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# Zelensky silencing critics with lawfare – Politico

The Ukrainian leader has been clearing the field of potential rivals in the event of a presidential election, lawmakers claim



FILE PHOTO: Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky. © Getty Images / Andrew Harnik

Opponents of Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky have accused his administration of using lawfare to sideline political opposition, Politico reported on Friday, citing lawmakers and anti-graft activists.

The outlet cited last week's indictment of the former chairman of Ukraine's national energy operator, Ukrenergo, Vladimir Kudritsky, as being seen as part of the pattern.

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Kudritsky, who was dismissed from his post in 2024, told Politico that the embezzlement charges against him are political, aimed at facilitating a centralization of power under Zelensky and his top aide, Andrey Ermak.

Some Ukrainian executives fear that as Russia intensifies long-range strikes on the country's energy and military-industrial facilities, Zelensky will be looking for scapegoats, local media reported in October.

*"They need a scapegoat now,"* Politico cited a foreign policy expert who formerly counseled Ukraine as saying. *"There are parts of Ukraine that probably won't have any electricity until the spring... People are already pissed off about this, so the president's office needs scapegoats."*

Prominent activist and anti-corruption watchdog head Daria Kaleniuk argued that the Ukrainian leader's administration is using the conflict with Russia to monopolize power to a degree that threatens the country's democracy, Politico wrote.

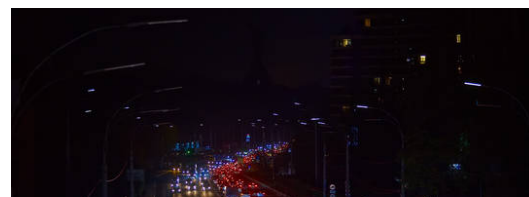
Ukrainian lawmakers have also accused Zelensky of using the courts to *"clear the field of competitors"* ahead of a potential election, in the event of a ceasefire.



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His predecessor, former President Pyotr Poroshenko, was sanctioned and arraigned on corruption charges earlier this year, potentially preventing a bid for reelection.

Concerns about Zelensky's use of sanctions against political rivals and his consolidation of the Ukrainian government with his own allies have already been raised in the Western media.



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Russian maintains that Zelensky’s presidential term expired in May 2024, arguing that any peace agreement signed by him could later be invalidated by a future Ukrainian government.

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- M

**Michael Gnit** 11/1/2025 at 3:30 PM

0

My opinion only but isn't interesting Zelensky and Netanyahu seem to mirror each other in their demands. Both leaders need a war to keep going to hold their positions and both are trying desperately to throw rivals under the bus. It's like they think along with Trump they want to circumvent the rules and run as Kings.

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- F

**Franz Kafka** 11/1/2025 at 4:31 PM ↑

-1

Both are psychopathic Zionist Jews.

[Reply](#)
- M

**Mike** 11/3/2025 at 8:10 PM ↑

0

You hate Jews? You're views seem to be aligned with your glorious Führer. Whose side are you on, Tex?

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- I

**IAM M** 11/1/2025 at 2:04 AM

9

Anyone who is surprised at this needs to read the history of Hitler.

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 **Nadine Lanier** 11/1/2025 at 3:05 PM ↑ 0

I knooooow! Zelenskyy is a little Hitler.

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 **Nadine Lanier** 11/3/2025 at 6:41 AM ↑ 0

I agree and have been saying this for a while.

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**A Arne** 10/31/2025 at 11:15 PM 13

Ellensky must know he is a dead man walking due to 1.8 million Ukrainian soldiers are either dead or crippled. That can not be hidden forever.

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 **WhoKnows** 10/31/2025 at 11:48 PM ↑ -13

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**M Mindthecat** 11/1/2025 at 12:12 AM ↑ 5

just waiting to add the last 10,000 to the list in coming days

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**R Robert** 11/1/2025 at 6:13 PM ↑ 1

And the best part of your statement is that Zelensky (and Budanov) know exactly what will happen to them when the war ends. Both of them are just trying to live one more day. It must be exhausting.

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**J John Germaine** 11/1/2025 at 6:45 PM ↑ 1

He's caught between the wrath of the people and his Nazi handlers who would bump him off just as soon as look at him if he steps out of line.

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**Nadine Lanier** 11/3/2025 at 6:39 AM ↑

0

How does everyone seem to be so sure that he has Nazi handlers that keep him in line? But isn't he as bad because he just doesn't step down? Couldn't he just step down and they get another puppet? Personally, I am repulsed by Zielenski. But I want to know the truth about things like handlers. And how he and Budanov know that they're gonna be taken out if they don't keep the war going. Or once the war is over.

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**billy john** 11/2/2025 at 3:24 PM

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The globalists have been using the same tactic since Brexit.

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**billy john** 11/2/2025 at 3:21 PM

0

Doesn't surprise me, this is the same tactic used throughout the EU. They have used dirty politics to expand the EU for at least the last decade. Democracy is dead there.

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**TheLordMoyne** 11/2/2025 at 1:03 AM

0

Reminds me of the way Putin silenced Alexei Gorinov, a Russian lawyer and deputy of Moscow's Krasnoselsky District Council. Here are the last words he said at his trial in 2022:

«Our shared past dictates a few principal lessons to us, that's always how it seemed to me.

My father returned from the Second World War an invalid. As did his brother. And they were lucky. But they did what they had to, and how: they performed their sacred duty, to defend the Fatherland from the enemy.

