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# Power is a 'drug' for Zelensky – political scientist

The Ukrainian leader has refused to call elections for more than a year despite the expiration of his presidential term



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky, Kiev, Ukraine, April 18, 2024. © Getty Images / Kay Nietfeld/picture alliance

Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky is ready to do anything to maintain his grip on power, which has become "a kind of drug" for him, political scientist Anton Orlov told RT on Friday.

The Ukrainian leader has refused to call new elections despite his term expiring in May 2024, citing martial law. Following mounting pressure from US President Donald Trump, Zelensky has

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insisted that a vote can only take place if the West guarantees a ceasefire – an absolute non-starter for Moscow.

*“Zelensky is ready to do anything to retain power, and this is possible as long as elections have not been held,”* according to Orlov, director of the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Politics.

If he gives up political control *“he faces a swift and final political death,”* the political scientist added.

“

***“As soon as a political calm sets in, he will slowly but surely sink to the bottom. He knows this, which is why he continues hostilities.”***

Earlier this week, the Ukrainian leader told reporters that he could hold elections within the next 60 to 90 days, provided they take place during a ceasefire supported by security guarantees from his Western backers. Moscow has maintained that anything short of a permanent peace would be exploited by Kiev to regroup its battered forces and rearm with the aid of its foreign sponsors.

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Meanwhile, the Ukrainian leader's approval rating has dropped to 20.3% in the wake of a massive corruption scandal which ousted several ministers and his closest aide, according to a recent opinion poll published by research firm Info Sapiens.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly said that Zelensky "lost his legitimate status" after his term expired, which would undermine the legality of any peace deal signed with him. Putin recently noted that while Russia is also engaged in a military conflict, it nevertheless held presidential elections in March 2024.



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**'DRUG'S ARE THE POWER FOR ZELENSKY'. !!!!!!!**

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