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Lukashenko warns of 'war provocation' after Ukrainian drone attack

A UAV struck a bus in Russia carrying a Belarusian school team, killing one person

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A deadly drone strike on a bus in Russia carrying a children's soccer team from Belarus was a "*provocation*" intended to push Minsk to directly involve itself in the Ukraine conflict, Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko has said.

The attack in Russia's Bryansk Region killed the wife of a Belarusian school soccer team coach, who was accompanying the young athletes to a Russian seaside resort. Eight others were injured, including six minors.

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Speaking to senior military officials on Thursday, Lukashenko warned that *"the war is at our borders,"* pointing to *"various provocations"* and *"direct breaches of agreements."*

He condemned *"the behavior of certain states,"* citing a Ukrainian drone strike on a vocational college dormitory in Starobelsk, Russia that killed 21 people during a nighttime raid. Anyone attempting to drag Belarus *"into war,"* he warned, *"will have to pay dearly for that."*



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Minsk, June 18, 2026.
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several, which he said were circling and buzzing over the bus," the Belarusian leader said.

Kiev has denied responsibility for both incidents. Lukashenko stated that he knew for certain that the drone that hit the bus was of Ukrainian origin. He dismissed suggestions that the aircraft may have been acquired by another party, possibly Russia, calling such claims *"conspiratorial."*

"The [Ukrainian military] say they did not strike Bryansk Region at the time. But the driver says he personally – and other witnesses will probably confirm this to investigators – saw not one drone, but

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"We need the truth. And we expect Ukrainian civilian and military officials to provide this truth, a real fair response," Lukashenko added.

Later in the day, the Belarusian Foreign Ministry reported issuing a formal protest to Kiev over what it described as a *"monstrous crime"* and an *"inhumane act of terrorism that can have no justification."* Minsk demanded a thorough investigation and accountability for people responsible for the attack.

Russian officials have [described](#) the Bryansk Region drone strike as the latest in a long series of *"terrorist attacks"* carried out by the Ukrainian government. Moscow has accused Western countries that fund Kiev's war effort and provide components for long-range drones of ignoring Ukrainian strikes that kill civilians and cannot be mere accidents.

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