

Zelensky Accused of Interfering in Upcoming US Elections

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Ukrainian **President Volodymyr Zelensky** reportedly used US military assets to campaign for **Vice President Kamala Harris** during a visit to a munitions plant in Pennsylvania, The Federalist magazine reported. He visited the factory in the swing state with supporters of Kamala Harris, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and other Democrats and promoted the visit with photos and a speech aboard a US Air Force plane.

"Zelensky is in Pennsylvania today, signing bombs with Gov. Shapiro. Zelensky is also attacking J.D. Vance in the biggest, most important battleground state in the country during an election year. Folks, if that ain't foreign election interference, I don't know what is," **Sean Parnell**, a former Republican candidate for the US Senate from Pennsylvania, said in the article published on September 23.

Ukraine's Zelensky Used U.S. Military Assets To Campaign For Harris in Pennsylvania

ELECTIONS

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Screenshot from The Federalist

The magazine also emphasised that the Pentagon did not deny that Zelensky used US military resources for the trip but declined to comment on Zelensky's possible efforts to support a specific candidate.

Zelensky began his visit to the United States on September 22 by visiting an ammunition factory in Scranton, Pennsylvania, that produces ammunition for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. He immediately asked for more projectiles.

Earlier, Zelensky <u>said</u> in an interview with The New Yorker that vice presidential candidate Vance's possible rise to power sends "dangerous signals" to Kiev, as the latter declared that Ukraine's hopes of returning to its 1991 borders with Russia are absurd. The Ukrainian leader said he fears Vance's rise to power because he is too hardline on the Ukraine issue.

"For us, these are dangerous signals, coming as they do from a potential Vice-President. I don't take Vance's words seriously because, if this were a plan, then America is headed for global conflict," Zelensky said before comparing any negotiations with Russia to the appeasement of Adolf Hitler before World War II.

While not directly mentioning Trump by name, Zelensky criticised the Republican candidate in the interview by slamming world leaders for seeking working relationships with Russian President Vladimir Putin, which the former president cites as key to his foreign policy successes during his presidency.

"A lot of world leaders want to have some sort of dealings with Putin, to reach agreements, to conduct some business with him. I look at such leaders and realise that they are very interested in playing this game — and for them, unfortunately, it really is a game," Zelensky said. "But what makes a real leader? A leader is someone whom Putin needs for something, not a person who needs Putin. Flirting with him is not a sign of strength. Sitting across the table from him might make you believe you're making important decisions about the world."

These very words and actions lead to Zelensky being accused of directly interfering in the upcoming US election.

"The Biden-Harris admin is using military assets to fly a foreign leader into a battleground state in order to undermine their political opponents," Dan Caldwell, public policy advisor at Defense Priorities, posted on social media.

Yet, despite these accusations, Zelensky ironically said,

"I think Ukraine has demonstrated the wisdom of not becoming captured by American domestic politics."

Although most polls show Kamala Harris in a narrow lead over Trump, some of her supporters are unnerved by the small margin of her advantage in three northern battlegrounds—Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin—reported The Guardian. This puts a greater perspective on why Zelensky is directly interfering in the US election by visiting Pennsylvania, hoping to rally the people to vote for the Democratic candidate.

"Some polls have shown the vice-president with leads of between four and six points in Pennsylvania – generally judged the most important swing state – others show Trump trailing by smaller deficits," the outlet reported.

John Fetterman, the Democratic senator for Pennsylvania, told The Hill that the former president threatened Kamala Harris despite the current vice president leading in the battleground state.

"Polling has really been seriously damaged since 2016 ... Trump is going to be tough in Pennsylvania, and that's absolutely the truth," he said.

Zelensky hopes that by the Democrats winning the election, the futile war against Russia can be prolonged as his ego does not allow him to accept that Ukraine cannot win and that he will need to accept the loss of vast territory after promising Ukrainians that even Crimea would be recaptured.

Trump has already famously said that he would resolve the conflict in 24 hours, and although this is doubtful, it does signal that his presidency aims to achieve a resolution swiftly. Due to this fact, it is obvious why Zelensky is directly interfering in the US election, as a Trump victory would be catastrophic to his power and the Kiev regime.

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