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NATO jets shoot down drone near Russian border

The unidentified UAV was downed in southern Lithuania on Tuesday, officials said

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NATO fighter jets have shot down an unidentified drone in southern Lithuania, a Baltic country that borders the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad Region, officials said on Tuesday.

The UAV entered Lithuanian airspace shortly after midnight and was downed around 30 minutes later over a rural area near the village of Pratkunai, west of the capital, Vilnius, according to Vilmantas Vitkauskas, head of Lithuania's National Crisis Management Center.

"Teams have been dispatched to identify what kind of drone it is, determine its specifications, and establish what its intended target was," Vitkauskas told Radio LRT. According to LRT, it was the first drone to be shot down over Lithuania.

The incident took place amid heightened tensions between Russia and NATO over the Ukraine conflict. Several Ukrainian drones veered into the Baltic states earlier this year, which Kiev has blamed on Russian signal-jamming.



French and Polish fighter jets fly in formation during a parade in Vilnius, Lithuania, on March 29, 2023. © Oleg Nikishin / Getty Images

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NATO members have also accused Russia of flying drones into their airspace, allegations Moscow has dismissed as unfounded.



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In a statement on X, Lithuanian President Gitanas Nauseda thanked NATO for its *“swift response.”* Without directly blaming Moscow, he added: *“With Russia intensifying its aggression against Ukraine, such readiness is vital for our region.”*

Stray Ukrainian drones veered into Latvia and Estonia during Kiev’s deep-strike campaign against Russia, including an incident in March when one struck the chimney of a power plant in Auvere, Estonia. In April, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it had warned the Baltic states against allowing Ukraine to use their airspace for attacks.

Russia’s Kaliningrad Region is an exclave on the Baltic coast located between Lithuania and Poland that some NATO officials have described as a dangerous military outpost. In May, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kestutis Budrys said in an interview with the Swiss newspaper Neue Zürcher Zeitung that NATO should be prepared to *“raze military bases”* there. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov slammed his remarks as *“borderline insanity.”*

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E Edward Benes 9/15/2026 at 9:36 AM

2

Europe is begging for a nuclear war – they need it , they are too bored . They need a thrill again

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H Harald 9/15/2026 at 8:59 AM

2

Lithuanians seem to want to start WW3 by attacking bases in Kaliningrad which will undoubtedly bring heavy responses from Russia

[Reply](#)

Leon Pastis 9/15/2026 at 8:32 AM

4

So, they were Ukrainian, otherwise they would have cried out ; «Russian aggression ! «

[Reply](#)

G Godfried Kruger 9/15/2026 at 7:21 AM

1

I really think NATO won't enforce article 5 if Lithuania is annexed! They are too insignificant!

[Reply](#)

T The Eye 9/15/2026 at 7:05 AM

2

You just can't understand stupid people. Of course, Russia has to protect itself from incoming dangerous drones by at least using 'benign' Russian signal-jamming devices (not exploding missile rockets due to the fact it may go wayward and be mistaken as assault weapons to start a larger war) redirecting them back where they came or somewhere else. It's a defensive move by the Russians. And yet, you blame them? Blame it to the people who flew them; your friend the Ukrainians!

To stop all this nonsense war, stop sending money to the most corrupt country in the world Ukraine.

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Muilt Polarworldunite 9/15/2026 at 6:52 AM

3

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'Western media are trying to portray Africa as a new colony of Russia – it's a myth' – Sputnik Africa 'Sovereign Future' host

27:32



0:00

CrossTalk Bullhorns: Houthi warpath

27:24



Ukroraeli want to provoking their master to intensifying third ww even further. It is an inside job by the bearded dwarf comedy for last ditch effort.

[Reply](#)

M Mind Fixer 9/15/2026 at 6:40 AM

1

Cost effective NATO \$250 000/ missile

vs

\$1000 Russian drone...

Will the war whòres Kaja or dirty old Ursula be releasing a fear porn statement ?



[Reply](#)

🇺🇸 Mi Samsung 9/15/2026 at 3:40 AM

0

I'd say that it was inbound rather than outbound to Russia. Otherwise they would have let it go towards Russia, but one inbound to Lithuania would cause a panic.

[Reply](#)

M Mark Tiller 9/15/2026 at 4:51 AM ↕

1

Look at a map. It was a NATO drone, targetting Russia, launched from Poland that crashed soon after launch. NATO jets scrambled, shooting it down is a cover story.

[Reply](#)

j jacqueline butler 9/15/2026 at 6:33 AM ↕

0

It is incompetent leaders like EU that could start a nuclear ww3. How arrogant Finland has become. Same eith UK. LOOKS LIKE THE SCOTS, WELSH, AND N IRELAND WANT TO BECOME INDEPENDENT FROM THE BULLYING UK MONACHY THAT HAS KILLED MILLIONS OVER ITS RULE. THE UK GOVERNMENT IS LIVING UNDER TGE ISRAELI CLOUD. THEY ARE SUSPENDING ALL IMPORT OR EXPORT TO THE WEST BANK BECAUSE OF SETTLER TERRORISTS YET THEY ALLOWED MURDER IF PALESTINIANS.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT ALL LEADERS ACROSS THE PLANET, EXCEPT FOR IRAN, AND YEMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ISRAELI GENOCIDE AGAINST TGE PALESTINIANS. NO LEADERS CAN HIDE NOT EVEN ARROGANT SAUDI MBS.

[Reply](#)

j jacqueline butler 9/15/2026 at 6:25 AM

2

Another paranoid baltic state. They threaten Russia with NATO weapons and soldiers. Zelensky trying for a red flag.

[Reply](#)

🌴 Ron 9/15/2026 at 2:15 AM

13

It was probably a 13 year olds drone that he got for his birthday.

[Reply](#)

...py

 **Anonydun "Hanonymouse" 82fgoog** 9/15/2026 at 2:27 AM ↑

9

Or a bunch of red balloons. 99 of them...

[Reply](#)

 **William Bell** 9/15/2026 at 2:48 AM ↑

3

Capt. Kirk sent them...

[Reply](#)

 **Covert Assassin** 9/15/2026 at 5:10 AM ↑

1

Live long and prosper 🙌

[Reply](#)

 **Karbonero** 9/15/2026 at 6:23 AM ↑

1

How dare you? Now them must be 69 pink balloons!

[Reply](#)

 **Karbonero** 9/15/2026 at 6:21 AM

2

Look it's a plane!
No, it's a missile!
No, it's a drone!
No, it's a sparrow! Damn it, I wasted a million dollar AA missile on it. And I missed.

[Reply](#)

 **L. Hansson** 9/15/2026 at 6:20 AM

4

NATO used a \$480,000 Sidewinder rocket to eliminate a \$1,000 drone!

Well done, keep up the good work NATO! LOL

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 **Dorphaneus** 9/15/2026 at 5:22 AM

7

The whole operation cost \$170 million, the drone was \$20k 😏🤔😏🤔

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 **Covert Assassin** 9/15/2026 at 5:27 AM ↑

1

🔥💰🔥💰🔥💰

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 **Old Frame** 9/15/2026 at 5:09 AM

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