

# Ukrainian Prime Minister Offers to Resign

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Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov offered to resign on Tuesday amid continued unrest throughout the country.

Azarov said in a statement on the government's website that he made the decision in order to "to create additional opportunities for socio-political compromise for the peaceful resolution of this conflict."

Anti-government demonstrations that first began in November after Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich abandoned a planned association agreement with the European Union have recently taken a violent turn, as protesters and police continue to clash in central Kiev.

Azarov, who was appointed prime minister in 2010, said he had done everything so that Ukraine "could normally develop as a democratic European state."

On Saturday Yanukovich offered opposition leaders top positions in the country's government.

Arseny Yatsenyuk, who heads the opposition Fatherland party, formally turned down the offer to become prime minister on Monday.

The Ukrainian parliament was set to meet for a special session Tuesday to vote on plans to repeal a strict anti-protest law that led to increasingly violent clashes between radical protesters and state troops.

It is unclear whether the country's lawmakers will support the initiative to abolish the legislation.

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