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Kremlin announces Christmas cease-fire Kyiv dismisses offer as ploy



Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered his defense minister to impose a 36-hour ceasefire on the Ukrainian war front in order to coincide with the celebration of Christmas, as based on the Julian calendar, which is followed by the Russian Orthodox Church.

The decision by the Kremlin was reportedly in response to a request for a 36-hour Christmas truce by the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, His Holiness Kirill, to allow believers to attend services for Orthodox Christmas.

The Russian leader asked Ukraine to reciprocate, but the government in Kyiv quickly rejected the request.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said such a truce was an attempt to stop his country's military advances in the east of the country.