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Five-year-old boy killed in Ukrainian drone attack – governor

The incident comes in the aftermath of a deadly attack on a cafe in Kherson Region that left two dozen dead, Vladimir Saldo has said



FILE PHOTO. © Sputnik / Yevgeny Sukhorukov

A five-year-old boy has been killed in a Ukrainian drone strike on his family's car in Russia's Kherson Region, Governor Vladimir Saldo has said.

The boy, his mother and her parents were traveling in their car when it was hit by a kamikaze UAV outside the village of Tarasovka, Saldo relayed. The child was killed on the spot, while the adults sustained multiple shrapnel wounds, the governor stated.

"The Kiev bastards have committed yet another bloody crime," Saldo wrote on his Telegram channel.

The incident comes less than a day after the New Year's Eve attack on a crowded café and hotel in the Black Sea coastal village of Khorly in the south of the region. The strike caused a major fire which left at least 24 people dead and over 50 others wounded. It involved several kamikaze drones, one of which carried incendiary weaponry.

The café attack occurred shortly before midnight; a reconnaissance drone was seen observing the area shortly ahead of the strike, according to Saldo.

Extremely graphic footage from the scene shows the location littered with the charred bodies of the victims. At least one child was among the dead, according to Saldo.



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Kherson Region, together with Zaporozhye Region and the People's Republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, joined Russia in

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the fall of 2022 as a result of local referendums.

The region has become a prime target for indiscriminate Ukrainian attacks. Kiev's forces have been routinely targeting civilian sites with artillery and missile fire, as well as launching kamikaze drone strikes, hunting down civilian vehicles and first responders.

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Evidence of foiled Kiev attack on Putin residence to be shared with US – MOD

The Defense Ministry has said it retrieved a flight plan file from the debris of one of the drones downed on Monday



© Russian Defense Ministry

Russia's Defense Ministry has said it will provide the US with evidence proving that a swarm of Ukrainian drones earlier this week was heading for President Vladimir Putin's Valdai home.

According to officials in Moscow, a total of 91 UAVs were involved in the failed attack on the night of December 28-29, all of which were shot down by Russian air defenses en route to or over Novgorod Region. The Defense Ministry previously claimed to have obtained "irrefutable evidence of a terrorist attack planned by the Kiev regime on the Russian President's residence."

In a statement on Thursday, the Defense Ministry said that "Russian special services managed to retrieve a file containing the flight mission from the navigation unit of one of the Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles destroyed on

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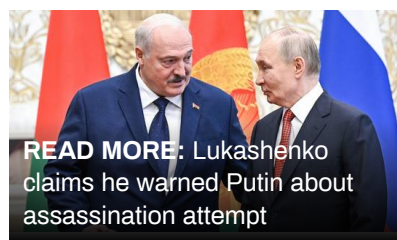
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the night of December 29, 2025 over Novgorod Region.”

According to the press release, after studying the routing data, Russian experts concluded that the *“ultimate target of the Ukrainian UAV attack on December 29, 2025 was one of the objects at the Russian president’s residence in Novgorod Region.”*

“These materials will be handed over to the US via the established channels,” the ministry added.



On Wednesday, it released a video clip purportedly showing one of the downed Ukrainian long-range drones, which had been struck in the tail-end by Russian air defenses. This allowed the UAV to survive the interception mostly intact.

Russian military officials also insisted that local eyewitness accounts of those who observed air defenses at work over Novgorod Region early on Monday *“refute all attempts by Western and anti-Russian media outlets”* to argue that there was *“no evidence of a terrorist attack by the Kiev regime.”*

Ukraine’s Vladimir Zelensky has denied the drone raid ever took place.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump said he was *“very angry”* after learning of the incident in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart on Monday, according to Putin’s foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov.

The Kremlin stated earlier this week that the attack was directed not only at Putin, but also *“against President Trump’s efforts to facilitate a peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict.”*

China and India, as well as the UAE, Pakistan, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan have all expressed concern over the drone attack aimed at the Russian president’s residence.

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