Abu Dhabi, 10–11 November 2026: what was agreed, and what the record shows

Briefing · 11 November 2026, 13:00 New York · Ukraine Evidence Hub · ukraine-evidence.org · CC BY 4.0

Source tiers: **A** — UN bodies; **B** — government authorities (Ukrainian authorities are a party to the conflict); **C** — independent media; **RU** — Russian state source, quoted as a party's position. Legal labels: **finding** (UN body or court) · **pattern** · **claim** (a party's statement).

At a glance

- **Format.** The first US-mediated trilateral round between Ukraine, the United States and Russia in nine months: about four hours on 10 November and under two hours on 11 November (PBS, 10 Nov; Kyiv Post, 11 Nov; C).
- **Agreed: a large prisoner exchange.** US envoy Jared Kushner: "we agreed that we're going to have the biggest humanitarian release of prisoners"; final numbers to be set on 12 November. Ukraine's Rustem Umerov: "The main outcome is that we managed to reach an agreement on a major prisoner exchange." Russia's Vladimir Medinsky confirmed the exchange without details (Euronews; UNN, 11 Nov; C). On 10 November President Zelensky said swaps of 1,000 for 1,000, possibly 1,500 for 1,500, were under discussion.
- **Not agreed: a ceasefire or territory.** Umerov: the sides "were able to state their positions directly, on which significant differences remain" (UNN; C). Russia insists that Ukraine withdraw from the part of Donbas it still controls and rejects an immediate ceasefire before broader security arrangements (Euronews; C).
- **Next.** Kushner said he and Steve Witkoff will meet Vladimir Putin in Moscow on 12 November and then President Zelensky in Dublin (Euronews; C). Europe was not at the trilateral table; Ukraine met European partners separately.

Positions on the record

Who	What they said	Label · source
Russia — Kremlin	"We have repeatedly said that we are against a ceasefire that will give Ukrainians a respite" — Dmitry Peskov, asked whether Russia would halt combat operations before the talks.	**claim** · TASS, 30 Oct 2026 (RU)
Russia — delegation	Medinsky on the European representatives in Abu Dhabi: "We don't really understand in what capacity they are here."	**claim** · Euronews, 11 Nov (C)
United States	Witkoff: any agreement must respect Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and give it reliable security guarantees.	President of Ukraine via Suspilne, 10 Nov (B)
Ukraine	Zelensky: territorial questions are for the leaders; "real instruments are needed to block any repetition of the war".	President of Ukraine via Suspilne, 10 Nov (B)
UN General Assembly	Demands that Russia "immediately, completely and unconditionally" withdraw its forces (ES-11/1, 2 Mar 2022); declares the attempted annexation of four regions invalid (ES-11/4, 12 Oct 2022).	A/RES/ES-11/1; A/RES/ES-11/4 (A)

The humanitarian file: what an exchange leaves open

Figure	What it counts	Source · tier
9,996	Ukrainians returned from Russian captivity, soldiers and civilians	Coordination HQ for the Treatment of POWs, 27 Oct 2026 (B)
more than 16,000	Ukrainian civilians detained by Russia since February 2022 still deprived of liberty, UN estimate	UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, 10 Aug 2026 (A)
more than 95%	of 910 released Ukrainian POWs interviewed by the UN described torture or ill-treatment; 85% of 403 civilian detainees	same (A)
48	Ukrainian POWs who died in Russian custody from torture, denial of medical care or inhuman conditions, documented by the UN	same (A)
20,651 · 2,752	children deported or forcibly transferred, recorded by Ukraine · children returned	Children of War portal, 28 Oct 2026 (B)
1,205	cases of deportation or transfer verified by the UN Commission of Inquiry; about 80% of the children not returned	A/HRC/61/61, 30 Mar 2026 (A)

A prisoner-of-war exchange does not cover civilians: under the Fourth Geneva Convention civilian detainees are not prisoners of war and are not for exchange.

Meanwhile on the ground, 9–11 November

From the eve of the talks to the end of day two, Russian attacks killed at least **16 civilians** and injured **66** across Ukraine, as reported by regional military administrations, the police and the State Emergency Service (Hub strike log; B). Over the two nights Russia launched 325 drones, an Iskander-M ballistic missile and a Kh-59/69 guided missile (Air Force of Ukraine; B). On 10 November, the first day of the talks, a strike on an enterprise in Dnipro killed 3 people; on 11 November a strike on the crowded market in Chornomorsk killed 3 and hurt 11; on the night of 10–11 November a double missile strike hit Kharkiv, and in Zhytomyr region police officers documenting the damage were hit by a repeat strike — 4 injured. Strikes on energy left about 135,000 consumers without power in Odesa region and parts of Kryvyi Rih without power and heating.

Counts are preliminary and still rising. An Odesa-region woman, aged 70, who died in hospital after the strikes of 10–11 November is not included.

Legal qualification

- **Finding (UN):** the UN Commission of Inquiry found that enforced disappearances and torture of Ukrainian detainees by the Russian authorities amount to crimes against humanity (March 2025), and that the deportation and forcible transfer of Ukrainian children amount to war crimes.
- **Pattern:** Russian strikes on civilian areas and energy infrastructure continued on both days of the talks, as the Hub's negotiations timeline records around earlier rounds.
- **Claim:** Russia's position that a ceasefire would give Ukraine "a respite", and its demand that Ukraine withdraw from territory it controls, are statements by a party to the conflict, not findings.

What we ask

That the exchange agreed in Abu Dhabi be followed by an **all-for-all exchange of prisoners of war**; the **unconditional release of civilian detainees** as a separate track; **full ICRC and UN access** to every place where Ukrainians are held, with an account of every person; and a **list of every child Russia has removed**, with their return. Questions and corrections: evidence@ukraine-evidence.org · Full record with sources: ukraine-evidence.org/#negotiations