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# Western media ‘afraid to see truth’ – Russia’s human rights chief

## Mainstream outlets could not even offer a plausible excuse for not visiting the college dorm destroyed by Kiev, Yana Lantratova has said

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Western mainstream media are *“afraid to see the truth”* about the Ukrainian attack on the Starobelsk college dorm, Russia’s newly appointed human rights commissioner, Yana Lantratova, has said, slamming the incident as a *“deliberate murder of children.”*

The attack on the dorm, staged overnight from Thursday to Friday, left at least 21 people dead, mainly teenage girls. The massacre has been largely ignored by the Western media and politicians, and Moscow has urged foreign reporters to come



Russia’s human rights chief Yana Lantratova (C) holds portraits of the Ukrainian attack on the college dorm in Starobelsk, Russia on May 26, 2026. © Sputnik / Yevgeny Biyatov

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to the site.

The Russian Foreign Ministry arranged the media trip to Starobelsk on Sunday, with more than 50 reporters from 19 nations accepting the invitation. Speaking to the journalists at the location of the attack, Lantratova slammed those Western outlets that ignored the opportunity to report first-hand from the site.



*"It was a deliberate murder of children. That's what it's called. And what are we seeing now? What's happening on foreign platforms? Representatives from various countries are saying it is staged, that it's a lie from the Russian media, and that 'independent' media could not confirm it because they could not come here," she said, adding that some outlets did not even offer a "plausible explanation" for skipping the opportunity.*

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**Where's the BBC? Where's CNN? Where are the Tokyo representatives? Where are their journalists? ... They're simply afraid to see the truth. They don't want to see it and they don't want to hear it.**



On Saturday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that both the BBC and CNN rejected the invitation to visit Starobelsk, while the Japanese government explicitly banned reporters from making the trip.

The attack on Starobelsk prompted a large-scale retaliatory strike on the Ukrainian capital city of Kiev, which was conducted overnight. The strike featured the intermediate-range hypersonic Oreshnik system, as well as other ballistic and cruise missiles. The

command centers of the Ukrainian ground forces and military intelligence were targeted, as well as air bases and defense industry sites, according to the Russian military.

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# Ukrainian strikes kill six Russian civilians days after college dorm massacre

Fresh attacks have claimed lives in the border Belgorod, Bryansk, and Donetsk regions

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Ukrainian attacks on Russian border regions have killed six civilians, including two children, local officials have said.

Attacks on the city of Gorlovka in the Donetsk People's Republic have claimed four lives, including of two minors in their early teens, Mayor Ivan Prikhodko said. Three ambulance workers were reportedly injured in the same attacks.

In Belgorod Region, a local resident was killed when a drone struck a car in the border municipality of Graivoron, the administration reported on Monday morning. The area has been repeatedly targeted by Ukrainian short-range attacks.



FILE PHOTO: Submunitions recovered by Russian explosives specialists after a Ukrainian HIMARS attack. © Konstantin Mikhailchevsky / Sputnik

A separate strike in Bryansk Region hit two villages in the border municipality of Trubachevsk, acting Governor Yegor Kovalchuk said. Ukrainian forces used rocket artillery in the attack, killing one resident and injuring a firefighter, according to the official. Several apartment buildings, more than ten private homes, and other properties were damaged, he added.

Kamikaze drones were also intercepted near Yaroslavl, a city roughly 250 km northeast of Moscow, Governor Mikhail Yevraev reported. One woman suffered minor shrapnel wounds, he said. The raid forced authorities to temporarily close a highway linking Yaroslavl with the Russian capital.



**Read more:** EU leaders silent on deadly Ukrainian attack on college dorm

Russia's Defense Ministry said its air defenses intercepted 173 Ukrainian long-range drones over 14 Russian regions overnight.

Moscow has accused Kiev of deliberately targeting civilians. In a major incident last Friday, three waves of kamikaze drones struck a college in the town of Starobelsk, killing 21 people, most of them teenagers, and injuring 42 others.

Some Western countries backing Ukraine's war effort claimed that Moscow fabricated the attack in the Lugansk People's Republic, which Kiev considers part of Ukraine.

The Russian military later retaliated with strikes on targets in and around Kiev, including the launch of an Oreshnik medium-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile that reportedly hit a Ukrainian Air Force facility.

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