

1737

First public admission to the Salon de Paris art exhibition at the Louvre in Paris

1838

United States Exploring Expedition headed by Charles Wilkes departs for the Pacific Ocean and Antarctica



1919

Anti-Cigarette League of America forms in Chicago, Illinois

1940

Battle of Britain: Air battle known as "The Hardest Day" occurs; the Luftwaffe loses approximately 69 aircraft and the RAF 68 in one of the largest ever air battles

European leaders to join Zelensky in US for Ukraine talks with Trump

European leaders rally behind Zelensky after Trump-Putin summit yields no breakthrough

● Trump abandons ceasefire push post-summit

● Zelensky, Europe head to Washington

AFP | Washington

European leaders will join Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during his visit to Washington on Monday seeking an end to Moscow's invasion, after President Donald Trump dropped his push for a ceasefire following an Alaska summit with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Securing a ceasefire in Ukraine, more than three years after the Kremlin ordered the invasion, had been one of Trump's core demands before the summit, to which Ukraine and its European allies were not invited.

But after the meeting yielded no breakthrough, Trump ruled out an immediate ceasefire in Ukraine -- a move that would appear to favour Putin, who has long argued for negotiations on a final peace deal.

Ukraine and its European allies have criticised Putin's stance as a way to buy time and press Russia's battlefield advances.

The leaders heading to Washington on Monday to try and bend Trump's ear on the matter include British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who



France's President Emmanuel Macron, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz take part in a meeting during a NATO summit in The Hague (file photo)

is also going to the White House, said on X she would welcome Zelensky to Brussels yesterday for a meeting in Brussels the other European leaders would join by video.

Also heading to Washington will be Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Finnish President Alexander Stubb, who get on well with Trump.

The German government, which confirmed Merz was going, said it would try to emphasise "interest in a swift peace agreement in Ukraine".

Trump had briefed Zelensky and European leaders on his flight back from Alaska to Washington, saying afterwards that "it was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war

between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a peace agreement which would end the war".

Ceasefire agreements "often times do not hold up," Trump argued on his Truth Social platform.

But Zelensky has appeared unconvinced by the change of tack, saying on Saturday that it "complicates the situation".

If Moscow lacks "the will to carry out a simple order to stop the strikes, it may take a lot of effort to get Russia to have the will to implement (something) far greater -- peaceful coexistence with its neighbours for decades," he said on social media.

European leaders for their part have expressed unease over

Trump's outreach to Putin from the outset.

'Harsh reality'

Trump expressed support during his call with Zelensky and European leaders for a proposal by Putin to take full control of two eastern Ukrainian regions in exchange for freezing the frontline in two others, an official briefed on the talks said.

Putin "de facto demands that Ukraine leave Donbas," an area consisting of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions in eastern Ukraine, the source said.

In exchange, Russian forces would halt their offensive in the Black Sea port region of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in south-

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Putin's proposed deal would have required Ukraine to cede full control of Donetsk/Luhansk in exchange for Russia halting offensives in Kherson/Zaporizhzhia - regions it already partially occupies

ern Ukraine, where the main cities are still under Ukrainian control.

Several months into its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Russia in September 2022 claimed to have annexed all four Ukrainian regions even though its troops still do not fully control any of them.

"The Ukrainian president refused to leave Donbas," the source said.

Trump notably also said the United States was prepared to provide Ukraine security guarantees, an assurance Merz hailed as "significant progress".

But there was a scathing assessment of the summit outcome from the European Union's top diplomat Kaja Kallas, who accused Putin of seeking to "drag out negotiations" with no commitment to end the bloodshed.

"The harsh reality is that Russia has no intention of ending this war any time soon," Kallas said.



TOP
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TWEETS

01



Great to have you here, dear @ZelenskyyUa. We continue our co-operation to achieve a just peace that respects Ukraine & Europe's vital security interests. With the Coalition of the Willing in Brussels today, and in the White House with @POTUS tomorrow

02



Too many leaders today view human rights as the problem. We know human rights are the solution. They are the foundation of peace. They are the engine of progress. And they are the path out of conflict & chaos to security & hope.

03



I join @TheElders in calling on leaders to work towards permanent ceasefire and immediate access for humanitarian and health partners to scale up aid delivery. The best medicine is peace.

04



AI can transform our public services. But only with an active government willing to seize it. We're harnessing AI to free up doctors' time, speed up discharges, reduce waiting lists and get patients home quicker. This is our Plan for Change in action.

Israelis rally nationwide calling for end to Gaza war, hostage deal

AFP | Tel Aviv

Demonstrators across Israel called yesterday for an end to the Gaza war and a deal to release hostages still held by militants, a push lambasted by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies.

The protests come more than a week after Israel's security cabinet approved plans to capture Gaza City, following 22 months of war that have created dire humanitarian conditions in the Palestinian territory.

The war was triggered by Palestinian militant group Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, during which 251 people were taken hostage.

Forty-nine captives remain in Gaza, including 27 the Israeli military says are dead.

A huge Israeli flag covered with portraits of the remaining captives was unfurled in Tel Aviv's so-called Hostage Square -- which has long been a focal point for protests throughout the war.



A member of the Israeli security forces arrests a demonstrator, during an anti-government protest

Demonstrators also blocked roads, including the highway connecting Tel Aviv and Jerusalem where they set tires on fire, according to local media footage.

Israeli police said more than 30 protesters were arrested for disturbing public order.

Organisers also called for a general strike yesterday -- the

first day of the week in Israel.

"I think it's time to end the war. It's time to release all of the hostages. And it's time to help Israel recover and move towards

a more stable Middle East," said Doron Wilfand, a 54-year-old tour guide, at a rally in Jerusalem.

Nentanyahu slammed the protesters, saying their actions "not only harden Hamas's position and draw out the release of our hostages, but also ensure that the horrors of October 7 will re-occur".

'Shut down the country'

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum campaign group said in a statement that protesters would "shut down the country today (Sunday) with one clear call: Bring back the 50 hostages, end the war".

Their toll includes a soldier killed in a 2014 war whose remains are held by Hamas.

Recent videos released by Hamas and its ally Islamic Jihad showing two weak and emaciated captives have heightened concern for the fate of the hostages.

"If we don't bring them back now -- we will lose them forever," the forum said.

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)