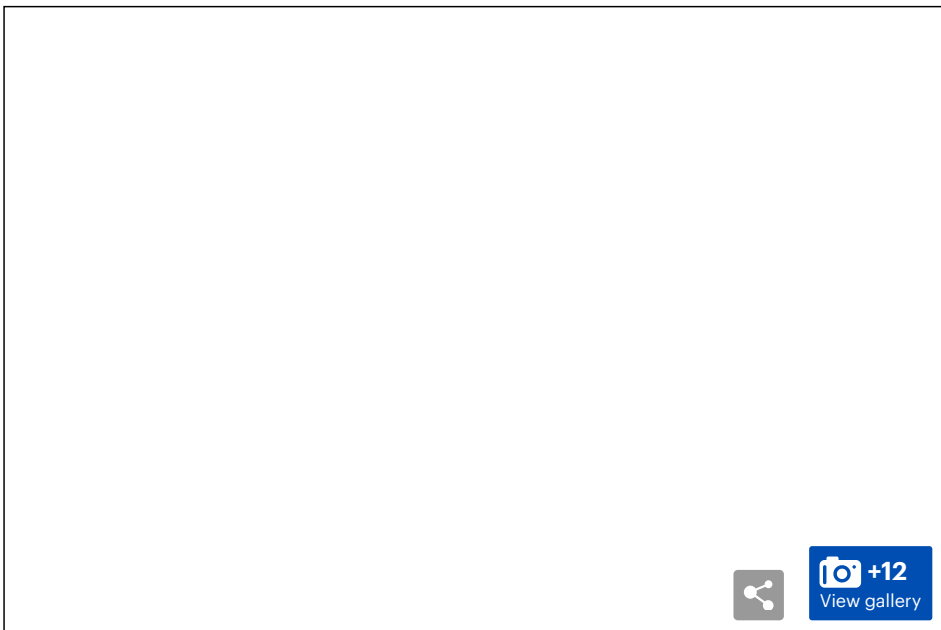
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Speaking during a joint press conference in Kiev alongside the Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Mr Johnson said the world must face up to the 'grim reality' of more than 100,000 Russian troops massed at the border



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Boris Johnson today warned Vladimir Putin he will be hit with crippling economic sanctions 'the moment the first Russian toe cap crosses' into Ukraine as the PM cautioned the Kremlin against a potential invasion

### PM Boris Johnson confirms he is to speak with Putin on Wednesday



- ▶ Keshla looks unrecognizable with new brunette bob hair cut as she shows off her latest hair transformation to fans
- ▶ Maisie Smith cuts a casual figure in a camouflage tracksuit and ear muffs as she joins Tilly Ramsay and Nikita Kuzmin in Sheffield
- ▶ Sadie Frost, 56, shares cryptic post about 'lying, cheating, gaslighting narcissist exes'... four months after split from partner of eight years
- ▶ Kim Kardashian lands a modeling job! The star, 41, shows off her curves in a skintight black outfit for one of her favorite brands, Balenciaga
- ▶ 'Daddy's girl!': Stacey Solomon and Joe Swash are every inch the doting parents as they cradle a smiley Rose, three months
- ▶ Victoria's Secret vet Elsa Hosk flashes her very fit tummy in a crop top and jeans... one year after welcoming her first child
- ▶ Katie Price shares busty new snaps to her £11 OnlyFans page in black lace lingerie... after fiancé Carl Woods posted full front image
- ▶ Pink to make the boys wink! Chloe Ferry shows off her hourglass curves in a figure-hugging fuchsia dress as she poses up a storm
- ▶ Jennifer Lopez says she's 'lucky' to have Ben Affleck and is 'so proud of the man he's become' as she gushes over their rekindled romance
- ▶ Luther actor Idris Elba

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Still reeling from news that police are investigating four allegedly lockdown-busting bashes he attended, the PM arrived in Kiev where he was set to meet president Volodymyr Zelensky and hold a press conference against the backdrop of Moscow's menacing military mobilisation.

Posing with Mr Zelensky before their talks, Mr Johnson said: 'I think Kiev is looking good, it's looking fantastic, it's looking strong. Seriously.'

However, his diplomatic mission got off to a rocky start after President Putin refused to reschedule their phone conversation - which had to be delayed last night while Mr Johnson fielded furious questions from MPs.

TV channels in Russia have been revelling in his discomfort, with one branding him 'the most disliked, disrespected and ridiculed character in Britain' who was 'completely under the control and heel of his young wife' Carrie.

They declared that the Partygate report would have ended up in the 'Victorian sewers' of London if it were up to the PM.

Deputy PM Dominic Raab tried to shrug off the delay to the call with Mr Putin this morning, saying there are 'always scheduling issues between any two heads of government' and claiming Mr Johnson has been 'leading the transatlantic response' to the crisis.

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▶ Kym Marsh gives a sweet nod to her army major husband Scott Ratcliff as she steps out in a camouflage coat in Manchester

▶ Rihanna's father Ronald Fenty is 'ecstatic' after learning of his daughter's pregnancy: 'I'm so happy that I jumped for joy'

▶ Super Bowl singers: Mickey Guyton will belt out the National Anthem and Jhené Aiko will perform America the Beautiful

▶ 'Fits like a glove, albeit a very tight one': Rhian

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