

RT

QUESTION MORE

⚡ Ukrainian colonel behind attempted terror attack in Crimea eliminated – media | Russia-Ukraine conflict



Russia & Former Soviet Union

World News

Business

India

Africa

RT Features

Analysis

Opinion

Entertainment

Shows

Projects

[/ Home](#) / [Russia & FSU](#)

Commander of major Ukrainian military unit found dead with gunshot wound

Police have launched a murder investigation into the death of Colonel Vladimir Kononnikov, who led the 154th Separate Mechanized Brigade

Published 28 Jun, 2026 23:47 | Updated 29 Jun, 2026 05:44

The commander of Ukraine's battle-hardened 154th Separate Mechanized Brigade, Colonel Vladimir Kononnikov, has been found dead with a gunshot wound, police said.

Kononnikov's death was first reported by Ukraine's Operational Command South. The command said on Facebook that the officer's body was discovered on Sunday and that *"preliminary findings indicated there were no signs of violence."*

Police, however, later released a brief



Colonel Vladimir Kononnikov, commander of Ukraine's 154th Separate Mechanized Brigade. © Facebook / 154OMBR

Top stories



Multiple protests, one demand: Albania's PM must go (VIDEO)

UK left without nuclear attack subs at sea – media

Ukrainian regiment threatens journalists after report about training camp deaths

Funeral homes overwhelmed amid heatwave in France

Hezbollah rejects 'humiliating' US-brokered deal

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news

statement saying that Kononnikov was found dead with a gunshot wound and that a murder investigation has been launched.

The brigade was formed in September 2023 and has primarily fought in Kharkov Region and Donbass. It took part in the battle for Krasnoarmeysk (Pokrovsk), which was captured by Russia in December 2025, and in the ongoing operations around Kupiansk.



Read more: Ukrainian regiment commander suspended over training camp deaths

According to Ukrainian media, Kononnikov was appointed commander last year.

The unit is currently based in Gulyaypole, a town in the Ukrainian-controlled part of Zaporozhye Region. The region voted to secede from Ukraine and join Russia in a referendum held in September 2022.

Last week, Ukrainian news website Babel published a bombshell report alleging abuses at the training camps of the 425th Separate Assault Regiment Skelia (formerly Skala), which it said led to the deaths of at least 26 recruits.

The authorities confirmed the non-combat deaths of 25 of the recruits mentioned in the report but did not disclose the causes of death. The unit's commander, Lieutenant Colonel Yuri Garkavy, was suspended pending an investigation.

You can share this story on social media:



Follow RT on



[Europe](#), [Ukraine](#)

Please check our [commenting policy](#). If you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru.

highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

☐ We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

Subscribe

RT Features



Thirty years of Netanyahu: The man who shaped modern Israel

FEATURE



AA B i “ <> ☰ ☷

Your comment here

Sign In ▾

Sort by Recently updated ▾

One Horse Guy 6/29/2026 at 9:42 AM

0

i am surprised zelensky is still alive.

[Reply](#)

r

raiderssmcnz 6/29/2026 at 10:42 AM ↑

0

Never in Ukraine long enough for anyone to get to the midget

[Reply](#)

T

Tyrone 6/29/2026 at 2:19 AM

13

The bottom line is, that the Jewish Nazi Terrorist is dead. Which says from a military security intelligence's point of view, no matter how secure you think your personal security is. Think again. As the Persian IRGC's Intel force's had displayed during the recent 38 day war. During the heightened security measure's taken by Israel in the middle of a war. A high ranking agent was taken out DEEP INSIDE THE ISRA-TERRORISTS TERRITORY.

- As the saying goes. The Anglo Jewish Terrorist Nazi's fought the law, and the Russian Persian Cops Won.

Tattoo it on your Jewish Nazi foreheads, and your Jewish Nazi forskins, so you never forget.

[Reply](#)

MF 75 6/29/2026 at 2:59 AM ↑

-7

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is a living proof (oops) how Persian IRGC's «Intel force» are effective.

[Reply](#)

The world fears Ebola. It may be looking in the wrong direction FEATURE



Anschluss dreams are stirring inside the EU. What could possibly go wrong? FEATURE

Podcasts All podcasts

Poison pills

0:00 27:56 🔊 🔽 🔗

Max Blumenthal reveals why Trump's MoU with Iran will fail and what Israel will do next

0:00 28:13 🔊 🔽 🔗

A Ali Sibtain 6/29/2026 at 3:26 AM ↗

3

Yes he is. They are not afraid of martyrdom, they embrace it

[Reply](#)

MF 75 6/29/2026 at 3:37 AM ↗

1

"No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country." – Gen. George S. Patton

[Reply](#)

A Ali Sibtain 6/29/2026 at 10:41 AM ↗

0

Probably right "No Bastard" ever won it. But Iranians are the bastards

[Reply](#)

Happy 6/29/2026 at 3:30 AM ↗

11

Ali Khamenei was a very soft ruler. He was against of Iran getting nuclear weapons. He knew that Israel will attack he office and the office location was known to everyone. He has chosen to stay on his post. Israel, OTOH, killed the leader of the country it had no conflict with. This is a military crime.

[Reply](#)

R Raymond 6/29/2026 at 3:20 AM ↗

2

No one. No one is invincible no one, snipers hide in dead horses suicide hitmen move all over.

[Reply](#)

M Mike 6/29/2026 at 5:48 AM ↗

0

Do you think that soldier is aware that he's dead..?

[Reply](#)

Stu 6/29/2026 at 10:36 AM

1

Ukrainians trying to end the war themselves. They know who the real enemy is.

[Reply](#)

A Alpha Putin 6/29/2026 at 10:35 AM

0

Here draw lots....'you die in the front or die now after you shoot the commander'.

Or 'You choose to die in the front you will be reported as missing no support for your family'

Or, you choose to die in the front, you will be reported as missing, no support for your family.

[Reply](#)

 **paul figaro** 6/29/2026 at 1:55 AM

6

he got fragged..

used to happen a lot to officers during Vietnam War

[Reply](#)

R **Richard Hollembeak** 6/29/2026 at 10:02 AM ↕

0

How long did a first Lt. last near the end of the war , was it less than a month?

[Reply](#)

J **Junk Man** 6/29/2026 at 5:02 AM

5

His last words were, "Rico! We'll need special tactical equipment. We're gonna face extreme peril. Private probably won't survive. Private!? What are you doing? Don't point that....Private!!! Pr..."

[Reply](#)

M **Марк Шевчик** 6/29/2026 at 8:52 AM ↕

1

POP!!

[Reply](#)

S **SaysTheBronxBoy** 6/29/2026 at 7:50 AM

5

Great ! One down.Says The BronxBoy!
He is responsible for the death marches .
It's all disgusting;(!

[Reply](#)

do **do chere-bolelwang** 6/29/2026 at 7:47 AM

6

When the war is going badly the way it is for them, the neo-Nazis are bound to turn the guns on each other. There's no two ways about it.,

[Reply](#)

F **Frank Scafani** 6/29/2026 at 2:07 AM

22

Maybe one of the many unwilling recruits had enough.....

[Reply](#)