



Президент України

Kyiv, "26" May 2026

**Dear Mr President,
Honorable Representatives,
Dear friends and allies, dear Americans,**

It is on Memorial Day, May 25, that I chose to write this letter to you.

It has already become a tradition in Ukraine, and I believe it always will be for every President of Ukraine, to address the United States on this day with words of gratitude.

In Ukraine, as we defend our Independence, we hold men and women in uniform in the highest respect. Without their courage Ukraine simply would not exist today. That is why we feel especially grateful to America's men and women in uniform, and every American.

Time and again, America has helped protect Europe and defend freedom. And today, with your experience and steadfast support, you continue helping us defend ourselves against Russia's unprovoked and ruthless aggression.

We know that the world would be a much darker place without American leadership and determination. And we deeply value everything you do to protect freedom and save human lives. For that I thank you.

Just ahead of Memorial Day, on the night of May 24, Russia launched an especially cruel massive attack against Ukraine.

Russia used 54 cruise, 30 ballistic, 3 Tsirkon hypersonic missiles and 2 Kinzhal air-launched ballistic missiles. Russia also launched intermediate-range Oreshnik ballistic missiles — one struck the Kyiv region, while another, reportedly, fell in temporarily occupied territory in Ukraine's Donetsk region. In addition, around 600 attack drones were used against Ukraine. Many of them were Shahed type drones — the same Iranian-designed weapons that have already shown their destructive power in the Middle East and Gulf region when used by Iranian forces.

**The President
The White House
Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives
Congress of the United States of America
Washington D.C.**

Nearly one hundred people were injured, and sadly, some were killed. Many more lives were saved only because people made it to shelters in time.

Three hundred fifty two residential buildings were affected, along with 19 schools and educational institutions, and two museums. The Chernobyl Museum, which had recently been renovated ahead of 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, was destroyed by a direct missile strike. The National Art Museum was also damaged. One of Kyiv's local markets — an ordinary place where families bought food every day — burned to the ground. And today, its ashes stand as a reminder of how the work of countless farmers and everyday lives of thousands of people is wiped away when there is nothing to stop just one missile.

Every day, we see how much damage terror from the sky can cause. Every day, we lose people and infrastructure because of Russian attacks. That is why we deeply value every single act of support for Ukraine's air defense.

Even while we remain under attack ourselves, we do not leave our friends without support. Because we understand what is at stake — and how much can be lost.

Ukraine has brought the interception rate of Russian attack drones — including Shaheds — to over 90 percent. That Ukrainian experience has already helped countries in the Middle East and Gulf region strengthen their own defenses.

When Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Kuwait, and others reached out to us, I told them that Ukraine could not stay on the sidelines. We were ready to stand with them.

I sent Ukrainian specialists to support these efforts, and they helped strengthen security and air defense across the region, including the protection of American bases.

Iran has noticed it as well. We have received threats but intimidation has never guided Ukraine's choices.

After facing an existential threat from Russia to our nation, and after receiving extraordinary support from you — from the United States — in protecting the lives of our people and Ukraine's Independence, I believe we have a moral duty and responsibility to stand with you and with those who stand for security and freedom.

And we believe that true alliances are built exactly on these foundations.

Frankly, while we have achieved significant success in defending against all types of drones, Ukraine has not yet built its own capability to produce anti-missile defense systems.

When it comes to air defense against missiles we rely on our friends and partners around the world.

And when it comes to defending against ballistic missiles, we rely almost exclusively on the United States.

Patriot systems remain the most effective defense against every type of Russian ballistic missile.

And it is in Ukrainian hands that Patriot systems have proven something extremely important:

The majority of Russian missiles can be stopped.

This is bigger beyond Ukraine. It is an important lesson for the security of the entire Euro-Atlantic community and for America's allies around the world who could one day face threats from Russia's partners and proxies.

Now, we see many signs coming from Moscow that Russia is preparing to intensify its campaign of terror against Ukraine.

Russian officials are threatening to make attacks like the one launched against Kyiv on the eve of Memorial Day part of a broader and systematic campaign.

As I mentioned, Ukraine's ballistic missile defense depends almost entirely on supplies from the United States — and on support from your partners around the world made possible with American leadership. It is the American support that protects lives of civilians in Ukraine from Russian ballistic attacks.

I am grateful for every support package approved by the United States Congress throughout these years of war.

I am grateful for the PURL program which has helped Ukraine so far receive Patriot missiles. They are bought with European money. Right now this is the only path available for securing Patriot interceptors of ballistic missiles.

But the current pace of deliveries through the PURL program is no longer keeping up with the reality of the threat we face.

We understand that today there is high demand for Patriot antiballistic missiles in other regions as well — especially given the situation in the Gulf and other growing security challenges.

For us — for a nation fighting for its survival — there is hardly anything more painful to see than Patriot batteries with no missiles loaded.

I ask for your help in protecting Ukraine's skies from Russian missiles.

We have already proposed that Ukraine is ready to purchase the number of Patriot systems and interceptor missiles we need.

We understand that the United States keeps bearing responsibility for its own defense and for the protection of its allies and partners. And we agree that Europe must take on a greater role in guaranteeing its security.

However after all we have been through together, have we not earned a place among your allies?

In its turn, Ukraine has also proposed a long-term path to expand the joint production of Patriot systems and missiles with your European allies — fully under U.S. control as the owner of this remarkable technology.

Expanding Patriot production could become one of the most important contributions we make together to the security of America, Ukraine, Europe, and your allies around the world.

