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## **Press Statement**

## **Ukraine Advocates Urge Elected Leaders to Disavow Trump's Comments**

Reacting to comments made by President Trump on social media concerning Ukraine and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Mykola Murskyj, Director of Advocacy at Razom for Ukraine, said:

President Trump's recent comments do not further his stated goal of resolving Russia's war in Ukraine. His remarks contain a number of false claims about Ukraine and President Zelenskyy, and no negotiation can succeed if it is predicated on falsehood. Russia started the war. President Zelenskyy was popularly elected. Ukraine regularly holds free and fair elections that are recognized as such by the U.S. Department of State. Finally, U.S. aid to Ukraine is subject to some of the most rigorous oversight mechanisms of any federal funding.

Razom for Ukraine, one of the largest U.S. aid and advocacy organizations focused on Ukraine, calls on U.S. elected officials to publicly disavow President Trump's comments, which undermine Ukraine's sovereignty, reward Russian aggression, and weaken America's commitment to its allies and principles.

President Trump has an incredible opportunity to seek peace before him. If he is serious about securing a just and lasting peace, he will find millions of supporters on both sides of the Atlantic standing with him. If he is successful, he will be honored and celebrated around the world. However, any attempts to force Ukraine into signing an agreement without Ukraine's active participation are bound to fail.

A peace agreement must ensure that Ukraine receives robust security guarantees to deter a future Russian invasion, protect Ukraine's right to self-defense, secure freedom for captive Ukrainians, and ensure frozen Russian state assets are used to compensate and aid Ukraine.

Ukrainians remain profoundly grateful for America's support. No one wants peace more than the Ukrainian people. We affirm their desire and exhort Donald Trump to end the war with a lasting and just peace that is achievable under his leadership.

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