

WorldNews

FG moves to rescue Nigerian students still trapped in Ukraine • As over 300 Nigerians arrive

• US, Europe weigh plans for Ukrainian government in exile

By Victoria Ojeme,
with agency reports

THE Federal Government has concluded plans to rescue Nigerian students trapped in Sumy, in the north eastern part of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, a new batch of 306 Nigerians returned home from war-ravaged Ukraine yesterday.

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, NiDCOM, stated that they arrived at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja at 00:30 a.m. aboard Air Peace Boeing 777-300 Flight APK 7534, through Budapest, Hungary.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made contact in the the Ukraine north east city of Sumy on quick evacuation of Nigeria students stuck in the region.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyeama on his *Twitter* handle said that he has spoken to Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmitro Kuleba over the possibility of the evacuation of Nigerian students.

Similar telephone conversation was made between the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyeama and the President of Nigerian Students Union, Fehintola Damilola Moses.

Meanwhile the Nigerian Ambassador to Ukraine is said to be following up for the successful evacuation of the students.

The arrivals increased the number of Nigerians evacuated by the Federal Government to 1,112 as 807 others had earlier been evacuated in three batches as at Saturday.

NiDCOM stated also that the returnees were excited to be home after the uncertainty of fleeing from the war.

They applauded the speedy response of the Federal Government to their plight, NiDCOM added.

Reports say many Nigerians and other nationals have fled Ukraine into nearby countries since Russia launched a full-scale war on its neighbour on Feb. 24.

The Nigerian government approved the release of 8.5 million dollars on Wednesday for the immediate evacuation of at least 5,000 Nigerians fleeing the Russian-Ukrainian conflict zone to Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia.

NiDCOM has been at the forefront of the evacuation.

US, Europe weigh plans for Ukrainian government in exile

US and European officials have been discussing how the West would support a government-in-exile helmed by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should he have to flee Kyiv, western officials tell CNN.

The discussions have ranged from supporting Zelensky and top Ukrainian officials in a potential move to Lviv in western Ukraine, to the possibility that Zelensky and his aides are forced to flee Ukraine altogether and establish a new government in Poland, the officials said.

The discussions are only preliminary and no decisions have been made, the sources said.

Western officials have also been wary of discussing a government-in-exile directly with Zelensky, because he wants to stay in Kyiv, and has so far rejected conversations that focus on anything other than boosting Ukraine in its fight against Russia, two western diplomats explained. They added that there have been discussions about sending one or more members of Zelensky's government to an external location where a government could be set up in case Kyiv falls and Zelensky is unwilling or unable to get out.

"The Ukrainians have plans in place that I'm not going to talk about or get into any detail about to make sure that there is continuity of government one way or another, and I'm going to leave it at that," Secretary of State Antony Blinken told CBS on Sunday.

US and European officials believed in the earlier days of the war that Zelensky moving to Lviv might be feasible because it was not clear whether Russia would target western Ukraine. But now—given Russia's dramatic escalation over the last several days against civilian targets across Ukraine—they are not as sure that Russia will spare any inch of Ukrainian territory.

Moldova seeks US support over Ukraine war refugees

Moldova's Prime Minister Natalia Gavrilita has called on the United States to increase its humanitarian assistance to the country, as the number of refugees arriving from war-struck



The Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant is seen in this handout photo provided by the Ukrainian National Nuclear Energy Generation Company Energoatom, after it was attacked by Russian forces.

Ukraine reached 120,000.

Her comments came yesterday at the beginning of a meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"As of this morning, we had more than 230,000 people who have crossed the border from Ukraine, and 120,000 stayed in Moldova — 96,000 of them are Ukrainian citizens. For a small country like Moldova, proportionately, this is a very large number," Gavrilita told Blinken.

"Everybody has come together to host, to provide shelter, to provide food, to provide assistance to those who are fleeing war," she said. "But we will need assistance to deal with this influx, and we need this quickly."

According to the latest United Nations figures released earlier on Sunday, the number of people who have reached Moldova is 103,254.

Blinken, who is on the third stop of a Europe trip to shore up unity against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, said Moldova "can count on us across the board" for support.

"We admire the generosity, the hospitality, the willingness to be such good friends to people who are in distress. And indeed we can to help you deal with the burden this is imposing."

Russia already has troops in the country of 2.6 million that are stationed in the disputed territory of Transnistria. Although Moldova has no plans to try to become a member of NATO, the former Soviet republic formally applied to join the European Union on Thursday, a week after the war in Ukraine erupted, in a fast-track bid to bolster its ties with the West.

Zhytomyr under heavy shelling as civilians pledge to fight
Civilians in Zhytomyr, 150 kilometres (93 miles)

west of Kyiv, have pledged to remain and fight despite heavy Russian shelling that devastated dozens of buildings and killed several people, including children.

"It's difficult for civilians to understand what was the purpose of these strikes," Al Jazeera's Step Vaessen reported, noting that the town is a few hundreds

meters away from a military base.

"The anger here is unbearable," she said as she walked through the rubble of one of the three residential areas that were flattened by the attacks. "People are really defiant ... they are saying they are not going anywhere and if the Russians come we will fight

them," she added.

Residents in Zhytomyr look through the rubble.

Civilians in Zhytomyr have pledged to remain and fight.

Sanctions on Russia not linked with Iran nuclear talks: Blinken

The sanctions imposed on Russia over its Ukraine invasion have nothing to do with a potential nuclear deal with Iran, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said.

The comment follows Russia's demand on Saturday for written guarantees from Washington that its punitive measures would not harm cooperation on Iran.

In an interview with CBS's "Face the Nation" show, Blinken said "the sanctions that have been put in place ... on Russia have nothing to do with the Iran nuclear deal and the prospects of getting back into that agreement."

"These things are totally different and just are not, in any way, linked together," he said.

More than 3,500 detained at anti-war protests in Russia

More than 3,500 people have been detained at protests across Russia against President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine, according to data provided by Russian authorities.

BRISCOE

R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC
RC 1482

LAGOS, 4 MARCH 2022

NOTICE OF DELAY IN THE FILING OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021 AND THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

The Board and Management of R.T. Briscoe (Nigeria) PLC ("the Company") hereby informs Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX or the Exchange), the Company's shareholders and the general public that filing of the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the year ended 31st December 2021 ("2021 AFS") would be delayed due to the required referral of the accounts to the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria for regulatory review.

As a consequence of the provisions of the Exchange's Listing Rules on filing of quarterly financial statements which preclude the Company from announcing subsequent interim accounts without having first filed its last audited financial statements, the filing of the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending 31st March 2022 ("2022 Q1 UFS") would also be delayed. We are confident that the 2021 AFS and the 2022 Q1 UFS would be filed at the latest on or before the 30th of June 2022.

Seiyi Onajide

SEYI ONAJIDE
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC