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Finland Accuses Russia of Violating Airspace Once More

By The Moscow Times

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Finland has accused Russia of briefly entering its airspace without permission on Saturday — a claim Moscow denies.

Finland's Defense Ministry said it suspected a Russian military aircraft entered its airspace without permission on Monday, in the second such violation in three days.

The Finnish border guard was examining Monday's data for possible violations, the ministry said, without giving further details.

It accused Russia of a similar violation on Saturday, which the defense ministry in Moscow denied.

Finland has accused Russia of violating its airspace four times since the Ukraine crisis broke in February. The border guard concluded that two instances in May were likely to have been accidental.

Finland shares a 1,300-kilometer border with Russia and maintains generally cordial relations with its former ruler, but Helsinki's defense forces are reported to have stepped up surveillance due to the Ukraine crisis.

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