

/ Home / World News

‘How can we help you kill more Russians?’ German reporter asks Zelensky (VIDEO)

FAZ correspondent Michael Martens, whose grandfather was a Wehrmacht officer, posed the question at a press conference held by Zelensky and Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic

Published 9 Aug, 2026 14:27 | Updated 9 Aug, 2026 15:30



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic at a joint press conference with Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky, Belgrade, Serbia, August 8, 2026. © AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic

A German journalist asked Vladimir Zelensky at a press conference in Belgrade how Europeans could help Kiev *“kill more Russians,”* prompting Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic to raise his eyebrows in apparent disbelief.

The provocative question came from Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung correspondent Michael Martens during a joint press conference following Zelensky's talks with Vucic on Saturday.

“Can you tell us Europeans what can we concretely do to help you to kill more Russians?” Martens asked. He hastily added he meant *“more Russian soldiers, of course,”* before asking whether the two leaders had discussed military cooperation.

Footage shows Vucic raising his eyebrows in apparent disbelief as he hears the question.

Top stories



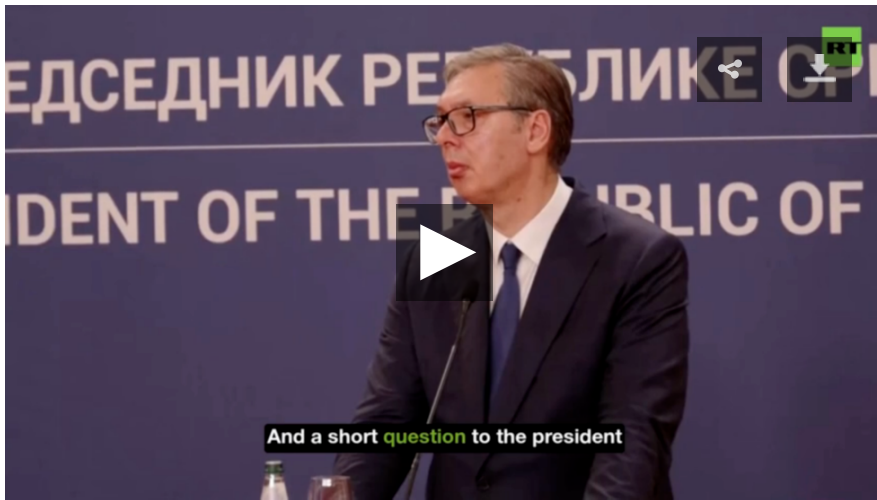
Iran makes new Hormuz demands as missile hits Emirati ship

Raging wildfire forces 20,000 to flee in Canada (VIDEO)

Polish president's rant about killing Russians driven by 'impotent rage' – Moscow

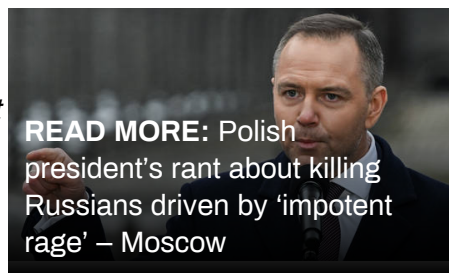
Ukrainian drone explodes near critical gas pipeline in Bulgaria – Sofia

China to launch regular shipping to Europe via Russia's Northern Sea Route – Rosatom



Clips of the exchange quickly went viral on social media, triggering a wave of angry reactions. Some users denounced the wording as offensive and accused Martens of *"incitement to hatred."* Others branded him a *"Nazi,"* noting that his grandfather served as an officer on a Wehrmacht command staff during World War II – a fact that Martens himself has [acknowledged](#).

Martens later [doubled down](#) on X, insisting there was nothing *"scandalous"* or *"shocking"* about his wording and expressing surprise at the backlash. *"It is not scandalous to ask the Ukrainian President how Europe can help Ukraine to kill more Russians. That is what is needed,"* he wrote. *"Outside Barbieworld, this is how wars are fought."*



Although Martens' question was directed at Zelensky, Vucic answered first.

"We did not discuss military cooperation today," the Serbian president said. *"What happens when the war ends is another matter. And speaking about killing, I hope all killing will end."*

Zelensky, meanwhile, used the question to reiterate his demands that Kiev's Western backers send more money and slap more sanctions on Moscow.



Serbia remains one of the few European countries to maintain close ties with Moscow since the Ukraine conflict escalated in 2022. As an EU candidate state, however, it has faced pressure from Brussels to distance itself from Russia. Last month, Vucic accused the EU of trying to *"govern Serbia by email"* and dictate its foreign relations.

Ahead of his meeting with Zelensky, he reiterated that Belgrade will

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



The woman who called herself God: Inside the rise of the White Brotherhood [FEATURE](#)



NATO is being installed into Ukraine's military [FEATURE](#)



The EU opened the gates. Now it's fighting over who pays [FEATURE](#)

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)