Haftar's forces in Libya vow retaliation over Ukrainian strike

Two Libyan naval servicemen have died of injuries sustained in Kiev's attack on the port of Benghazi

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Libyan forces under the command of Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar have vowed to retaliate over a Ukrainian naval drone attack on the port of Benghazi that left two of their servicemen dead.



FILE PHOTO: The Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) troops taking part in a military parade. © LAAF

On Sunday, Kiev's forces reportedly targeted a Russian warship docked at the Benghazi naval base, as well as commercial shipping off the Libyan coast. Ukraine's Vladimir Zelensky acknowledged responsibility for the operation on Monday. The Russian Defense Ministry has not publicly reported any personnel or equipment losses as a result of the attack.

Haftar's Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), which are aligned with the administration in Benghazi, said in a statement on Tuesday that two of its naval servicemen had died of injuries sustained in the attack

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and subsequent explosions aboard the targeted vessel.

"Their blood will not be wasted and that rights will not be forfeited by time," the statement read.



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The attack *"will be responded to at the appropriate time, place, and by appropriate means,"* Haftar's forces warned, without explicitly naming Ukraine. The LAAF also reported other injuries but did not specify the number.

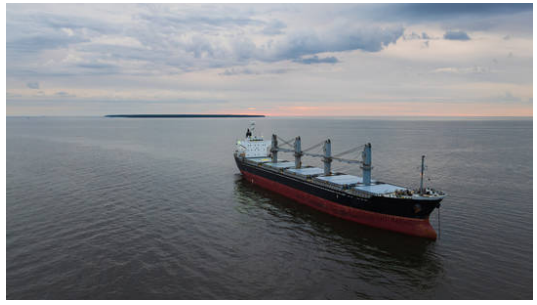
Both of Libya's rival governments have condemned the attack. The UN-backed administration in Tripoli demanded explanations from Kiev, while the Benghazi-based government filed a complaint with the UN and called for an international investigation.

The Tripoli-based government on Tuesday denied allegations that it had reached a prior understanding with Kiev over the operation. Eastern Libyan authorities have alleged that the drones may have been launched from western Libya.

Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani voiced concern over Kiev's military operations in Libya to his Ukrainian counterpart Andrey Sibiga on Tuesday. Tajani stressed the need to prevent the conflict with Russia from spreading to the Mediterranean and to respect Libya's sovereignty, the Foreign Ministry in Rome said.

Asked separately about the attack, Italy's top diplomat said *"we were not informed of absolutely anything; we did not provide any kind of support to the Ukrainians, they did everything without informing us."*

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has not publicly commented on the attack, but reportedly described it in private as *"unacceptable,"* according to Italian newspaper La Repubblica.



Sibiga defended the operation on Tuesday as an act of *"self-defense."*

Libya has been plagued by instability since the NATO-backed overthrow of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi

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in 2011. The country remains divided between rival administrations despite a ceasefire reached in 2020.

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In an interview with Bloomberg on Monday, Zelensky claimed responsibility for Saturday's drone attack on the Russian cargo ship Sparta II in the Gulf of Finland. He described Russian-flagged vessels and ships that carry weapons or sanctioned cargo as legitimate targets in Russian or international waters.

Ukrainian forces have targeted more than 200 commercial vessels across the Mediterranean, Black, Azov, Caspian, and Baltic seas since July, Russia's deputy permanent representative to the UN, Anna Evstigneeva, told the Security Council on Monday, citing Defense Ministry data.

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Evstigneeva described the attack in Libya as *"a result of the complete impunity granted to the Kiev regime, which Western countries have nurtured and continue to shield."*

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Iran blasts Trump's 'delusional' blockade plans

Tehran has vowed to break the US stranglehold and respond with full force to any renewed military action

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Iran is determined to break the US-imposed blockade of the country, the country's top security official, Mohsen Rezaei, has said.