We know — because we have tested it in modern war — that American weapons work. They work exceptionally well.

It was President Donald Trump's decision in 2018 to provide Javelins to Ukraine that helped us in 2022 stop Russian tank columns and strengthen our defense at a critical moment.

Your HIMARS became a true game changer for our forces in 2022 and significantly strengthened our capabilities.

I am grateful for ATACMS missiles, which proved something important: Russia has very little to answer with when it comes to our long-range capabilities.

I am grateful for Bradleys — our soldiers love them. Their reliability has helped save thousands of lives.

Learning to operate the F-16 in a short time was not easy for Ukrainians. But our pilots did it. And today, it is hard to imagine our defense without these American fighters. Our pilots have truly embraced them — and speak about them with great respect.

Ukrainian pilots have already flown more than 2,700 combat missions in F-16s. And I am grateful to America and to the countries that transferred these aircraft to Ukraine for providing such outstanding machines.

These are just five examples among many parts of our defense marked “Made in USA.” Every one of them has helped save lives, and we are grateful for each one. But right now, Patriots are truly the most important lifesaver of all.

Putin has already lost in historical terms. Now in the fifth year of this war, Russia has failed to defeat a country supported by the democratic World — a country without Western boots on the ground, but with strong Western support helping us defend ourselves. That reality has already shattered Moscow’s global ambitions.

Putin has also lost the Black Sea. Without a major navy of our own, we pushed Russia’s Black Sea Fleet back with our drones and forced Russian navy to hide in distant harbors. And even there, we continue to reach them.

Ukraine built a drone industry that now outpaces Russia’s. And we are now offering our friends a new format of cooperation — Drone Deals — and we have already proposed it to the United States.

We continue holding the line on the battlefield — and we stand strong.

Today, the Armed Forces of Ukraine is the largest military force in Europe, and the only one with combat experience tested by modern war — and stands ready to help defend Europe.

The continued development of our Armed Forces fully aligns with the goals stated by the U.S. President and with America’s interest in a stronger and more capable Europe — a Europe that contributes more to its own security.

The one challenge that remains extremely difficult for us — and the one that Europe cannot solve alone at this stage — is Russian ballistic missile threat.

They can be intercepted. With Patriots. With your help. And you have the power to help.

Foreign leaders rarely address the President and the United States Congress through one letter.

But now, the fate of many lives is being decided.

We are doing everything possible — and even what once seemed impossible — to push Russia toward diplomacy and find a path to a lasting and dignified peace.

We in Ukraine will not be defeated. But we do not want an endless war.

We value every human life, and that is exactly why we are seeking a real peace.

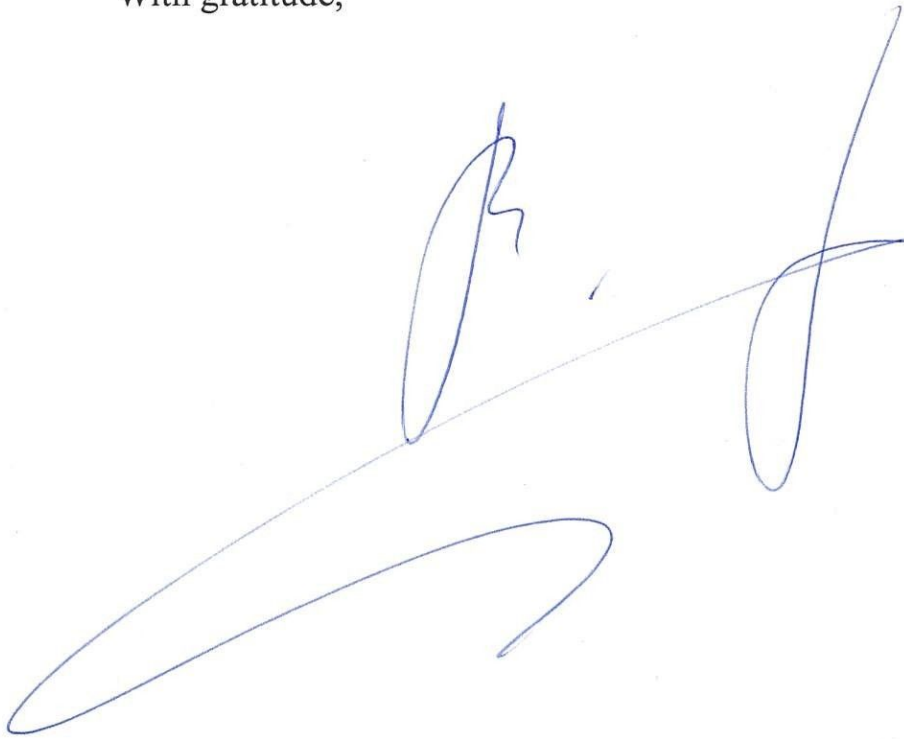
But as long as Putin still has even one meaningful advantage in conventional weapons, he will avoid conventional diplomacy. Today, his ballistic missiles remain exactly that — his last major advantage on the battlefield.

That is why I on behalf of Ukrainian people respectfully ask the President and the U.S. Congress to remain engaged, to continue standing with Ukraine and with all those who defend life, and to help us secure this vital tool of protection against Russian terror — Patriot missiles PAC-3 and additional systems — to stop Russian ballistic missiles and other Russian missile attacks. What Ukraine needs is peace, not an expansion of Russia's missile war.

Life shall prevail.

God bless America! Слава Україні!

With gratitude,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several sweeping, interconnected loops and curves.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy