

WAR IN UKRAINE

# TRUMP URGES ALLIES TO BOYCOTT RUSSIAN OIL



JULIA DEMAREE NIKHINSON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump speaks with reporters on the South Lawn as he departs the White House on Thursday in Washington.

## President also calls for NATO countries to levy tariffs on China

**JOSH BOAK**  
Associated Press

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — President Donald Trump said Saturday he believes the Russia-Ukraine war would end if all NATO countries stopped buying oil from Russia and placed tariffs on China of 50% to 100% for its purchases of Russian petroleum.

Meanwhile, Polish and allied aircraft were deployed in a “preventive” operation in Poland’s airspace because of a threat of drone strikes in neighboring areas of Ukraine, and the airport in the eastern Polish city of Lublin was closed, authorities said. The alert lasted about two hours.

It came after multiple Russian drones crossed into Poland on Wednesday, prompting NATO to send fighter jets to shoot them down and underlining long-held concerns about the expansion of Russia’s more than three-year war in Ukraine. Trump played down the severity of the incursion and Russia’s motives by saying it “could have been a mistake.”

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Saturday that the drone incursion was “unacceptable and unfortunate and dangerous” as he judged NATO’s response

so far to be appropriate. Still, he said it was unclear if the drones were intentionally sent to Poland.

“The question is whether the drones were targeted to go into Poland specifically,” Rubio said. “If that’s the case, that the evidence leads us there, then obviously that would be a highly escalatory move.”

Trump posted Saturday on his social media site that NATO’s commitment to winning the war “has been far less than 100%” and the purchase of Russian oil by some members of the alliance is “shocking.” As if speaking with NATO members, he said: “It greatly weakens your negotiating position, and bargaining power, over Russia.”

Since 2023, NATO member Turkey is the third-largest buyer of Russian oil, after China and India, according to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air. Other members of the 32-state alliance involved in purchasing Russian oil include Hungary and Slovakia.

The Republican president imposed a 25% import tax on goods from India for buying of Russian energy products. He placed in total a 50% tariff on India,

though he indicated negotiations with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could help settle differences.

It’s unclear whether Trump would want to directly confront Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. That leaves uncertainty whether the threats might lead to new tariffs or a ban on Russian oil purchases.

While Trump as a candidate promised to end the war quickly, he has yet to hit the pressure points needed to end the violence and at times was seen as reluctant to confront Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In his post, Trump said responsibility for the war fell on his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden, and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He did not include in that list Putin, who launched the invasion of Ukraine.

Congress seeks to get the U.S. president to back a bill toughening sanctions, after Trump last month hosted Putin in Alaska for talks that failed to deliver on progress toward peace.

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## Witnesses to Kirk killing reckon with grief, trauma

**JESSE BEDAYN, HANNAH SCHOENBAUM, LINDSEY WASSON AND RIO YAMAT**  
Associated Press

OREM, Utah — One student holed up in his house for two days after witnessing Charlie Kirk’s assassination, nervous about going back to the Utah college campus where the conservative activist was shot. Another, unable to sleep or shake what she saw and heard, called her dad to come take her home.

Students who witnessed Wednesday’s shooting at Utah Valley University are reckoning with trauma, grief and the pall the killing cast on their community.

Student Marjorie Holt started crying when she brought flowers to campus Thursday. Hours after the shooting, the

18-year-old said she lay in bed, haunted by the horror she witnessed. “I saw him fall over, I saw the blood, but for some reason it couldn’t click to me what happened.”

Unable to sleep because of a pounding headache, nausea and the day’s trauma, she called her dad, who brought her home to Salt Lake City, about 40 miles to the north.

Returning to campus, Holt said, is going to feel “like a burden on my heart.”

Tyler James Robinson’s arrest late Thursday calmed some fears. Still, questions persist about the alleged shooter’s motive and planning, as well as security lapses that allowed a man with a rifle to shoot Kirk from a rooftop before fleeing.

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LINDSEY WASSON, ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters gather at a makeshift memorial in Orem, Utah, on Saturday at Utah Valley University for Turning Point USA CEO and co-founder Charlie Kirk, who was fatally shot during an event Wednesday on the campus.