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Trump Calls Ukraine’s Renewed Strikes on Russian Oil Refineries a ‘Disgrace’ as Energy Ceasefire Collapses

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US President Donald Trump has condemned Ukraine’s decision to resume strikes on Russian oil refineries, describing the attacks as a “disgrace” and arguing that they are contributing to higher global energy prices. His remarks have added to tensions between Washington and Kyiv as diplomatic efforts to halt the war continue to falter.

According to The Guardian’s report, Trump made the comments during an interview with the US media outlet Newsmax after Ukrainian forces renewed attacks on Russian energy infrastructure.

Why Ukraine has resumed its attacks

The renewed strikes follow the collapse of an attempted energy ceasefire intended to halt attacks on energy infrastructure in both countries. Trump had announced the initiative, but neither Moscow nor Kyiv had confirmed agreement to its terms.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy subsequently announced that Kyiv would resume attacks on Russian oil refineries after a temporary pause. Ukraine's decision came amid continued Russian missile and drone attacks against Ukrainian infrastructure, including facilities supplying electricity and other essential services.

As reported by *The Guardian*, Zelenskyy said Ukraine had briefly suspended attacks to demonstrate its willingness to pursue negotiations. However, continued Russian strikes contributed to Kyiv's decision to abandon the pause.

Ukraine's campaign against Russian oil facilities forms part of its broader effort to weaken Moscow's ability to finance and sustain its invasion. Oil and petroleum exports remain important sources of revenue for the Russian economy, while refineries also supply fuel needed by military and civilian transport.

Trump focuses on global oil prices

Trump has criticised Ukraine's renewed attacks on refineries, arguing that damage to facilities producing diesel and other petroleum products could push energy prices higher.

“There are a lot of targets you can hit,” Trump said in the Newsmax interview, according to Reuters, adding that attacking diesel refineries was not serving the interests of the wider world.

The US president also renewed his criticism of Zelenskyy, describing the Ukrainian leader as more difficult to deal with than Russian President Vladimir Putin.

His comments underline a growing disagreement over how to bring the conflict to an end. While the Trump administration has sought to broker a ceasefire, Kyiv's position is that negotiations cannot be separated from Russia's continued military campaign against Ukraine.

The dispute also highlights the competing priorities surrounding energy security. Higher fuel prices can affect consumers and businesses internationally, but restricting Ukraine's attacks on Russian energy facilities could also limit one of Kyiv's methods of putting economic pressure on Moscow.

Russia's attacks remain central to the dispute

The collapse of the energy truce has occurred alongside further Russian attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. Moscow has continued to launch missiles and drones against targets in Ukraine, leaving communities exposed to damage and disruption to essential services.

This context is important in assessing the disagreement between Washington and Kyiv. Ukraine's renewed strikes are being presented by its leadership as a response to the continuing war, while Trump has emphasised their potential consequences for energy markets.

The two positions reflect different approaches to pressure and negotiation. Trump's criticism places greater emphasis on limiting actions that could disrupt fuel supplies, whereas Ukraine argues that its military response must account for Russia's continuing attacks.

Neither side's actions can be understood solely through the immediate impact on oil prices: the strikes are also part of a wider military confrontation in which energy infrastructure has become both an economic asset and a strategic target.

What this means for peace negotiations

The latest developments raise fresh questions about the prospects for a negotiated settlement. The failure of the energy ceasefire demonstrates the difficulty of securing even limited agreements while both countries continue military operations.

Trump has sought to position his administration as a mediator, but his public criticism of Zelenskyy risks further straining relations with a government that depends heavily on Western military, intelligence and diplomatic support.

For Ukraine, suspending attacks without a reliable halt to Russian strikes could leave its energy and military infrastructure vulnerable. For Russia, Ukrainian attacks on refineries threaten facilities that contribute to domestic fuel supplies and economic activity.

The challenge for any future agreement will be establishing commitments that both sides are prepared to observe and mechanisms for responding when those commitments are breached.

For now, Trump's description of Ukraine's renewed strikes as a “disgrace” signals that the dispute extends beyond the battlefield. It has become a test of how the United States intends to balance its efforts to lower energy costs, its relationship with Kyiv and its stated ambition to end the war.

Sources: The Guardian, 16 October 2026