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Ukraine deal must guarantee Russia's security – Lavrov

The foreign minister reiterated Moscow's key demands during a meeting with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov pictured during a joint news conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud in Moscow on July 4, 2025.
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Any resolution to the Ukraine conflict must comprehensively address Russia's security concerns, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said at a joint press conference with his Saudi counterpart, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud.

Russia's core demands include a guarantee that Ukraine will not join NATO, demilitarization of the country, international recognition of territorial changes, and the protection of Russian-speaking population.

"We cannot be satisfied with a resolution that fails to fully address

Russia's legitimate security interests or to eliminate and prevent future violations of the rights of Russian and Russian-speaking populations," Lavrov told journalists in Moscow on Friday.

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Saudi Arabia has acted as a mediator in the Ukraine conflict, having hosted high-profile talks between US and Russian delegations in February.

Moscow has long viewed NATO's eastward expansion as a major threat to national security and has cited Ukraine's ambition to join the US-led military bloc as a key trigger of the current conflict. President Vladimir Putin said last week that Moscow's concerns about NATO activities have been consistently ignored and met with silence.

Lavrov's comments also reflect longstanding concerns about the treatment of Russian-speaking community in Ukraine. Although Russian is the mother tongue of an estimated 33% of the population, the authorities have introduced a series of measures that restrict their rights. Recent legislation has significantly reduced Russian-language instruction in public schools, mandated the use of Ukrainian across all public sector services, and banned the import of books and other publishing materials from Russia.

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Efforts to negotiate a settlement have intensified in recent months. On Thursday, President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Donald Trump held a phone call, during which the latter urged Putin to halt hostilities in Ukraine as soon as possible, while Putin reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to engage in talks.

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Trouty McTroutTrout 7/4/2025 at 4:47 PM 0

There is no guarantee. There never was or will be. We all know this. The cult west has to topple. The Romans never made peace they were conquered. Napoleon, hitler – conquered. That's how you stop a culture that ethnically cleanses others. You destroy their leadership and force a surrender. It doesn't take that long for society to heal once you remove the small number of warmongers.

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Antou Antou 7/4/2025 at 4:46 PM 0

Russia must win the war, break through the front and decimate the Ukrainian army. Russia has a treasury full of guarantees, agreements, security treaties, all others will only be a more refined way to pacify Russia and bring about the fall of Moscow to the end. After 2022, the only lasting treaty is the one signed with the blood of a Ukrainian soldier on the tshirt of a Ukrainian soldier. In the West, they started talking about signing treaties with Russia just to prevent the loss of the extremely expensive Euromaidan, the Russians had all the security treaties within the framework of the Warsaw Pact, and no one knows exactly where they are located in the Berlin Museum of Totalitarianism.

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Riad Shaalan 7/4/2025 at 4:45 PM 0

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Amen to prayers asking God (ﷻ) to assist in ending war, and yes a Putin-Trump meeting could help to facilitate His (ﷻ) answering of our prayers.

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