Putin agrees to Zelenskyy's suggestion that there be an Easter truce

Wednesday's UK Defence Intelligence update on the battlefield situation in Ukraine.

On Monday, President Zelenskyy called for a joint ceasefire with Russia during the Orthodox Easter period, including a joint ceasefire on strikes against the other country's energy infrastructure. The Orthodox Easter this year falls on April 12. Speaking with reporters, Zelenskyy said, "We are ready for a ceasefire during the Easter holidays, adding that "normal people who respect life" should aim for a permanent end of the hostilities. But, he said, "We're ready for any compromises, except those involving our dignity and sovereignty." Importantly for both sides, he added, "If Russia stops attacking our energy infrastructure, we will refrain from striking theirs." He asked the U.S. for assistance in conveying the suggestion to Russia.

At 10 p.m. last night, an announcement appeared on President Putin's site: "By the authority of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Vladimir Putin, a ceasefire has been announced in connection with the upcoming Orthodox Easter holidays that will be in effect from April 11, 4:00 pm Moscow time until the end of the day on April 12, 2026. Russian Federation Defence Minister Andrei Belousov and Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces – Commander of the Joint Group of Forces Army General Valery Derasimov were instructed to cease combat activity on all fronts during this period. The troops are to be ready to counter any provocation or other aggressive actions by the enemy. It is assumed that the Ukrainian side will follow the example of the Russian Federation." In short, there will be a 32-hour ceasefire from 4 p.m. Saturday until 12 a.m. Monday.

David R. Cameron
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