# Lt Col Myrnyi urges UK troop deployment as Starmer signals readiness for combat role in Ukraine



Lt Col Roman Myrnyi, a frontline officer in Ukraine's Khartia Brigade, has called for an increase in Western military support, specifically urging the United Kingdom to send troops to Ukraine. In a recent interview from his command post in Kharkiv, Myrnyi expressed frustration over the imbalance in military engagement, pointing to the involvement of foreign fighters from nations such as China and North Korea in Russian forces. He articulated his belief that Ukraine should be afforded a measure of parity in this conflict, emphasising, “If North Koreans and Chinese are fighting with Russians, why can’t we have British or French troops?” He contended that the current influx of foreign volunteers to Ukraine does not equate to the substantial military backing Russia receives.

While the UK has focused on providing weapons and training, the demand for troop deployment reflects growing concerns regarding the nature of international involvement in the conflict. Myrnyi argued that direct support from British forces would not only enhance Ukraine's military capabilities but also serve as a crucial experience for European troops. His statement highlights an escalating sense of urgency as tensions with Russia continue to intensify. He remarked, “We are the country that was attacked, and that’s why we need help,” calling for a collective effort to deter Russian aggression.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has been responsive to calls for greater UK involvement. Following recent high-level discussions with European leaders, he has indicated readiness to contribute combat forces if it means enhancing Ukraine's security. In March 2025, Starmer announced the formation of a 'Coalition of the Willing,' aimed at curbing further Russian advances. This initiative involved a pledge to deploy both ground and air forces, reflecting a shift in Britain's previous stance, which had primarily revolved around logistics and equipment support.

The plan includes an ambitious proposal of deploying up to 30,000 troops from the UK and other European nations, aimed at bolstering Ukraine's defence while simultaneously avoiding direct confrontations with Russian forces. Important to this strategy is a reliance on advanced Western intelligence and surveillance capabilities to monitor and counteract Russian military movements. Starmer has underscored the necessity of strong US backing for any military involvement, indicating that a successful mission would depend on cohesive international support.

While there is broad agreement on the need for a robust response to Russian actions, potential deployment remains contentious. Starmer did not rule out a parliamentary vote on the matter, indicating an understanding of the political implications such a decision carries. Given the risks associated with engaging directly in a conflict involving a major power, the UK government is weighing its options carefully, aiming to balance humanitarian support for Ukraine with the strategic imperatives of national security.

As discussions progress, the international community watches closely, mindful that any increase in Western military presence poses significant risks not just to regional stability but also to broader international relations.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2063244/ukraine-demands-starmer-give-us)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2063244/ukraine-demands-starmer-give-us), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/volodymyr-zelensky-keir-starmer-ukraine-emmanuel-macron-donald-trump-b1214201.html), [[3]](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/mar/2/keir-starmer-says-europe-willing-lead-troops-secure-ukraine-peace/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/volodymyr-zelensky-keir-starmer-ukraine-emmanuel-macron-donald-trump-b1214201.html), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/16/starmer-ready-to-put-british-troops-on-the-ground-in-ukraine-if-peace-deal-reached), [[5]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-ukraine-donald-trump-eu-summit-emmanual-macron-b1211498.html), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/starmer-propose-30000-troops-ukraine-ceasefire-b1212208.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/mar/2/keir-starmer-says-europe-willing-lead-troops-secure-ukraine-peace/), [[6]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/starmer-propose-30000-troops-ukraine-ceasefire-b1212208.html), [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/17/pm-does-not-rule-out-vote-on-ukraine-peacekeeping-role-for-uk-troops)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2063244/ukraine-demands-starmer-give-us> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/volodymyr-zelensky-keir-starmer-ukraine-emmanuel-macron-donald-trump-b1214201.html> - In March 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer committed British troops and planes to a 'Coalition of the Willing' aimed at preventing further Russian aggression in Ukraine. This initiative followed a summit with European leaders in London, where Starmer emphasized the need for a collective European response to ensure Ukraine's security. He stated that while not all nations might contribute, those willing would intensify planning with urgency. The UK pledged to support this effort with both ground and air forces. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/volodymyr-zelensky-keir-starmer-ukraine-emmanuel-macron-donald-trump-b1214201.html?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/mar/2/keir-starmer-says-europe-willing-lead-troops-secure-ukraine-peace/> - Following the London summit, Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the formation of a 'coalition of the willing' to defend a peace deal in Ukraine. He highlighted that several countries had expressed interest in participating in this mission to bring lasting peace to Ukraine. Starmer emphasized Europe's readiness to take the lead in this endeavour, with the UK prepared to contribute troops and aircraft. He also noted the importance of strong U.S. backing for the success of this initiative. ([washingtontimes.com](https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2025/mar/2/keir-starmer-says-europe-willing-lead-troops-secure-ukraine-peace/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/16/starmer-ready-to-put-british-troops-on-the-ground-in-ukraine-if-peace-deal-reached> - In February 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed readiness to deploy British troops to Ukraine if a peace deal with Russia was achieved. He acknowledged the potential risks involved but emphasized the UK's commitment to ensuring Ukraine's security. Starmer highlighted the importance of European nations taking primary responsibility for this mission, with the UK prepared to play a leading role. He also underscored the necessity of U.S. support for a lasting peace agreement. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/feb/16/starmer-ready-to-put-british-troops-on-the-ground-in-ukraine-if-peace-deal-reached?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/keir-starmer-ukraine-donald-trump-eu-summit-emmanual-macron-b1211498.html> - In February 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer confirmed the UK's preparedness to deploy peacekeeping troops to Ukraine if a peace deal with Russia was reached. He acknowledged the potential risks involved but emphasized the UK's commitment to ensuring Ukraine's security. Starmer highlighted the importance of European nations taking primary responsibility for this mission, with the UK prepared to play a leading role. He also underscored the necessity of U.S. support for a lasting peace agreement. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/keir-starmer-ukraine-donald-trump-eu-summit-emmanual-macron-b1211498.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/starmer-propose-30000-troops-ukraine-ceasefire-b1212208.html> - In February 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer proposed a plan to deploy up to 30,000 British and European troops to Ukraine to deter future Russian aggression. The initiative aimed to provide reassurance to Ukraine while avoiding direct clashes with Russian forces. The plan included the use of Western intelligence capabilities, such as spy planes, drones, and satellites, to monitor Russian military activities. The mission would also focus on protecting Ukraine's air and maritime spaces. ([standard.co.uk](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/starmer-propose-30000-troops-ukraine-ceasefire-b1212208.html?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/17/pm-does-not-rule-out-vote-on-ukraine-peacekeeping-role-for-uk-troops> - In February 2025, Prime Minister Keir Starmer did not rule out the possibility of a parliamentary vote on deploying UK troops for peacekeeping in Ukraine. He emphasized the importance of European nations taking primary responsibility for the mission, with the UK prepared to play a leading role. Starmer also highlighted the necessity of U.S. support for a lasting peace agreement. The decision to deploy troops would be contingent on strong security guarantees from the U.S. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/feb/17/pm-does-not-rule-out-vote-on-ukraine-peacekeeping-role-for-uk-troops?utm_source=openai))