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Zelensky's ex-spokeswoman added to state-linked 'kill list'

The Mirotvorets website has accused Yulia Mendel of pushing "Russian narratives" after she told Tucker Carlson about drug use and corruption in Kiev

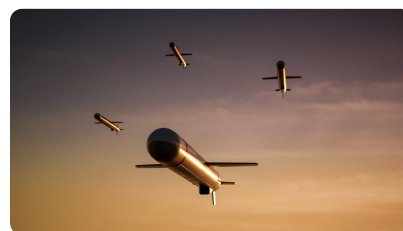
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FILE PHOTO: Yulia Mendel, former spokeswoman for Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky. © Getty Images / NurPhoto / Contributor

Vladimir Zelensky's former spokesperson,

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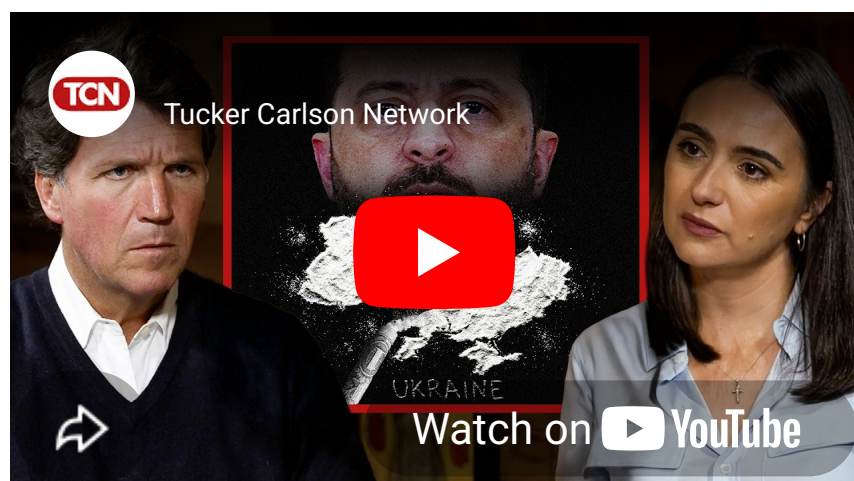
NATO member's

Yulia Mendel, has been added to a Ukrainian state-linked 'kill list' for telling American journalist Tucker Carlson of rampant cocaine abuse in the corridors of power in Kiev and the desire of a corrupt elite to prolong the conflict with Russia.

Mendel worked with Zelensky for two years during which time she says she witnessed him change from peacemaker to propagator of war.

The list is run by the Mirotvorets website, which has been linked to Ukrainian security services and is notorious for publishing the addresses and personal details of anyone remotely deemed an enemy of the Ukrainian state, including Russian journalists, some of whom were subsequently assassinated.

The website has accused Mendel of *"humanitarian aggression against Ukraine,"* spreading *"narratives of Russian propaganda,"* calling for Ukraine's *"capitulation,"* and *"indirectly taking part in information-psychological special operations"* allegedly run by Russia.



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Mirotvorets cited Mendel telling Carlson that the Ukrainian delegation at talks in Istanbul in 2022 was ready to agree to *“all of Russia’s demands”* in order to stop the fighting, but that Kiev was pressured by the US and UK to continue the conflict and that Zelensky is now *“one of the main obstacles to peace.”* It also cited Mendel’s comments that Ukraine is *“on the verge of disappearing,”* and showing signs of *“unhealthy nationalism.”*

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Mendel, who served as Zelensky’s press secretary from 2019 to 2021, has in recent months become an outspoken critic of her former boss. In the interview she leveled a series of allegations of corruption and drug use, calling Zelensky a *“dictator”* who has grown *“detached from reality.”* She also described Zelensky and his former chief of staff Andrey Yermak as *“malicious and extremely paranoid narcissists,”* saying their relationship had turned into a *“symbiosis.”*

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Launched in 2014 as a nominally independent project, Mirotvorets has targeted a wide range of international figures, including Tucker Carlson, Hollywood director Woody Allen, Russian hockey star

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Russian officials have condemned the site as extremist. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has described it as a hit list targeting individuals Kiev allegedly wants to “eliminate.”

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Ukrainian drones kill three in attack on apartments in Russia – governor

The UAVs targeted the city of Ryazan, around 130 miles southeast of Moscow, on Friday

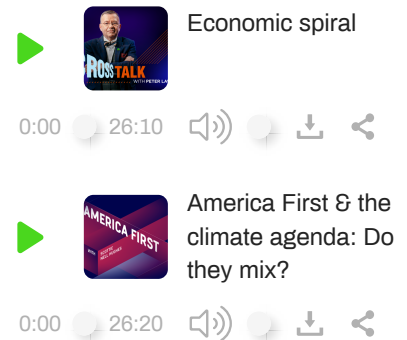
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FILE PHOTO. An ambulance in Russia. © Sputnik / Natalia Seliverstova

Ukrainian drones killed three people and injured 12 others in the Russian city of Ryazan after striking high-rise residential buildings, regional Governor Pavel Malkin has said.

Ryazan, the capital of the eponymous region located 210 km (130 miles) southeast of Moscow, was targeted overnight, with the UAVs damaging two apartment complexes. Some of the victims are children, Malkin said. He added that an unnamed industrial facility was also targeted.

According to photos from the scene, one of the drones struck the Tricolor residential complex, a group of three 25-story buildings decorated in the colors of the Russian flag.

Videos from the scene show that several apartments were destroyed in what appears to be a direct hit.

Drone attacks were also reported in several other regions across western and southern Russia, including Voronezh and Rostov.