

## UKRAINE AND RUSSIA TO SIGN GRAIN DEAL

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Ukraine and Russia were due on Friday to sign an elusive deal designed to help relieve a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain exports.

The first major agreement between the warring sides since Russia's February invasion of its neighbour comes with global food prices soaring and people in some of the countries facing starvation.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was due to arrive in Turkey on Thursday for the signing ceremony at Istanbul's lavish Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus Strait.

"The grain export agreement will be signed in Istanbul (Friday) under the auspices of President Erdogan and Mr. Guterres together with Ukrainian and Russian delegations," the Turkish leader's spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin tweeted.

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