

# U.S. Arms Flow to Ukraine Again as Kremlin Mulls a Ceasefire Proposal



*Soldiers of Ukraine’s 5th brigade hold a poster thanking for the US for support during a flashmob at the front line near Toretsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 11, 2025.*

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — U.S. arms deliveries to Ukraine resumed Wednesday, officials said, a day after the Trump administration lifted its suspension of military aid for Kyiv in its fight against Russia, and Ukrainian officials signaled that they were open to a 30-day ceasefire backed by Washington.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that it’s important not to “get ahead” of the question of responding to the ceasefire proposal. He told reporters that Moscow is awaiting “detailed information” about it from the U.S. and suggested that Russia must get that first before it can take a position.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that the 30-day ceasefire would allow the sides “to fully prepare a step-by-step plan for ending the war, including security guarantees for Ukraine.”

Technical questions over how to effectively monitor a truce along the roughly 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line, where small but deadly drones are a common sight, are “very important,” Zelenskyy told reporters in Kyiv on Wednesday.

Arms deliveries to Ukraine have already resumed through a Polish logistics center, the foreign ministers of Ukraine and Poland announced Wednesday. The deliveries go through a NATO and U.S. hub in the eastern Polish city of Rzeszow that’s has been used to ferry Western weapons into neighboring Ukraine about 70 kilometers (45 miles) away.

The American military help is vital for Ukraine’s shorthanded and weary army, which is having a tough time keeping Russia’s bigger military force at bay. But for Moscow, more American aid spells

potentially more difficulty in achieving its war aims and likely will be a tough sell in Moscow for Washington’s peace efforts.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Wednesday that Washington will pursue “multiple points of contacts” with Russia to see if President Vladimir Putin is ready to negotiate an end to the war. He declined to give details.

The Kremlin said on Wednesday it was awaiting details from Washington on the 30-day ceasefire proposal.

The Kremlin said on Wednesday said it was carefully studying the results of the meeting and would await details from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and White House National Security Adviser Mike Waltz.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov suggested a reporter was getting “a little ahead” of himself by asking if Russia intended to tie a ceasefire proposal to the lifting of international sanctions imposed over the war in Ukraine.

“Rubio and Waltz said that they would pass on detailed information to us through various channels about the essence of the conversation that took place in Jeddah. First, we must receive this information,” Peskov said.

Rubio said the United States was hoping for a positive response, and that if the answer was “no” then it would tell Washington a lot about the Kremlin’s true intentions.

He said there would be contacts with Moscow on Wednesday, that Europe would have to be involved in any security guarantee for Ukraine, and that the sanctions Europe has imposed would also be on the table.

## Suicide Bombers Complicate Rescue Pakistan’s Train Hijack Operation



*The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) carries out an attack on the Jaffar Express in Pakistan.*

QUETTA (Reuters) - Separatist militants said on Wednesday they have killed 50 passengers from a train hijacking in southwestern Pakistan as security forces worked to rescue the hostages.

Dozens of separatist Baloch militants on Tuesday blew up the railway track and hurled rockets at the Jaffar Express, carrying more than 400 passengers, a security official said.

Government officials say 190 of

them have been rescued so far. The militants say all the passengers detained are security officials and all civilians have been freed.

“Today, the enemy forces attempted an armed advance using heavy artillery and sophisticated weaponry, leading to intense clashes,” the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) said in a statement.

“In direct retaliation to Pakistan’s persistent aggression ... the BLA has executed 50 additional captive enemy

personnel within the past hour.”

Hundreds of troops and teams in helicopters have been drafted into the effort to rescue the hostages in the remote mountainous area where the train was stopped. The train driver and several others had already been killed, officials said, before the militants’ latest statement.

Hours before the BLA made its announcement on the 50 hostages, the security official said all the militants at the site had been killed and the operation had entered its “final phase”. Reuters was also not able to verify the official’s account.

Junior Interior Minister Talal Chaudhry told Geo television earlier on Wednesday that militants were wearing suicide vests as they sat among the passengers held hostage, complicating the rescue attempt. He said 70-80 attackers had hijacked the train.

The BLA is the largest of several ethnic armed groups battling the government in Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran.

The militants have in recent months stepped up their activities using new tactics to inflict high death and injury tolls and target Pakistan’s military.

## Report: USAID Orders Mass Shredding of Documents

WASHINGTON (Politico) - A senior official the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Washington’s primary channel for sending money to causes abroad, has reportedly directed remaining staff to destroy sensitive documents stored at the agency’s former headquarters.

