As Russia's war against Ukraine continues on the ground & in the air, Trump sets 10-day deadline for Russia to agree to ceasefire.

British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation on July 18, 2025.

As was the situation on July 18, the date of the most recent British Defence Intelligence map of the battlefield situation in Ukraine, last week the Russian forces continued to attack the Ukrainian forces that still hold a small portion of Russia's Kursk region on the border north of Sumy as well as those which defend Kharkiv and Kupiansk in northeastern Ukraine and those which defend the area west of Chasiv Yar and the city of Pokrovsk in Donetsk region. But as the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported in its daily updates last week, the Russian forces also continued to attack the Ukrainian forces defending other cities and towns in eastern Ukraine – among them, Lyman about 30 kilometers southeast of Izium, Kramatorsk about 25 kilometers northwest of Chasiv Yar, Toretsk about 20 kilometers south of Chasiv Yar, Vremivka about 50 kilometers south of Pokrovsk, the Orikhiv area southeast of Zaporizhzhia, and the area in Kherson region adjacent to the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine.

The General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces reported that over the past week from last Sunday through Saturday, the Russian forces conducted a total of 1,177 attacks against the Ukrainian forces defending the cities and towns in northeastern and eastern Ukraine, 112 less than the 1,289 attacks the Russian forces conducted in the previous week. As in the previous week, and indeed in every week for the past several months, the largest number of Russian attacks were directed against the Ukrainian forces defending Pokrovsk, an important transit hub on the highway that links Donetsk city with Dnipro that, if taken, would not only open a pathway westward toward Dnipro but

also a pathway northward toward Kostyantynivka, Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, and the remaining portion of Donetsk region still under Ukrainian control. Over the seven days last week, the Russian forces conducted 409 attacks against the Ukrainian forces defending Pokrovsk and the surrounding area, compared with 398 attacks in the previous seven days. And while the war continues on the ground, it also continues in the air with Russia firing hundreds of drones, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at Kyiv and other cities in Ukraine every night.

On July 14, speaking at the White House alongside NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte, President Trump, as he had previously on several occasions, expressed his mounting frustration with Putin, despite their several phone conversations: "I always hang up and say, 'Well, that was a nice phone call.' And then missiles are launched into Kyiv or some other city. And after that happens three or four times, you say, Talk doesn't mean anything." He said that if Russia doesn't agree to a ceasefire within "about 50 days," i.e., by September, he would impose "very severe tariffs," including 100 percent secondary tariffs on countries that purchase Russian oil.

Speaking yesterday in Scotland alongside British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, President Trump said he was disappointed in President Putin and was going to reduce the amount of time he would give him to agree to ceasefire and avoid the tariffs: "I'm disappointed in President Putin. I spoke to President Putin a lot. Got along with him very well. We thought we had that settled numerous times, and then President Putin goes out and starts launching rockets into some city like Kyiv and kills a lot of people in a nursing home or whatever. You have bodies lying all over the street, and I say that's not the way to do it. So we'll see what happens with that." He said he would probably formally announce a revision of his 50-day deadline "tonight or tomorrow." In response to a question, he said, "Yeah, I'm going to reduce that 50 days that I gave him to a lesser number. I'm going to make a new deadline of about 10 or 12 days from today. There's no reason to wait. I want to be generous, but we just don't see any progress being made…. You would think, based on common sense, you would think he'd want to make a deal. I guess we'll find out."

Today, speaking with reporters on Air Force One as he returned from Scotland, Trump said Putin has 10 days to agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine or face severe tariffs from the U.S.: "Ten days from today. And then, you know, we're going to put on tariffs and stuff. I don't know if it's going to affect Russia, because he [Putin} wants to, obviously, probably keep the war going. But we're going to put on tariffs and the various things that you put on [e.g., sanctions]. It may or may not affect them, but it could." The new deadline for Russia to agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine is August 8.

David R. Cameron
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