



ODFFU Condemns Trump Administration Decision to Ease Russian Diesel Sanctions

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The Organization for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine (ODFFU) condemns the Trump administration's decision to authorize Russian diesel sales to American and global markets. At a time when the United States should be increasing economic pressure on Moscow, Washington is instead providing the Kremlin with new commercial opportunities.

On October 9, the U.S. Treasury issued General License 135, authorizing specified Russian diesel transactions for six months. The proposed arrangement could involve up to 4.8 million metric tons of fuel. This comes barely three weeks after President Trump signed the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, legislation intended to strengthen economic pressure on Russia. The contradiction is unmistakable.

Russian energy revenues help finance the military machine that continues to bombard Ukrainian cities, destroy hospitals, schools, and homes, forcibly deport children, and devastate civilian infrastructure. Moscow also conducts sabotage, cyberattacks, and hybrid operations against NATO allies, while its military cooperation with Iran threatens American personnel and interests. Providing additional revenue to a government engaged in these activities raises serious American national security concerns.

The administration claims Russian diesel will lower fuel prices, although analysts question whether Americans will receive meaningful relief. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has criticized the decision, noting that sanctions relief could have been considered in exchange for ending Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. No equivalent Russian commitment has been publicly established. What has Washington obtained in return?

Adding to these concerns is President Trump's invitation to Vladimir Putin to attend the December G20 summit in Florida. Putin remains subject to an International Criminal Court arrest warrant for war crimes involving the unlawful deportation and transfer of Ukrainian children. Diplomatic engagement must deliver verifiable results, not political rehabilitation without accountability.

ODFFU calls upon the administration and Congress to suspend and review General License 135, disclose the arrangement's financial beneficiaries and any concessions obtained from Moscow, and enforce existing sanctions legislation. The United States must sustain military assistance to Ukraine and uphold its sovereignty and internationally recognized borders.

For generations, ODFFU has defended Ukrainian independence against Russian imperial domination. Rewarding aggression without accountability will not secure lasting peace. America must stand by the principles of sovereignty, freedom, and international law that underpin its own security.

What has Russia received, and what has Russia surrendered in return?

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