



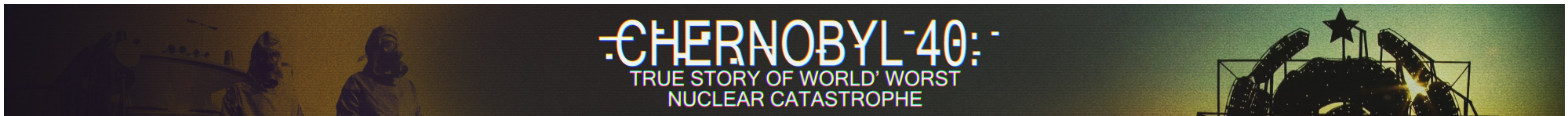
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British jets authorized to attack Russian drones – NATO member

Two Eurofighter Typhoons were cleared to attack the UAVs as they flew over Ukraine, the Romanian Defense Ministry has said

Published 25 Apr, 2026 11:06 | Updated 25 Apr, 2026 12:10

Two British fighter jets that scrambled from a Romanian air base received a green light to shoot down Russian drones flying not far from the border with the NATO country, Romania's Defense Ministry has said. Romanian and UK officials have stressed that the warplanes never entered Ukraine's airspace, or opened fire on Russian UAVs.



In a statement on Saturday, the

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Romanian Defense Ministry said that RAF Eurofighter Typhoon jets deployed at the 86th Air Base in

Fetesti lifted off at 2 AM and established radar contact with a target 1.5 km from Reni, a Ukrainian port town on the bank of the Danube, barely a stone's throw from Romanian soil.

"The pilots had authorization to engage the drones," the ministry said, adding that multiple explosions were subsequently reported in Reni.



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RAF Eurofighter Typhoon displaying at The Royal International Air Tattoo, on July 16, 2011. © Getty Images/Andrew_Harker

After some media reports interpreted the statement as a greenlight to attack Russian UAVs over Ukrainian soil, the UK and Romanian defense ministries clarified to The Telegraph that the aircraft never entered Ukrainian airspace and did not engage any targets – returning to base without firing.

"Because that specific target did not breach the Romanian airspace, it could not be fired upon. The mission remained one of surveillance, deterrence, and readiness to respond if required," the Romanian Defense Ministry stressed.

Officials in Bucharest also reported that a falling object in the area of Galati – a Romanian city directly across the Danube from Ukraine, adding that drone fragments damaged an outbuilding and an electricity pole, with no casualties.

Romanian officials subsequently accused Russia of *"irresponsible"* actions and the *"lack of respect for the norms of international law and endanger[ing] not only the safety of Romanian citizens, but also the collective security of NATO."*

Since the escalation of the Ukraine conflict in 2022, the Danube River has emerged as an important logistical route between Kiev and its European backers, with media reports suggesting the artery could be used for weapons deliveries.

Moscow has consistently condemned Western assistance to Ukraine, saying that NATO members are directly involved in hostilities. However, in September 2025, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Russia *"never attacks civilian facilities"* and *"never directs our drones and missiles at states located in Europe and NATO Alliance countries."*

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Hungary's 'first LGBTQ activist' named education minister – media

Judit Lannert is also known for her pro-Ukraine views and has been a critic of the previous government

Published 26 Apr, 2026 11:15

Incoming Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Magyar has appointed the country's "first LGBTQ activist" as education minister, according to local media.

The Tisza Party leader, who defeated Viktor Orban's Fidesz earlier this month, unveiled 12 cabinet ministers in a Facebook post on Friday as he prepares to form a new government.



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Judit Lannert was named minister of education and child care affairs, despite expectations that Rita

Hungarian incoming PM Peter Magyar holds a press conference in Budapest, Hungary, April 13, 2026. © Sean Gallup / Getty Images

Rubovszky, the headmistress of a Cistercian Catholic school, would take the role. Lannert is known as a critic of the previous government, with the media noting her use of LGBTQ-themed colors on social media during debates over constitutional amendments under Orban.

The move came a day after a proposal to launch an LGBTQ-themed TV channel was submitted to Hungary's media regulator, according to Magyar Nemzet.

Under Orban, Hungary introduced limits on LGBTQ-related content for minors. A 2021 child protection law, adopted alongside measures against pedophilia, restricted how gender and sexuality topics can be presented in schools and media.

At the time, Orban said the legislation ensured that parents retain authority over their children's sexual education, calling it a defense of national sovereignty against Western liberal influence.



Nine days after Orban's election defeat, the European Court of Justice ruled that the reforms violate EU law, ordering Hungary to roll back the restrictions on promoting homosexuality and gender transition in the media for minors. The court said the measures "stigmatize and marginalize LGBTQ individuals" and violate human dignity and freedom of expression.

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"The Brusselian steamroller is already in motion," Orban wrote on X, arguing that the law was meant to protect Hungarian children from "aggressive LGBTQ propaganda."

"Now the Brusselian empire strikes back," he added, vowing that his party would not "give up the fight for the soul of Europe."

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