

UN secretary-general: Nuclear war is 'back within the realm of possibility'

UN Secretary-General António Guterres said nuclear war is "back within the realm of possibility" as Russia gave new orders to its nuclear forces as the war on Ukraine drags on.

"Raising the alert of Russian nuclear forces is a bone-chilling development," Guterres said while addressing media on Monday in New York. "The prospect of nuclear conflict, once unthinkable, is now back within the realm of possibility."

He added: "It's time to stop the horror unleashed on the people of Ukraine, and get on the path of diplomacy and peace."

A few days after Russian forces invaded Ukraine in late February, President Vladimir Putin ordered his country's nuclear deterrent forces on high alert. Putin blamed his move on NATO and economic sanctions imposed by Western countries.

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