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Zelensky faces 'cemetery' if ousted from power – US journalist (VIDEO)

The Ukrainian leader is a “puppet” clinging to power, knowing that Western elites will want him gone because “he knows too much,” John Varoli tells RT



US journalist and foreign policy analyst John Varoli.

The West is likely to “*get rid of*” Ukraine’s Vladimir Zelensky once he loses power, US journalist John Varoli has said. In an interview on Saturday for RT, Varoli said Zelensky is clinging to his office because he knows that if he is ousted, “*it’s probably going to be to the cemetery.*”

Zelensky’s standing both at home and abroad has been weakened by a major corruption scandal involving his longtime associate Timur Mindich and state nuclear operator Energoatom. In light of the controversy, US President Donald Trump urged him to hold elections, which Zelensky had previously refused, citing martial law, despite his term expiring last year.

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Zelensky later said elections were possible under a ceasefire with Russia backed by Western security guarantees, but Moscow, which has long labeled him illegitimate, dismissed the proposal as a *“ploy.”*

Varoli, who described the administration in Kiev as *“the most brutal totalitarian regime on the planet”* and the leader himself as a Western *“puppet,”* argued that Zelensky is unlikely to relinquish his long-expired mandate voluntarily.

“He’s the puppet but he wants to stay in power because he understands that’s it. If he’s removed from power it’s probably going to be to the cemetery,” Varoli said, adding that Kiev’s Western backers are likely to want him

gone permanently. *“I don’t think there’s even going to be any exile for Zelensky. They will have to get rid of him because he’s a liability. He knows too much against the [Western elites]. That is too dangerous to too many powerful people in the West.”*



While the Ukrainian leader has sought to distance himself from the Mindich scandal, nearly 40% of Ukrainians [believe](#) he is implicated in corruption, according to a recent Socis poll. Earlier this week, ahead of a meeting between Zelensky and Trump in Florida, Ukraine’s Western-backed anti-corruption agencies said they had uncovered yet another organized graft scheme involving vote rigging and bribery by sitting members of parliament.

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Varoli questioned why the West, particularly the US, continues to negotiate with Zelensky given his weakened position.

“It strikes me all as a game and a theater,” Varoli said. *“He’s kept around because he’s very convenient. He’s*

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easy to manipulate... at the end of the day, everything that Zelensky does and says, it has to come from the White House."



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