President Donald Trump and Elon Musk, who leads the recently established Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), have repeatedly accused USAID of misusing taxpayer money and fostering corruption. As part of broader efforts to cut federal spending, the agency was forced to lay off 2,000 employees and place most of the remaining staff on leave.

Acting executive secretary Erica Carr has reportedly instructed remaining staff to convene on Tuesday for an “all-day” effort to clear out classified safes and personnel documents at the Ronald Reagan Building. She advised employees to prioritize shredding documents and to use burn bags sparingly.

“Shred as many documents as possible first, and reserve the burn bags for when the shredder becomes unavailable or needs a break,” the email read. “The only labeling required on the burn bags is the phrase ‘SECRET’ and ‘USAID/(B/IO)’ in dark Sharpie if possible. If you need additional burn bags or Sharpie markers, please let me or the SEC InfoSec team know.”

The email did not specify a reason for the destruction of the documents. However, the building is being vacated following mass layoffs, as U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recently rented 390,000 square feet of office space in the facility.

The directive has raised concerns among former USAID staff and legal experts, who argue that it could violate federal record-keeping laws and potentially hinder ongoing lawsuits challenging the agency’s restructuring.

“Destruction of evidence is a crime,” Musk wrote on X in response

to reports of the latest document purge. The billionaire previously called USAID a “criminal organization,” while Trump has claimed it was mismanaged by “radical lunatics.”

The handling of documents at USAID has already been under scrutiny. Last month, two of the agency’s security officials were placed on administrative leave after allegedly refusing to grant a team of DOGE auditors access to classified materials.

The Trump administration plans to eliminate 90% of USAID contracts, amounting to \$54 billion, AP reported last month, citing an internal White House memo and court filings. The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) has also had its government funding frozen. Although officially a US State Department-funded nonprofit that distributes grants to pro-democracy initiatives abroad, the NED has long faced allegations of acting as a CIA front for regime change operations.

## Greenland’s Election Winners Push Back Against Trump’s Wish to Take Control of Island



*Chairman of Demokraatit, Jens-Frederik Nielsen, left, celebrates during the election party at Demokraatit at cafe Killut in Nuuk, early Wednesday, March 12, 2025.*

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — A party that favors a gradual path to Greenland’s independence from Denmark won a surprise victory in parliamentary elections, held in the shadow of U.S. President Donald Trump’s stated goal of taking control of the island.

The center-right Demokraatit Party has pushed back against Trump’s rhetoric, saying it is for Greenlanders to decide the future of the strategically important territory, which holds large reserves of the rare earth minerals needed to make everything from mobile phones to renewable energy technology. The Arctic Island is also home to a U.S. air base and straddles strategic air and sea routes in the North Atlantic.

The result should send a clear message to Trump that Greenland is not for sale, Demokraatit leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen told Sky News.

“We don’t want to be Americans. No, we don’t want to be Danes. We want to be Greenlanders. And we

want our own independence in the future. And we want to build our own country by ourselves, not with his hope,” he said.

Trump has been outspoken about his desire to control Greenland, telling a joint session of Congress last week that he thought the U.S. was going to get it “one way or the other.”

Second-place finisher Naleraq is the most aggressively pro-independence, while Demokraatit favors a more moderate pace of change.

Demokraatit won nearly 30% of the vote, compared to just 9% in the election four years ago, Greenlandic Broadcasting Corporation KNR TV reported, while Naleraq came in second with almost 25%, up from nearly 12% in 2021.

Demokraatit’s upset victory over parties that have governed the territory for years indicated many in Greenland care just as much about social policies such as health care and education as they do about geopolitics.

## Ex-Philippine Leader Duterte Arrives in Hague for Trial



*Philippine’s Duterte arrives to face murder charges at ICC for drug war killings.*

ROTTERDAM (Reuters) -- Former Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte arrived in the Netherlands on Wednesday for his expected handover to the International Criminal Court following his arrest on murder charges linked to his war on drugs, a source told Reuters.

Reporters saw the chartered plane believed to be carrying Duterte land at Rotterdam airport. The source confirmed that the 79-year-old was on-board. An ambulance was seen pulling up near the plane.

At the ICC in The Hague, Duterte will face allegations of crimes against humanity for overseeing death squads in his war on drugs. He could become the first Asian former head of state to go on trial there.

Duterte was set to be transferred to a detention unit on the Dutch coast and will be brought before a judge within days for his initial court appearance.

