# Elon Musk stirs controversy with Ukraine sanctions suggestion



Elon Musk, the billionaire CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has recently stirred controversy with his comments regarding the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. On Sunday, Musk suggested that imposing sanctions on Ukraine's wealthy elite could be a solution to halting the protracted war with Russia, a statement that diverges sharply from the prevailing strategy of penalising Moscow for its invasion. In a post on X, Musk stated, “Place sanctions on the top 10 Ukrainian oligarchs, especially the ones with mansions in Monaco, and this will stop immediately. That is the key to the puzzle.”

These remarks come amidst intensifying discussions in Washington surrounding the viability of continued US military and financial assistance to Ukraine as the war drags on without a clear resolution. Prominent figures, such as Republican Senator Mike Lee from Utah, have voiced opposition to further aid, advocating for a reassessment of American support.

Musk, who has played a pivotal role in Ukraine's military communications via his Starlink satellite internet system, has faced significant backlash for suggesting sanctions against Ukraine rather than Russia. In defending his comments, he referenced his past challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin for a one-on-one combat over Ukraine, stating that “my Starlink system is the backbone of the Ukrainian army. Their entire front line would collapse if I turned it off.” He further expressed outrage over the ongoing conflict, characterising it as a “meat grinder” that needs to end, with calls for “PEACE NOW!”.

In an exchange on social media, Musk's comments led to a confrontation involving Poland's Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski and United States Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Sikorski contested Musk's boasts regarding Starlink, revealing that Poland is financing approximately $50 million annually for the service, and warned that if SpaceX failed to provide reliable support, Poland would seek alternatives. Musk retorted with a dismissive comment, labelling Sikorski a “small man” and asserting that there are no comparable alternatives to Starlink’s capabilities.

The exchange escalated tensions, with Rubio defending Musk’s contributions to Ukraine’s defence and insisting that Musk had not threatened to stop the service. He stated, “Without Starlink, Ukraine would have lost this war long ago,” emphasising the critical role the technology plays in the country's military operations.

As discussions around the war’s future unfold, American officials are also engaging in high-level meetings in Saudi Arabia to explore potential pathways towards peace, highlighting the complexities surrounding the conflict. Musk’s latest remarks are seen as not only provocative but as an indication of the difficult position facing Ukraine, where allegations of corruption among oligarchs persist, fuelling debate about who truly benefits from the prolonged conflict.

While Musk remains a key figure in providing support to Ukraine, his comments and the resulting debate illuminate the challenges and divergent views surrounding international responses to the ongoing war. His suggestion for sanctions against Ukrainian oligarchs raises critical questions for the future of US and allied support for the nation in its fight for sovereignty against Russian aggression.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/challenged-putin-to-combat-supported-ukraine-with-starlink-elon-musk/articleshow/118816050.cms> - This article supports Elon Musk's comments about challenging Putin and the critical role of Starlink in Ukraine's military communications. It also mentions his call for sanctions on Ukrainian oligarchs as a potential solution to end the war.
* <https://www.news18.com/world/elon-musks-latest-warning-to-zelenskyy-ukraines-entire-frontline-would-collapse-if-i-9255045.html> - This article corroborates Musk's assertion that Ukraine's frontline would collapse without Starlink and highlights his criticism of President Zelenskyy for pursuing a prolonged war.
* <https://www.businesstoday.in/world/us/story/entire-front-line-of-ukraine-would-collapse-if-elon-musk-slams-critics-calls-for-peace-in-russia-ukraine-war-467311-2025-03-09> - This article supports Musk's defense against accusations of siding with Russia, emphasizing his role in providing Starlink to Ukraine and his call for peace in the conflict.
* <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/04/22/2024-07496/guidance-for-federal-financial-assistance> - Although not directly related to the Ukraine conflict, this URL provides context on federal financial assistance, which could be relevant to discussions around US aid to Ukraine.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This is the source article itself, providing the initial context for Elon Musk's comments and the broader discussion around Ukraine and US support.
* <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4409058/> - This article does not directly support the claims about Ukraine but provides insight into the fallibility of memory and testimony, which could be tangentially relevant to understanding public perceptions and debates around the conflict.