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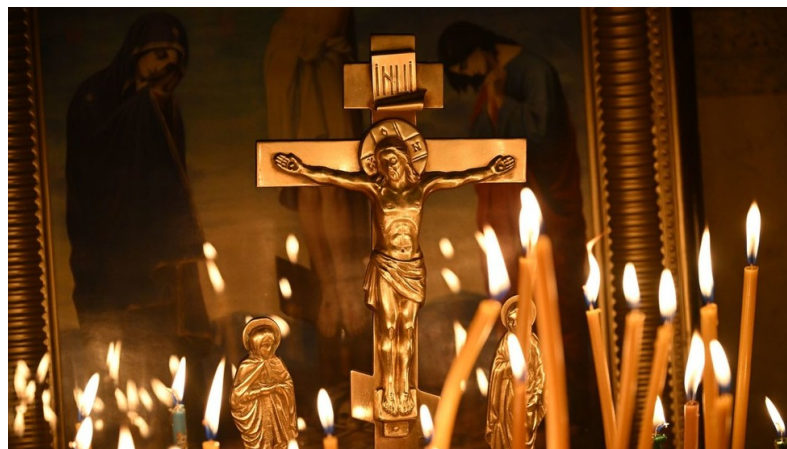
Russian monk killed by US-made drone in Ukrainian attack – Russian Orthodox Church

The Ukrainian military targeted a car carrying two clergy members in Russia's Lugansk People's Republic, the Church reported

Published 29 Jul, 2026 17:28 | Updated 29 Jul, 2026 18:30

A Russian Orthodox monk was killed by a Ukrainian drone strike that targeted a car in Russia's Lugansk People's Republic, according to a statement from the Russian Orthodox Church. A priest in the same vehicle was also injured in the attack, the Church reported.

The incident took place in the northwestern part of the region on Tuesday. The 68-year-old monk, identified as Rafail, was acting as a sub-prior at a garrison church in Russia's northwestern Leningrad Region but volunteered to travel to Russian troops in the combat zone. The statement also identified



FILE PHOTO. © Sputnik / Konstantin Mikhachevsky

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the other victim as a priest, Ilarion, who was Rafail's father superior.

A US-made Hornet drone was used in the attack, the Russian Orthodox Church said. The attack came on the day the church celebrated the anniversary of the Baptism of Kievan Rus, which is considered to be a predecessor to modern Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus.

Back in the 10th century, Prince Vladimir the Great officially converted to Christianity and initiated the mass baptism of Rus. Kiev had claimed that Ukraine is the only rightful heir to Kievan Rus even before the escalation of the Ukraine conflict, while branding Russia as a *"distant relative."*

The government of Ukraine led by Vladimir Zelensky has been persecuting the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for several years, alleging that it has connections to Moscow, despite the Church having severed all ties with it in 2022. The crackdown has included raids on monasteries and dozens of criminal proceedings on collaboration charges, as well as property seizures. Kiev also supports the rival Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which the Russian Orthodox Church considers schismatic.

Ukraine has routinely targeted civilians with drone strikes over the past months amid battlefield setbacks. It has sharply intensified its long-range drone campaign in recent weeks, targeting oil facilities, warehouses, residential buildings, and other infrastructure deep inside Russian territory.

Moscow has branded the attacks as terrorism and stepped up strikes on Ukraine's military-industrial and logistical infrastructure in response.

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Michael

7/30/2026 at 3:58 AM

Time to eliminate some Ukrainian priests!

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Edkic D

7/30/2026 at 9:18 AM ↕

You cant. God protects them haha

Reply

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Dan Kos

7/30/2026 at 7:19 AM

This will go on in western MSM..they are paid to look the other way..

Reply

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EKA

7/30/2026 at 6:53 AM

Has anyone got some reliable statistics showing Russian civilians killed by Ukraine vs Ukrainian civilians killed by Russia since the start of this SMO.

Reply

Dante

7/30/2026 at 4:14 AM

They will be with god now. While you Ukrainian cockroaches will be roasting in hell.

Reply

M

Mark Tiller

7/29/2026 at 11:27 PM

RT reports that a Russian monk was killed and a priest riding in the same car was injured by an

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'Ukrainian' drone strike in the Lugansk People's Republic. A US-made Hornet drone was used in the attack, both RT and the Russian Orthodox Church said. US Hornet Kamikaze drones are primary artificial intelligence (AI)guided machine vision, with downward and forward facing optical cameras, matching terrain reading software. This was a US/Nato attack on Russian civilians, an act of war in anyone's book. Ukraine's military doesn't have the technological ability to produce such drones. Continue playing 'dumb' and you'll be swept away in the whirlwind of your own sowing.

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 **Susan** 7/30/2026 at 3:43 AM ↕

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Well said, Mark Tiller.

[Reply](#)

 **Aunt Bee** 7/30/2026 at 2:01 AM

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**USA is the 'ANTI CHRIST'. Just look at all the damage the trump administration is doing to innocent people. Trump is a vicious and vindictive animal. Who else would want to send missiles into a school of 168 young girls? Only the USA...the HATE MONGER Nation of Evil. Trump condones GENOCIDE. That's why all he has said with what Israel is doing in Gaza was he wants to build a Trump site there, maybe for gambling or ? He has wrecked the white house. destroyed the pool, kidnapped a leader, changed names of the Gulf, airport, threatened and intimidated most countries and insults everyone. He is a mad man. He needs to be institutionalized. The FUTURE has come and gone and the usa is now a BANANA REPUBLIC for which it stands. The USA was progressive from 1948-1968 and since then has gone down hill. There is NO coming back from the damage most presidents have done in the last 100 years. US is in the drain.

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 **Alfred Bortey** 7/29/2026 at 10:33 PM

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This happened bcos Putin allowed it. Russians should stop complaining. Putin must know this is war and not a game.

[Reply](#)

 **Le bon Sens** 7/30/2026 at 12:13 AM ↕

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Old troll, new account.

[Reply](#)

 **Chriso** 7/30/2026 at 1:32 AM ↕

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its literally Elon Musks game. when its a war, you wont have internet access.

[Reply](#)

R Rene Tortico (Tortico) 7/30/2026 at 1:03 AM

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Celebrating Lindsay Graham's death, I imagine

[Reply](#)

I I Drone 7/29/2026 at 11:04 PM

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Better look at Tel Aviv-they most likely got a hold of some US goodies and are trying to start a world war. Trump is dumb-but he is not so dumb to do that. He is a proxy man. Midterms. That is all Trump has and his time is up.

[Reply](#)

M Mustafa Abbas 7/29/2026 at 10:47 PM

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That is the old policy of the «chosen ones,» they use Christians to kill Christians and Muslims to kill Muslims. They are experts in war by deception and use that policy to fight their wars.

[Reply](#)

a apparition 7/29/2026 at 10:22 PM

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One of the features of these Hornet drones is that they use starlink, so these attacks should be described as U.S./Ukraine attacks and not Ukraine. Report correctly and factually.

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 **Joseph Lieberman** 7/29/2026 at 7:44 PM

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We reiterate that among the primary designated targets currently and historically evident, are Newborn Infants, Babies, Small Children, Girls, Boys, Weak, Sick, Physically Handicapped and Clergymen. These are the kill goals of American and Israeli Centcom and their other coalition proxies.

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as as dubaniew 7/29/2026 at 9:04 PM ↕

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Bolsheviks – rinse and repeat

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 **Michel Fortin** 7/29/2026 at 10:07 PM ↕

2

Exactly

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