

Ukraine rejects Putin's 36-hour ceasefire for Orthodox Christmas

Kyiv says Moscow's declaration of truce, after Russian president cited appeal from patriarch, is 'hypocrisy'

Ukraine has rejected an announcement by Vladimir Putin of a 36-hour ceasefire to mark Orthodox Christmas, saying there will be no truce until Russia removes its invading forces from occupied land.

The Kremlin said Putin had ordered his defence minister, Sergei Shoigu, to introduce a temporary ceasefire along the entire line of contact in Ukraine for Orthodox Christmas from midday on 6 January to midnight on 7 January.

"Taking into account the appeal of his holiness Patriarch Kirill, I instruct the minister of defence of the Russian Federation to introduce a ceasefire regime along the entire line of contact of the parties in Ukraine from 12.00 on 6 January 2023 to 24.00 on 7 January 2023," Putin's order, addressed to Shoigu and published on the Kremlin's website, stated.

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