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Russian Orthodox leader condemns 'cynical' Ukrainian strike on church

A senior cleric and three others were injured in the attack during a service in Donbass

Published 23 Aug, 2026 23:25 | Updated 24 Aug, 2026 05:15

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, has condemned a Ukrainian drone strike on a church during a service in Russia's Donetsk People's Republic.

The attack occurred on Sunday at the Epiphany Cathedral in Gorlovka, according to a statement on the Moscow Patriarchate's website.

Metropolitan Mitrofan of Gorlovka and Slavyansk was wounded and treated at the hospital, the local diocese said.



FILE PHOTO: Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia. © Ilya Pitalev/Sputnik

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Protodeacon Roman Stepin and two volunteers with the Patriarchal Humanitarian Mission suffered minor injuries.

"An enemy drone attacked people during prayer, once again demonstrating the lack of principle and flagrant cynicism of those who directed this criminal attack," Kirill said.



Read more: Russia vows continued retaliation for Ukrainian strikes against civilians

Last week, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russia will *"respond proportionately to emerging threats"* from Ukraine.

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Emmett Brown 8/24/2026 at 6:45 AM

3

The laws of war make churches off limits.
I note that Putin follows the laws of war, but Ukraine often attacks civilians.

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- C

Carl Guerin 8/24/2026 at 3:06 PM ↑

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To which there is no western condemnation. Imagine the OUTRAGE if Russia were to reciprocate.

[Reply](#)
- P

P K 8/24/2026 at 1:24 PM

-1

Religion when the government can police everyone it will make you self police yourselfthought police is on the job.....can you imagine believing a god is watching you masturbate

[Reply](#)
- M

Mark Jasniewski 8/24/2026 at 3:43 AM

-3

Nice hat. where can I get one?

[Reply](#)

P

P K 8/24/2026 at 1:20 PM ↑

1

Don't you Jews have little hats already?

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K

Khikus Filthius 8/24/2026 at 11:06 AM

1
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- 24/08/2026, 18:31

Putin should round up 100,000 Ashkenazi Jews and have them incarcerated into safe custody for re-education purposes. I bet Zelensky wouldn't even dare attacking Russia then!

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P K 8/24/2026 at 5:01 AM

-2

All religions are made up fantasy

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R Richard Corc 8/24/2026 at 7:01 AM ↕

-1

He sounds like Put_in!

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P K 8/24/2026 at 5:00 AM

-3

Hogwarts East division 😊

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 **Abul Azad** 8/24/2026 at 4:30 AM

3

What else can we expect from Zionist Hypocrites?

[Reply](#)

S SaysTheBronxBoy 8/24/2026 at 3:06 AM

0

Russia please be careful not to hit any Synagogues or Ukrainian Catholic Churches of zelenskyy cause he won't be in there;(!
Says The BronxBoy

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 **Morgan Keating** 8/24/2026 at 1:47 AM

6

«Two children were killed and seven others injured when a Ukrainian drone struck a childcare center»
A church, a childcare centre. Please help Ukraine with suggestions of how much lower they can go.

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 **Michael** 8/24/2026 at 1:55 AM ↕

-5

Unfortunately, Russia must answer these types of attacks with same.

[Reply](#)

M Micko 8/24/2026 at 2:52 AM ↑

6

Michael, this is not the way a normal person should do. You do not kill innocent children period. If Zionists Israel and Zionists leaders in Ukraine are doing that, it doesn't mean that it is the right way. Again, you do not kill or harm kids, ever.

[Reply](#)

S Sandra Loch 8/24/2026 at 3:05 AM ↑

4

Micko, I agree with you

[Reply](#)

R Rene Tortico (Tortico) 8/24/2026 at 2:01 AM ↑

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People are going to have to sleep in underground cellars.

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Cui Bono 8/24/2026 at 2:42 AM

4

Those directing Ukrainian terrorist attacks on civilians are the British. It is the British that are guilty of war crimes, and it is the British that are the primary sponsor of aggression against Russia.

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b brahim bel 8/24/2026 at 2:30 AM

-1

What do you expect? Ziojews eternal hate toward Christians. Those same Christians who stole the land in West Asia and gave it to those same Ziojews they have tormented for centuries so as to keep them safe, safe from from who?

[Reply](#)

caspar.pfenninger@shaw.ca 8/24/2026 at 2:16 AM

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It should clear by now that Zelenskyy is hitting non-military targets all the time, and they are not accidental.

[Reply](#)

Michael 8/24/2026 at 1:54 AM

2

Ukrainian drone strikes during Sunday church services in Donbas.

This is met with ZERO news coverage from MSM.

If this was the reverse every organ would be spread and denouncing this atrocity