Kyiv: The Revolt of the New Generations Against the Soviet Methods of the Supreme Commander – General Syrskyi

Published on 21/07/2026

A spiral of political and military chaos is tearing Ukraine apart from within, dangerously threatening the national unity that has supported the country for over four and a half years of conflict. The situation in Kyiv is now out of control: the pressure on President Volodymyr Zelensky to dismiss the supreme commander of the armed forces, General Oleksandr Syrskyi, has reached unsustainable levels, fueled by unprecedented street protests and the open fury of soldiers at the front.

The Spark Ignited: Fedorov's Dismissal and the Technological War

The political earthquake erupted with the dismissal of Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov. A drastic move that uncovered a deep chasm between the proponents of the technological modernization of the army — based on drones and robots — and the old guard of the military command chain led by Syrskyi.

Before being ousted, Fedorov launched a harsh indictment against the military leadership, accusing them of blocking every effort of digitalization and reform through obtuse resistance and internal power maneuvers. The popular reaction was swift: thousands of citizens took to the streets in Kyiv, a historic event, replicated only once since the initial Russian invasion of 2022.

> ***"The Enemy Behind Us":*** *The words of a 28-year-old non-commissioned officer serving at the southern front summarize the terror of the moment: "At this moment we are facing the enemy. We believed there were no enemies behind us, in our rear. Apparently, there are."*

Revolt at the Front: Soldiers Reject the Command

The discontent is not confined to the streets of the capital. Among the units deployed along the front, the atmosphere is one of open protest. The soldiers denounce how General Syrskyi continues to apply Soviet-style methods, based on attrition and blind hierarchical subordination rather than combat effectiveness and the safeguarding of soldiers' lives.

Critical Command Issues:

- **Reputation for Heavy Losses:** Ruthlessly nicknamed "the Butcher" by the troops during the bloody battle of Bakhmut.
- **Facade Propaganda:** Harshly criticized for symbolic and risky operations, like the flag-raising in Kostiantynivka, compared to empty Russian propaganda while soldiers ended up captured.
- **Generational Clash:** The young champions of technological innovation clash against the conservative stronghold of the General Staff.
- **Risk of Internal Collapse:** Many officers and soldiers fear that this internal feud represents an even greater danger than the Russian offensive.

A Country on the Brink of the Abyss

While Russia intensifies its long-range attacks — hitting commercial infrastructures and warehouses in the Moscow region and causing dozens of injuries and casualties — Kyiv's attention is paralyzed by a suicidal power struggle. Zelensky finds himself caught between the anvil of street protests calling for a radical technological shift and the hammer of a General Staff that labels the protests as dangerous manipulations.

The decisions the president is forced to make in these hours will define the future of the nation: the choice between radically reforming the military apparatus or succumbing to irreversible internal divisions. The time available is dramatically running out.