

Politics

## Zelenskiy Confirms Capture of Swathe of Russian Territory

- Kyiv says it controls some 1,000 square kilometers in Russia
- Offensive operation in Russia's Kursk region ongoing



WATCH: Ukraine says some 1,000 square kilometers in the Kursk region has been taken. Tony Halpin reports. *Source: Bloomberg*

By [Daryna Krasnolutska](#) and [Aliaksandr Kudrytski](#)

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy publicly confirmed for the first time that his forces had seized a swathe of Russian territory, saying the operation was being conducted to protect his country's border areas.

Oleksandr Syrskyi, Zelenskiy's commander-in-chief, said at a Monday meeting with officials and the president that some 1,000 square kilometers (386 square miles) in Russia's Kursk region had been taken. The operation was continuing and that the situation remained "under our control," he said in comments made in a Telegram video.

Ukraine now controls "areas from which the Russian military was striking our Sumy region," Zelenskiy said later Monday in a regular address to the nation. "Our operations are purely a security issue for Ukraine, to free areas near the border from Russian troops."

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Since the action began a week ago, the Ukrainian leader hadn't until today explicitly acknowledged the incursion into Russia.

Zelenskiy said Russia had delivered more than 2,100 strikes on the Sumy region since June and reiterated a call to Ukraine's partners to allow it to use long-range weapons against Russian targets.

"This is something that could significantly bring a just end to the war closer and save thousands of Ukrainian lives from Russian terror," the president said.

**Volodymyr Zelensky / Володимир Зеленський**  

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### Meeting of the Staff

The most important: Commander-in-Chief Oleksandr Syrskyi reported on our defensive actions on the front and our operations in the Kursk region. We are grateful to all soldiers and commanders for their resilience and decisive actions. Among other things, we... [Show more](#)



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*(Updates with Zelenskiy's comments from third paragraph)*

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