

## Zelenskyy Rejects Trump's Ukraine Land Swap Proposal

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has publicly rejected a controversial proposal from former US President Donald Trump that suggested resolving the ongoing conflict in Ukraine through a land swap with Russia. The suggestion, which emerged earlier this year, has faced widespread criticism from Ukrainian officials and Western allies, who view it as undermining Ukraine's sovereignty.

The proposal involved Russia maintaining control over certain areas it currently occupies in eastern Ukraine, while Ukraine would gain other territories in exchange. Zelenskyy dismissed the idea, reaffirming his country's commitment to preserving its territorial integrity and sovereignty. He stressed that Ukraine would not cede any part of its land to Russia, regardless of the pressure from external parties.

In recent remarks, Zelenskyy emphasised that the Ukrainian government remains steadfast in its refusal to compromise on the country's internationally recognised borders. He pointed out that any solution to the conflict must respect Ukraine's rights as an independent nation. The president reiterated that Ukraine continues to resist Russian aggression through diplomatic efforts and defence measures.

Since Russia's invasion in February 2022, the conflict has resulted in significant casualties and widespread destruction across Ukraine. The ongoing war has drawn global attention and triggered an international response, including sanctions against Russia and military support for Ukraine from Western countries.

Trump's land swap idea was seen by many analysts as a departure from the mainstream Western position, which insists that Ukraine's sovereignty must be fully respected and any territorial changes must come through legitimate diplomatic negotiations. Critics argue that allowing Russia to keep occupied territories could encourage further aggression and set a dangerous precedent.

The Ukrainian leadership has consistently maintained that any peace agreement must involve the complete withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian soil. Zelenskyy has repeatedly highlighted the importance of upholding international law and human rights in the search for a lasting resolution.

Western governments have largely supported Ukraine's position, condemning Russia's actions and calling for a peaceful settlement that respects Ukraine's independence. Diplomatic efforts continue through various channels, although a definitive end to the conflict has yet to be reached.

As the war persists, Ukraine faces ongoing humanitarian challenges and the task of rebuilding its damaged infrastructure. Zelenskyy's rejection of the land swap proposal underscores Ukraine's determination to protect its sovereignty and seek a resolution based on justice and international norms.

