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Latest Explosion in Odessa Strikes Pro-Ukraine Organization (Video)

By The Moscow Times

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An explosion has ripped through the offices of a pro-government volunteer organization in Odessa.

An explosion has ripped through the offices of a pro-government volunteer organization in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odessa, marking the latest in a string of explosions in the city and the second in as many days.

The explosion late Sunday night smashed the windows of the Euromaidan Coordination Center and of another building across the street, also tearing out the door of a minivan parked nearby, local news portal Dumskaya.net reported.

No injuries were reported after the late-night blast according to Dumskaya.net.

The explosion came just one day after another blast ruptured a cargo train car at the city's railroad depot, spilling the oil products it was carrying across the tracks, Ukrainian media reported.

Ukrainian police have classified the railroad blast as an act of terrorism and opened an investigation, news agency UNIAN reported.

Odessa was the site of violent clashes between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian activists earlier this year as the overturn of Ukraine's former Russian-backed government and Russia's annexation of Crimea polarized the country.

More than 40 people, many of them pro-Russian demonstrators, were killed in a fire in the city in early May when violence erupted after a peaceful march in support of Ukrainian unity was ambushed by pro-Russian activists.

Odessa has mostly been peaceful since the May clashes, but in recent months the city has been subject to a series of explosions. There were three apparently targeting pro-government organizations in Odessa in December alone, news agency Liga.net reported.

The Euromaidan center was involved in collecting charitable donations in support of Ukrainian government forces deployed against pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

One of the center's activists had been accused of killing injured pro-Moscow protesters during the violence in May, Liga.net reported.

Of the recent explosions, two occurred at another organization that collected donations for the army, a store called Patriot that sold items depicting Ukrainian national symbols.

Yet another one occurred near the headquarters of a neighborhood security organization linked to the pro-European Euromaidan movement, Liga.net reported.

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