

In Kyiv, Sen. Blumenthal Says He Hopes to See a ‘Hand-to-Hand Insurgency’ in Russian-Occupied Ukraine

Blumenthal and Sen. Graham visited Kyiv to push a plan to designate Russia as a 'state sponsor of terror'

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Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) visited Kyiv with **Sen. Lindsey Graham** (R-SC) on Thursday and [said he hopes to see a “hand-to-hand insurgency”](#) in territory Russia has captured since it invaded Ukraine.

“Long-range artillery is very, very important. But so is the hand-to-hand insurgency that we are hoping to see in eastern Ukraine, in the territory that’s already been occupied by the Russians,” Blumenthal said.

Both Blumenthal and Graham voiced support for an insurgency in eastern Ukraine in the latest sign that the US plans to support Ukraine in its war against Russia for years to come. But the main purpose of the visit was to discuss a plan to designate Russia as a “state sponsor of terrorism” with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Currently, only [Iran](#), [North Korea](#), [Syria](#), and [Cuba](#) are designated as state sponsors of terror. Cuba’s designation was lifted by President Obama, but the Trump administration [put](#)

[Havana back on the list](#) as one of its last foreign policy moves.

Graham said he believes the designation would have near-unanimous support in the Senate. In May, the two senators [introduced a resolution](#) that would call for **Secretary of State Antony Blinken** to make the designation.

The senators also called for more weapons shipments to Ukraine. Blumenthal said the US should send HIMARS rocket systems with “longer ranges” than what has been provided, more Harpoon anti-ship missiles, and air defense systems.

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