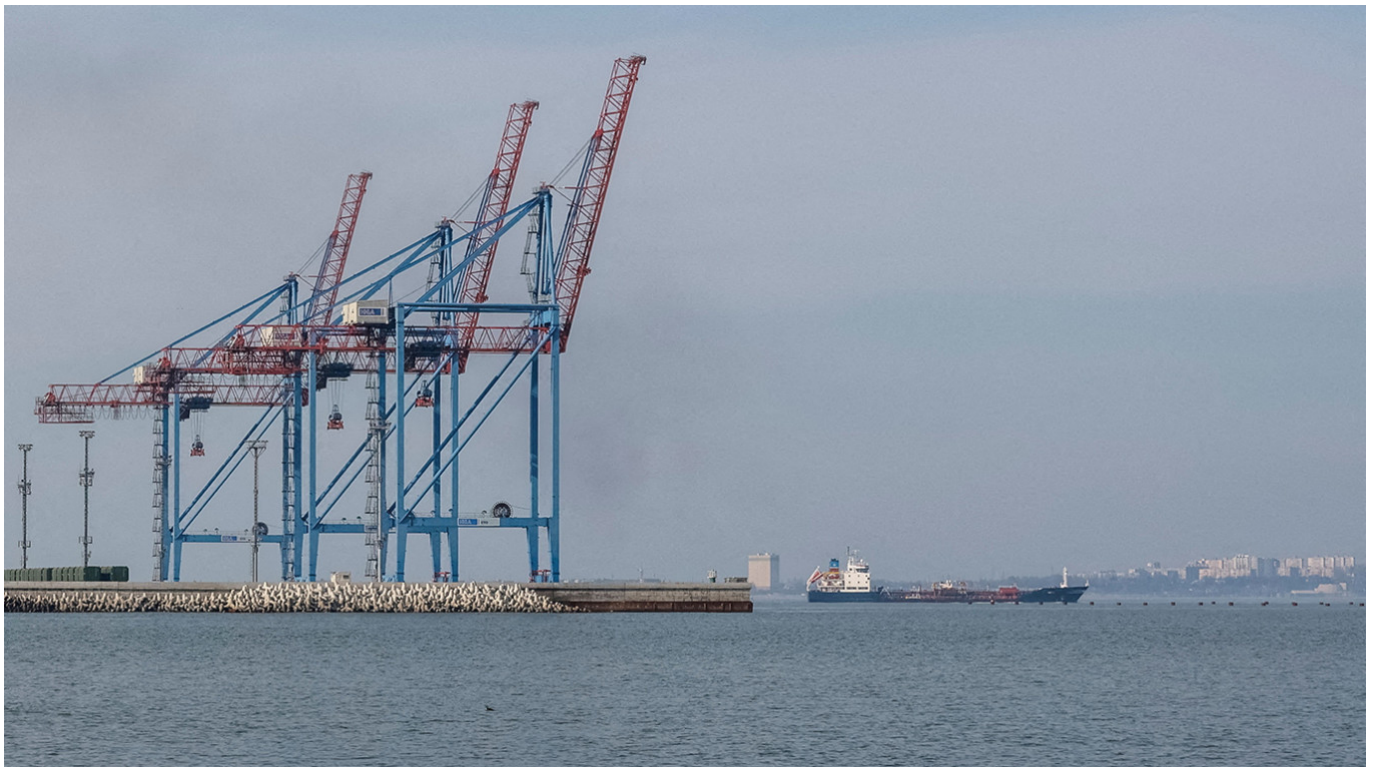


Russia Dismisses Calls for Black Sea Ceasefire

By [Reuters](#)

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A cargo vessel leaves a port in Odesa. **REUTERS / Nina Liashonok**

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday dismissed the idea of a ceasefire with Ukraine in the Black Sea, saying it saw no grounds for "half-measures" that would offer a respite to Ukrainian forces.

Both Russia and Ukraine have stepped up attacks against commercial ships in the Black Sea in recent weeks, which has driven world grain prices higher.

In a statement, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova accused Ukraine of "brazen acts of terrorism" against shipping while making no mention of Russia's own attacks.

"We view these attacks as a deliberate policy aimed at destabilizing civilian shipping in the Black Sea region, to escalate tensions further and prolong the conflict, all with the blatant acquiescence of regional neighbors," Zakharova said.

"At the same time, we see no signs of improvement in the situation and, consequently, no grounds for half-measures that merely grant the Kyiv regime temporary breathing space," she added.

Related article: [3 Killed, 2 Grain Terminals Halt Work in Novorossiysk After Ukrainian Attack, Sources Say](#)

Zakharova was responding to remarks by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who told media outlets that Ankara had put forward proposals to both sides for a moratorium on military operations in the Black Sea.

She said Russia has received no formal proposal from Turkey.

Reuters reported on Thursday that Ukraine had passed an offer to Russia through a third party to halt attacks on civilian ships in the Black Sea.

Zakharova also ruled out returning to the 2022-23 Black Sea Grain initiative brokered by Turkey and the UN. That arrangement allowed Russia and Ukraine — both major grain exporters — to safely ship grain through the Black Sea.

The agreement, which Zakharova called one-sided, collapsed after Russia pulled out, claiming Western commitments regarding its own exports were never fulfilled.

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