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Zelenskyy: Russian aggression not limited to Ukraine alone

В. Зеленський: російська агресія не обмежується лише Україною

Своїм вторгненням в Україну росія націлена на всю Європу, і припинення агресії Москви є важливим для безпеки всіх демократій, заявив Президент України Володимир Зеленський, в той час коли російські сили готуються до вирішального бою на сході України. Звертаючись до «вільних людей хороброї країни», В. Зеленський у відеозверненні до українців сказав, що військова мета росії «не мала обмежуватися лише Україною», а «ціллю є європейський проєкт загалом». Тому підтримати прагнення України до миру – це не просто моральний обов'язок усіх демократій, усіх сил Європи», – сказав він. «Це, по суті, стратегія оборони кожної цивілізованої держави». Його звернення прозвучало, коли мирні жителі продовжували евакуюватися зі східних регіонів країни перед очікуваним натиском, а працівники служби надзвичайних ситуацій шукали вцілілих у містах на північ від Києва, які були звільнені від російських військ.

<https://apnews.com/article/russia-ukraine-zelenskyy-kyiv-boris-johnson-europe-15d978d98fbdee7d22302d8d14e3dc58>



This satellite image provided by Maxar Technologies shows an overview of a convoy of armored vehicles and trucks moving the south, around Velykyi Burluk, east of Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine, on April 8, 2022. (Satellite image ©2022 Maxar Technologies via AP)

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia is targeting all of Europe with its [invasion of Ukraine](#), and stopping Moscow’s aggression is essential for the security of all democracies, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said as Russian forces prepared for battle in the east of his country.

Addressing the “free people of a brave country,” Zelenskyy said in a late night video message to Ukrainians that Russia’s war aim “was not intended to be limited to Ukraine alone” and the “entire European project is a target.”

“That is why it is not just the moral duty of all democracies, all the forces of Europe, to support Ukraine’s desire for peace,” he said. ”This is, in fact, a strategy of defense for every civilized state.”

His address came as civilians continued to flee eastern parts of the country before an expected onslaught and emergency workers searched for survivors in towns north of Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, that are [no longer occupied](#) by Russian forces.

Russia has pulled its troops from the northern part of the country and refocused on the eastern Donbas region, where Moscow-backed separatists have fought Ukrainian troops for eight years and controlled some territory before the war, now in its 46th day.

Western military analysts said an arc of territory in eastern Ukraine was under assault, from Kharkiv — Ukraine’s second-largest city — in the north to Kherson in the south. Newly released Maxar Technologies satellite imagery collected Friday showed an 8-mile (13-kilometer) convoy of military vehicles headed south to the Donbas through the town of Velykyi Burluk.

However, Western assessments expressed increasing confidence in the ability of Ukraine’s defenders to repel Russian assaults, portraying Russia’s troops as suffering from low morale and mounting casualties.



Britain’s Defense Ministry said Sunday that the Russian military was seeking to respond to mounting losses by boosting troop numbers with personnel who have been discharged from military service since 2012.

In an update on Twitter, the ministry also said that the Russian military’s efforts to “generate more fighting power” also include trying to recruit from Trans-Dniester, a breakaway region in Moldova that borders Ukraine.

Russia-backed separatists in eastern Moldova took up arms in 1992 to establish Trans-Dniester, which is not internationally recognized and where Russia maintains some 1,500 troops.

Several European leaders [have made efforts to show solidarity with battle-scarred Ukraine](#). In his video address, Zelenskyy thanked the leaders of Britain and Austria for their visits to Kyiv on Saturday and pledges of further support.

He also thanked the European Commission president and Canada's prime minister for a global fundraising event that brought in more than 10 billion euros (\$11 billion) for the millions of Ukrainians who have fled their homes.

Zelenskyy repeated his call for a complete embargo on Russian oil and gas, which he called the sources of Russia's "self-confidence and impunity." Some European countries depend heavily on imported Russian energy.

"Freedom does not have time to wait," Zelenskyy said. "When tyranny begins its aggression against everything that keeps the peace in Europe, action must be taken immediately."

[In an interview](#) with The Associated Press inside his heavily guarded presidential office complex, Zelenskyy said he was committed to negotiating a diplomatic end to the war even though Russia has "tortured" Ukraine.

He also acknowledged that peace likely will not come quickly. Talks so far have not included Russian President Vladimir Putin or other top officials.

"We have to fight, but fight for life. You can't fight for dust when there is nothing and no people. That's why it is important to stop this war," the president said.

Ukrainian authorities have accused Russia forces of committing war crimes against thousands of civilians during the invasion, including airstrikes on hospitals, a missile attack that killed 52 people at [a train station](#) Friday and shooting residents of towns in the north at close range.

[Graphic evidence of civilian slayings](#) emerged after Russian forces withdrew from Bucha, and firefighters were searching buildings in Borodyanka, another settlement outside Kyiv. Russia has denied engaging in war crimes and [falsely claimed](#) that the scenes in Bucha were staged.

Ukrainian authorities have said they expect to find more mass killings once they reach the [southern port city of Mariupol](#), which is also in the Donbas and has been subjected to a monthlong blockade and intense fighting. The city's location on the Sea of Azov is critical to establishing a land bridge from the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia seized from Ukraine eight years ago.

Ukrainian officials have pleaded with Western powers almost daily to send more arms and further punish [Moscow with sanctions](#), including the exclusion of Russian banks from the global financial system and a total EU embargo on [Russian gas and oil](#).

During his visit Saturday, Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer said he expects more EU sanctions against Russia, but defended his country's opposition so far to cutting off deliveries of Russian gas.

A package of sanctions imposed this week "won't be the last one," the chancellor said, acknowledging that "as long as people are dying, every sanction is still insufficient." Austria is militarily neutral and not a member of NATO.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit came a day after the U.K. pledged an additional 100 million pounds (\$130 million) in high-grade military equipment. Johnson also confirmed further economic support, guaranteeing an additional \$500 million in World Bank lending to Ukraine, taking Britain's total loan guarantee to up to \$1 billion.

In the interview with AP, Zelenskyy noted the increased support but expressed frustration when asked if weapons and equipment Ukraine has received from the West is sufficient to shift the war's outcome.

“Not yet,” he said, switching to English for emphasis. “Of course it’s not enough.”

Anna reported from Bucha, Ukraine. Associated Press journalists around the world contributed to this report.