

Yanukovich Denies Ouster, Says Nationalist Fascists Took Over Power in Ukraine

By [RT](#)

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Ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich pledges to fight for Ukraine. He addressed a press conference in southern Russia, appearing in public for the first time since he fled Kiev amid bloody riots.

"No one has ousted me," Yanukovich told reporters. "I had to leave Ukraine because of a direct threat to my life and the lives of my family."

According to Yanukovich, *"nationalist fascist-like fellows representing the absolute minority of Ukrainians"* took over power in Ukraine.

He described the situation in Ukraine as *"complete lawlessness," "terror" and "chaos"*, saying that the politicians, including MPs, have been threatened and are working under threats.

It has nothing to do with the unity government that was negotiated with the opposition, he said.

The violence and deaths in Ukraine are the *"result of the irresponsible politics of the West, which has encouraged Maidan,"* Yanukovich stressed.

US and other Western countries' representatives *"must take full responsibility"* for the fact that the agreement between Yanukovich and the opposition leaders was not held, the ousted president stressed. Western powers' *"patronage"* of Maidan makes them directly responsible for the situation in Ukraine, he claimed.

The current Ukrainian parliament is *"not legitimate,"* and the people in power are spreading the propaganda of violence, Yanukovich asserted.

[#Yanukovich](#): I'm an acting president; I haven't resigned, I haven't been impeached, and I'm still alive (3ways a pres could be ousted – IG)

— Irina Galushko (@IrinaGalushkoRT) [February 28, 2014](#)

When asked if he feels ashamed of his actions, Yanukovich replied that he feels ashamed and sorry for *"not having been able to stabilize the situations and stop the mayhem"* in Ukraine.

"I want to apologize to the Ukrainian people for what has happened in Ukraine and that I

lacked strength to maintain stability."

Yanukovich also apologized to the Ukrainian riot police, Berkut, for having to *"suffer"* while doing their duty of maintaining peace and order. Police officers had to stand their ground while rioters set them on fire with petrol bombs, he reminded.

Yanukovich stressed he had not given any order for police to shoot live fire until the rioters started using firearms, putting the officers' lives under threat.

According to Yanukovich, the early Ukrainian elections announced for May 25 are *"illegitimate"* and he will not take part in them.

However, he said that he will *"remain in politics."*

[#Ukraine #Yanukovich](#) "i suggest to to hold a national referendum" on the future of the country pic.twitter.com/DKSm1y8iTN

— Paulina Leonovich (@Polly_evro) [February 28, 2014](#)

Crimea must remain a part of Ukraine while maintaining a broad autonomy, Yanukovich stressed.

He ruled out any possibility that he will ask Russia for military help to resolve the situation there.

Yanukovich said he understands the concerns of Crimeans, who want to *"protect their homes and families"* from *"extremists."*

When asked why he chose to leave Ukraine for Rostov-on-Don, Yanukovich said that he has *"an old friend there,"* who can provide him with a *"temporary safe haven."*

Yanukovich made it to Russia thanks to *"patriotically-minded officers,"* who helped to *"save his life."* He has not met Russian President Vladimir Putin, but they have already talked over the phone.

Yanukovich received a lot of questions on Russia's role and possible actions in the Ukrainian crisis.

While saying *"it is not correct"* to tell Moscow what to do, Yanukovich said he believes *"Russia cannot abandon Ukraine to its fate and should use all possible means to prevent chaos and terror in its neighboring country."*

There remains, however, a chance for the country to change its course and not to slip into chaos, Yanukovich believes.

He said that he will return to Ukraine as soon as he receives *"international safety guarantees."*

The ousted president refused to comment on Ukrainian parliament's intention to try him in the International Criminal Court, saying that an independent investigation has to be carried out first.

However, he stressed that *"the scenario of bloodshed... was not drafted in Ukraine."*

Yanukovich left Ukraine's capital amid the worst surge of violence in the country's post-Soviet history, which left dozens of people dead and hundreds injured. The new regime immediately capitalized on his absence from the capital, voting to strip Yanukovich of his powers and announcing early elections for May 25.

The Ukrainian parliament (Verkhovna Rada) has voted in favor of trying Yanukovich at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague for alleged *"crimes against humanity during the recent peaceful protests."* A Kiev court on Friday issued an order for the ousted president's arrest.

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