# President Biden authorises limited U.S. strikes in Russia to aid Ukraine defence in Kharkiv



President Joe Biden has authorized Ukraine to use U.S. weapons for strikes inside Russia, specifically targeting military sites contributing to recent attacks on Kharkiv, a city near the Russian border. This decision, taken after appeals from Ukrainian officials, comes amidst ongoing Russian advances in the region. The permission is strictly limited to counter-fire purposes in the Kharkiv area, without allowing long-range strikes deep into Russian territory.

This policy adjustment aligns with recent remarks by NATO and European leaders who argue that Ukraine must defend itself against attacks originating from Russia. President Emmanuel Macron of France and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg have both publicly supported Ukraine's right to target military sites in Russia.

The Biden administration's initial hesitance stemmed from concerns over potential escalation, which could drag NATO into a broader conflict. However, evolving battlefield conditions and international pressure have influenced this strategic shift.

The approved strikes enable Ukraine to respond more effectively to Russia's artillery and missile attacks launched from within its territory. While the U.S. still restricts the use of long-range systems like the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), this move is viewed as crucial for Ukraine to bolster its defense efforts around Kharkiv.

As the conflict continues, the U.S. policy remains adaptable, with officials prepared to reassess tactics as necessary to support Ukraine's defensive needs.