# Putin lays out new conditions for ending conflict in Ukraine



Russian President Vladimir Putin has laid out new conditions for ending the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. During a meeting with diplomats at the Russian foreign ministry, Putin demanded that Ukraine cede control of the entire regions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia and that these areas be internationally recognized as Russian territory. Additionally, Ukraine must withdraw its bid to join NATO and pull its troops deeper into its own territory. Putin also insisted that all Western financial sanctions against Russia be lifted.

These demands coincided with a summit in Switzerland, attended by representatives from over 90 countries, including Ukraine, to discuss a Western-led peace plan. Russia was not invited to this event. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin dismissed Putin's demands, stating that Putin could end the war immediately if he chose to.

Ukrainian officials, including presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak, quickly rejected Putin's terms, referring to them as a "complete sham." Former Russian diplomat Boris Bondarev echoed these sentiments, noting that Putin's peace proposal does not alter Russia's hard-line stance on the conflict. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy had previously put forward a 10-point peace plan that required Russia to withdraw from Ukrainian territory and establish a tribunal for war crimes, which remains in stark contrast to Putin's demands.