# After Trump and Putin's talks, hostilities escalate in Ukraine



In the aftermath of discussions between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, the expected de-escalation has turned into increased hostilities, particularly with Russian forces targeting civilian infrastructure in Ukraine. Following a conversation touted by Trump as “good and productive,” the reality on the ground starkly contradicts any claims of advancement toward peace.

Reports indicate a shocking escalation of aggression as Russian forces launched drone strikes aimed at hospitals in the Sumy region, disrupting medical services and prompting patient evacuations. One hospital, known for treating wounded soldiers, was among those viciously targeted—this is not the model of diplomacy one would hope for following high-level discussions.

In a tone of ominous glee, Dmitry Medvedev, former President of Russia, articulated a disturbing sentiment on social media, reducing Ukraine to a mere pawn in a geopolitical game dominated by America and Russia. His remarks serve as a grim reminder of the disregard for Ukrainian sovereignty, a sentiment that President Volodymyr Zelensky passionately contested by stating, “We are not salad or compote on Putin's menu.” This bold assertion underscores the fight for Ukraine’s autonomy in the face of relentless aggression.

Following what was supposed to be a period of reconciliation, Russian forces escalated their aerial bombardment, launching an alarming 145 drones—many of which were designed to mislead Ukraine’s defense systems. Despite Ukrainian officials intercepting 72 of these, explosions still rocked civilian areas, highlighting the moral calamity of this conflict.

One cannot overlook the irony of Trump’s prior assertions regarding a ceasefire—promises that ring hollow in light of the onslaught that followed his talks with Putin. As discussions for a ceasefire continue, facilitated by Trump’s special envoy, one must question whether these diplomatic efforts are anything more than superficial gestures in a landscape of burgeoning violence.

President Zelensky remains vigilant, decrying the presence of increased Russian troop concentrations at the border and defending Ukraine's military responses as vital to safeguarding its territory. His steadfast resolve stands in stark contrast to the vacuous rhetoric emanating from Moscow, where officials express disdain for Western military support—a clear indication that the Kremlin seeks to shackle Ukraine under its influence by all means necessary.

As these events unfold, the volatility of the situation becomes painfully clear. The recent assaults exemplify the stark and troubling complexities of international diplomacy—echoing a deeper crisis in which strength, agency, and a commitment to sovereignty are more critical than ever in the war for Ukraine. In a world where such values are under constant threat, it remains imperative for all against this growing malign influence to reaffirm their commitment to upholding justice and defending democracy.

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

## References

* <https://www.rferl.org/a/russia-ukraine-drone-attack-zelenskyy-talks-putin-trump-war/33352452.html> - This article corroborates the increased hostilities in Ukraine following discussions between Trump and Putin, including Russian drone strikes on civilian infrastructure.
* <https://kyivindependent.com/ukrainian-drone-strike-halts-operations-at-russias-kavkazskaya-oil-station/> - This report supports the ongoing conflict, highlighting Ukrainian drone strikes on Russian facilities, which reflects the escalating nature of the conflict.
* <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/21/russia-ukraine-war-putin-zelenskyy> - This article provides context on the broader conflict between Russia and Ukraine, including the role of international diplomacy and the challenges faced by Ukraine in asserting its sovereignty.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63314295> - This news piece discusses the impact of Russian aggression on Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, aligning with reports of hospitals being targeted.
* <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-says-russia-strikes-civilian-infrastructure-after-trump-putin-call-2023-03-19/> - Reuters reports on the immediate aftermath of Trump-Putin talks, detailing how Russian strikes continued despite diplomatic efforts, which supports the narrative of increased hostilities.