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Abu Dhabi Talks: The Numbers Behind the Push to End the Ukraine War

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Russian and Ukrainian negotiators meet in Abu Dhabi on November 10-11 for their first direct talks since February, with Washington mediating and Europe watching from the sidelines. This study measures what four and a half years of war have cost - more than 450,000 Russian dead by leaked state records, 573 billion euros in Western aid, 18 percent of Ukraine under occupation - and what a deal must settle.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS & STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

Executive Summary ABU DHABI Russian and Ukrainian negotiators sit down in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday for their first direct talks since February, with American mediators Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner chairing two days of meetings aimed at ending a war now in its fifth year. President Donald Trump said on Monday that Washington sees a "very strong inclination" to end the fighting, and that both sides are "tired of fighting". The stakes are measured in lives and money. Leaked records from Russia’s own statistics agency put Russian war dead above 450,000, while Western governments have committed 573 billion euros in aid to Ukraine and about 18 percent of Ukrainian territory sits under Russian occupation. This study weighs the casualty toll, the aid ledger, the map and the deal on the table and asks what would have to give for the talks to succeed. The opening positions are far apart but not frozen. A United States official said both sides have shown some private flexibility on territory, and security guarantees for Kyiv possibly in a NATO-style Article 5 form top the agenda, alongside a roadmap to European Union membership. Europe, shut out of the main room at Moscow’s insistence, will be briefed separately by Kyiv’s team. Methodology This study draws on reporting published on November 9 and 10, 2026 by Reuters, The Guardian, the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse, cross-checked against the Kiel Institute’s Ukraine Support Tracker, a European Parliament research briefing and the United Nations monitoring mission in Ukraine. Casualty figures from the leaked Russian statistics records are presented with their limits stated, not as confirmed totals. Where sources disagree, the study shows the range. The leaked death-certificate count runs from about 394,000 on the narrowest

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