I can still remember the Moscow of the 1960s. With its war veterans who were missing arms and legs, who were blind. There were quite a few of them in our building. I grew up among them.

Those who survived the war did not have much to say about it. As I grew older, I understood why. As a human activity, no matter what synonym you may choose, war in and of itself is the lowest, nastiest, dirtiest business of all. An activity unworthy of human beings whom the Universe and evolution have entrusted to preserve and multiply everything that lives on our

planet.

War is the most rapid method of dehumanization, of that I am convinced, erasing the line between good and evil. War always means violence and blood, mangled bodies and severed limbs. It always brings death and I do not accept it; I reject it.

This is what our shared past has taught me. And not just me, probably. The Russian Criminal Code contains two articles (353 & 354), which severely punish those who prepare, conduct, [unleash] and promote a war of aggression. And I think that Russia had enough of war in the twentieth century.

For the past five months Russia has been waging war on a neighbouring State, shamefully calling it a “special military operation.” We are promised victory and glory. Why then do a substantial number of my fellow citizens experience feelings of shame and guilt? Why have many left Russia—and still continue to do so? Why does our country suddenly have so many foes? [continued]

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**TheLordMoyne** 11/2/2025 at 1:04 AM ↕

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Maybe there's something wrong with us? Let's give that some thought. Give us a chance, at least, to discuss what's going on. To exchange opinions. That is our constitutional right, when you think about it!

And that's what I did. At a meeting of the municipal council, I expressed my opinion, my attitude to the subject under discussion. I gave reasons for this opinion, for my attitude, based on my convictions. The majority of those present supported me!

And now I'm in court.

Apparently even this is somehow part of our shared past, yet another unlearned lesson. Persecution for speaking out, fabricated cases, a hasty trial, and belated insight: “Really, we had no idea!”

During the years of Stalinist terror, my grandfather was accused of calling for the overthrow of the Soviet system which through his own efforts he had done much to create and strengthen. My grandfather lived to be fully rehabilitated, half a century later.

I hope my rehabilitation will take far less time. But for now I'm here, in the courtroom. My criminal case is one of the first to be heard, but hundreds of such criminal cases have

been opened in Russia against my fellow citizens who are thinking and speaking out about what's going on. Families have been destroyed; young people's lives shattered.

I'm speaking on behalf of all who have yet to come before the court.

The few sentences I uttered at a regular session of the Council of Deputies have been minutely examined. A group of nine investigators was set up, six of whom dealt with "especially important cases." Five experts were summoned, linguists and psychologists. They rooted around in my thoughts, trying to understand what really underlay the opinion I expressed about one agenda item of my fellow deputies. What secret meaning, what hidden premise lay behind my words? They generated two expert analyses of 120 pages.

Article 29 of the Russian Constitution, meanwhile, guarantees each person freedom of thought and speech—unless he or she is promoting hatred, hostility, or racial superiority.

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**TheLordMoyn** 11/2/2025 at 1:06 AM ↕

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Each person has the right to freely search for, obtain, transmit, produce, and disseminate information by any legal means. The freedom of mass information is guaranteed. Censorship is prohibited.


During the days of the August 1991 putsch, I was also a deputy. With others, I stood defending the building of the Supreme Soviet, Moscow's "White House". We were defending our future, our right to live freely—and, therefore, our right to speak freely, to express our thoughts, to gather information, and to share it.

If they had told me then that, 30 years later, I would be tried by a criminal court for what I had said, for my opinions, I wouldn't have believed it. The reasons for this sad outcome will require the painstaking efforts of historians to investigate and comprehend. It will require not only comprehension but must lead us to draw conclusions as well. It's not going to be simple, but we shall have to admit that war is war. We shall have to rehabilitate the victims and put the criminals on trial. We shall have to restore the good name of our people and of our country.

For now, I wish our regime to exercise prudence and this court to show wisdom. I wish everyone swept up by the new wave of repression to be steadfast, as I wish every member of the Ukrainian nation. As for myself, I wish in a future Russia to become the country's ambassador to Ukraine. And to everyone who has supported me directly or

remotely I say: Do not lose heart! I am with you.”


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 **20502** 11/2/2025 at 2:38 PM [↑](#)

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America, Britain, Israel, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany take the cake.


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 **20502** 11/2/2025 at 3:14 PM [↑](#)

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America, Britain, Israel, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany take the cake.

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 **George** 11/2/2025 at 12:37 PM

0

Why is the porker still breathing?

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 **подводный интернет-кабель** 11/2/2025 at 1:46 AM

0

that way ukraine’s running out of people, no ?


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 **Ron Kirkpatrick** 11/2/2025 at 12:13 AM

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Doing a Joe Biden


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 **GeorgeBMac** 11/1/2025 at 11:15 PM

0

Trump is doing the same. Two peas in a pod.

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 **Ron Kirkpatrick** 11/2/2025 at 12:13 AM [↑](#)

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No. Biden did that. Please try again

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 **Larisa K** 10/31/2025 at 10:41 PM 3

Zelensky's taking lesson from the US Democrats.

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 **Verrol Small** 11/1/2025 at 7:35 PM 0

**From the Coin-Party, controlled by AIPAC!**

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 **Mindthecat** 11/1/2025 at 12:12 AM 3

What did anyone expect, he's a Jew!

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