

Russia Says Syrian Rebels, Not Syrian Army Attacked Turkey's Observation Post

By [Reuters](#)

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Ammar Abdullah / Reuters

The Russian military said on Thursday that Syrian rebels had attacked a Turkish observation point in Syria's Idlib province, a version of events at odds with Ankara which said the attack was mounted by the Syrian army.

Turkey's Defence Ministry said earlier on Thursday that Syrian government forces had carried out what it assessed to be a deliberate attack, firing 35 mortar shells at one of its observation posts, wounding three Turkish soldiers and damaging equipment and facilities.

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But Russia's Defense Ministry in a statement blamed "terrorists" based in Idlib for the attack

and said the Turkish army had asked Moscow to ensure the safety of its personnel and to strike the rebel positions.

As a result, Russian warplanes had carried out four air strikes against targets, the coordinates of which were provided by the Turkish military, the defense ministry said.

It said a large number of militants and artillery pieces had been destroyed in the strikes.

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