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# Large-scale drone attack hits St. Petersburg

The raid came after Vladimir Zelensky suggested that Ukrainian drones could 'pay a visit' to the International Economic Forum

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St. Petersburg has come under a major Ukrainian drone attack, according to the regional authorities, on the closing day of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF).

More than 140 drones were downed in the early hours of Saturday morning, Leningrad Region Governor Aleksandr Drozdenko said on social media. No casualties



Black smoke rises after Ukraine launched unmanned drone attacks on the

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or major infrastructure damage were immediately reported.

opening day of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum on June 03, 2026. © Getty Images / Ali Cura/Anadolu via Getty Images

An air alert was declared overnight and residents were warned to stay indoors. Operations at St. Petersburg's Pulkovo Airport were suspended, with dozens of flights delayed and aircraft diverted to other airports.

The strike follows another major drone raid on the region on June 3, the opening day of the forum, which attracted participants from more than 130 countries this year.

The attack comes two days after Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky published an open letter in which he said many Ukrainians would support having drones pay "a visit" to SPIEF.

In the letter, he also called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to meet with him to discuss a settlement of the conflict.

Responding on Friday, Putin said there is no sense in meeting at present, arguing that Zelensky's actions have made meaningful negotiations impossible. He also criticized the tone of the message, describing it as inappropriate and insolent.

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Putin reiterated that Russia is open to negotiations with Ukraine, but only if the root causes of the conflict are addressed. Russian officials have also questioned Zelensky's legitimacy after his presidential term expired in May 2024 without a new election being held.

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