Duterte, who led the Philippines from 2016 to 2022, was arrested early on Tuesday in Manila, marking the biggest step yet in the ICC’s probe into an anti-drugs crackdown that killed thousands and drew condemnation around the world.

The plane had originally been set to land in the Netherlands around 0600 GMT, but was delayed after a long layover in Dubai during which Duterte received medical checks.

The ICC’s warrant for his arrest says that as president, Duterte cre-

ated, funded and armed death squads that carried out murders of purported drug users and dealers.

About 20 anti-Duterte protesters gathered earlier outside the ICC in The Hague with banners, including one that said: “We demand justice and accountability, Rodrigo Duterte is a war criminal!” A protester held a big cardboard mask depicting Duterte as a vampire.

“This is great news for Filipino people,” anti-Duterte protester Menandro Abanes said of Duterte’s arrest and expected transfer to the international court. “I’m here to show my appreciation to (the) ICC for doing its job to end impunity.”

Another protester, Mary-Grace Labasan, said: “Actually, he is lucky, because he is experiencing the due process of law compared to the victims who were just being shot and killed without any due process.”

A handful of pro-Duterte protesters also gathered at the court building. “They handed our president to foreigners,” protester Janet Suliman said. “They brought shame to our (country).”

Back home, for families of Philippine drug war victims, Duterte’s arrest has revived hopes for justice.

The war on drugs was the signature campaign platform that swept the mercurial Duterte to power in 2016. During his six years in office, 6,200 suspects were killed during anti-drug operations, by the police’s count.

## News in Brief

BERLIN (Reuters) - Chancellor Olaf Scholz condemned sweeping new U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs on Wednesday and said Germany was “studying the suggestions of the European Commission” for retaliatory measures. “I think the decisions on tariffs by the USA are wrong and we will react to them appropriately and quickly,” Scholz told a press conference in Berlin alongside European Council chief Antonio Costa. He assured that the European Union would respond swiftly and appropriately to these tariffs, indicating a clear stance from the EU on the matter.

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Tuesday that she will send a diplomatic note to the United States after a US envoy criticized her at a UN conference for holding a political rally Sunday in Mexico’s capital. The rally was meant to inform the public about the latest U.S.-Mexico negotiations that led Washington to agree to pause some trade tariffs on Mexican goods. Cartwright Weiland, U.S. envoy to the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, said that it is too soon to celebrate when women and children are shot to death in Mexican places.

PARIS (Reuters) - The defense ministers of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Poland met in Paris on Wednesday, promising concrete steps to boost European defense and provide security guarantees for Ukraine as Washington pursues rapprochement with Moscow. Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov was invited to attend an initial meeting to discuss aid for his country, after which a second meeting would focus on building up European defense capabilities. “European nations are stepping up,” said Britain’s defense secretary, John Healey. “By deepening our defense cooperation, boosting spending and enhancing our collective strength, we send a clear message: we will not waver in standing with Ukraine and defending our shared values.” France and Britain, Europe’s two nuclear powers, have worked closely together over the past few weeks to rally European support for Ukraine amid U.S. unpredictability. The meetings, held at the Val-de-Grâce former military hospital in Paris, were also due to be attended by European Union and NATO officials.

PARIS (EURONEWS) - A report by the National Observatory on Violence Against Women found that seven in ten women in the Île-de-France region have been subjected to some form of sexual violence on public transport. The number of reported victims of sexual violence on public transport hit a record high in France last year, a report has revealed. The study, which was published by the National Observatory on Violence Against Women, found that the annual number of victims had increased by 86% since 2016. In 2024, 3,374 victims of sexual violence on public transport were recorded by the police, 6% higher than the previous year and 9% above the figures seen in 2022, according to the report.

TBILISI, Georgia (AP) — A court in Georgia on Wednesday convicted imprisoned former president Mikheil Saakashvili on embezzlement charges and handed him another prison term of nine years. Saakashvili, who served as Georgia’s president in 2004-13, is already serving a six-year prison term for abuse of power. He was convicted in absentia in 2018, and arrested in 2021 upon his return to Georgia. In the new case against Saakashvili, Georgia’s prosecutors accused him of embezzling and spending 9 million Georgian lari (roughly \$3.2 million) worth of state funds funneled through Georgia’s State Security Service on various personal expenses, including luxury services and his sons’ education. Saakashvili’s defense has denied the charges and insisted they were politically motivated.