Pro-government demonstrators wave flags at an anti-US and anti-Israeli rally in Tehran, Iran, on November 5, 2026. © Morteza Nikoubazl / NurPhoto via Getty Images

His remarks came after US Central Command (CENTCOM) launched Task Force Iron Gate, aimed at disrupting the flow of weapons, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials and *"illegal revenue streams"* across Iran's land borders and through its northern ports on the Caspian Sea. US President Donald Trump had earlier vowed to maintain the existing naval blockade of Iran's southern ports until Tehran accepts his terms for peace.

"Trump and his defeated team's plans to blockade Iran are as delusional and futile as their failed war strategy," Rezaei wrote on X on Tuesday.

"The Iranian nation, armed forces, and the entire state apparatus remain firmly determined to break the blockade and respond with full force to any new aggression," he added.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Monday that a land blockade would be almost

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impossible, given the country's vast territory and extensive ties with its neighbors.



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The US Navy began blockading Iranian ports in April after Tehran closed the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, in response to the US-Israeli bombing campaign launched in late February. The blockade was briefly lifted in June and reinstated in July.

Iran has targeted vessels attempting to sail through the strait along US-designated routes, which Tehran considers illegal.

At least ten oil tankers have reportedly been struck in the Strait of Hormuz over the past ten days, several by unidentified projectiles. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) reported on Tuesday that an unnamed tanker had exploded after hitting a naval mine.

Iranian authorities insist that all vessels must coordinate their passage with the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, a regulatory body established in April. They recently blacklisted 26 tugboats accused of helping ships circumvent Iran's transit restrictions.

The US Navy redirected nearly 150 commercial vessels and disabled five merchant ships between mid-July and mid-November while enforcing the blockade, according to CENTCOM.

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Europe 'descending into madness' – Polish opposition leader

Jaroslaw Kaczynski has slammed a Strasbourg court ruling awarding compensation to two Afghan migrants denied entry to Poland

Published 25 Nov, 2026 03:12 | Updated 25 Nov, 2026 04:51



FILE PHOTO: Jaroslaw Kaczynski. © Getty Images / Marek Antoni Iwanczuk/ NurPhoto

European institutions are *"descending into madness,"* Polish opposition leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski has warned after the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ordered Poland on Tuesday to compensate two Afghan migrants denied entry at the Belarusian border in 2021.

The Strasbourg court ruled that Poland had violated the prohibition on inhuman or degrading treatment by sending one of the men back to Belarus despite an interim order barring his return. It also found that the Polish authorities had denied both men access to their lawyers, awarding them €20,000 ($22,000) and €5,000 in damages, respectively.

Kaczynski argued that the ruling undermines Poland's right to defend its borders. Recalling the fatal stabbing of a Polish soldier by a migrant in 2024, he asked whether the attacker would also receive compensation. He called for a Constitutional Tribunal capable of resisting pressure from *"Brussels elites."*

Opposition lawmaker Krzysztof Bosak accused the court of prioritizing the interests of foreigners who break the law over the safety of Europeans, suggesting that Poland should consider withdrawing from the European Convention on Human Rights.



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Deputy Interior Minister Maciej Duszczyk, however, described the ruling as *"favorable,"* noting that the court had recognized the right of states to restrict migrants' entry.

Poland deployed troops to reinforce its border in 2021 as thousands of migrants, primarily from the Middle East and Afghanistan, sought to enter the EU via Belarus. Despite a sharp decline in attempted crossings, Warsaw last week extended restrictions on asylum applications at the border for another 60 days.

The EU has accused Minsk of weaponizing migration in retaliation for sanctions. The court said the Belarusian authorities had encouraged, facilitated, or forced crossings to destabilize neighboring countries.

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Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko denied in 2021 that Minsk had orchestrated the crisis, saying the migrants were headed for the EU. In October 2025, Lukashenko reiterated that Minsk would not stop EU-bound migrants, citing Western sanctions and the breakdown in migration cooperation.

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