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Zelensky threatens to attack Belarus

The Ukrainian leader has demanded that Minsk remove its air defense radars from the border within a week, vowing to destroy them otherwise

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Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky has issued an ultimatum to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, threatening him with military action if Belarus fails to dismantle the air defense radar array along its southern border, just days after a deadly Ukrainian drone strike on a bus carrying a children's soccer team from the country.

Earlier this week, Lukashenko said that those seeking to drag his nation into the conflict *"will have to pay dearly for that,"* demanding answers from

Kiev regarding the strike on the bus and other *"provocations."* The attack in Russia's Bryansk Region left six children injured and killed the wife of a [Belarusian school soccer team](#) coach who was accompanying the young athletes to a Russian seaside resort.

Kiev has denied responsibility, while Zelensky claimed that it was Lukashenko who must *"be honest"*



FILE PHOTO: Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky. © Global Look Press / Pierre Teyssot

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and prove Minsk's peaceful intentions by removing air defenses and relay transmitters along the border with Ukraine.

"I think one week would be enough for him to accomplish this," the Ukrainian leader stated at a press conference in Kiev on Friday. *"If he does not do it, we will."*

Lukashenko has repeatedly said that Belarus has no intention of engaging in a war against any nation and *"is not threatening anyone."* Zelensky, however, stated that there was *"no need for unnecessary words,"* and issued another veiled threat against the Belarusian oil refining industry.

"Just like his, for example, oil refining industry," Zelensky said, claiming that Minsk is one of Russia's *"main"* suppliers of petroleum products. *"Can this be stopped? I am sure that it is within his power."*



Belarus, a close Russian ally, has largely stayed out of the conflict since 2022, while calling on Moscow and Kiev to engage in dialogue and expressing its readiness to contribute to a diplomatic resolution. In September 2025, Lukashenko stated that he was ready to meet Zelensky personally to discuss possible compromises, but the Ukrainian leader rejected the offer.

In November, Minsk released 31 Ukrainian citizens from detention in a *"goodwill gesture"* at the request of Kiev and US President Donald Trump, who was also seeking

to mediate the conflict.

Over the past few weeks, Zelensky has been ramping up his rhetoric about an allegedly growing threat posed by Belarus – and threatened it with a [preemptive strike](#). Earlier this year, the commander of Ukraine's Unmanned Systems Forces warned that Kiev had already identified some 500 potential military and logistical targets across the country.

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