

SBU: Russian Sabotage Group Behind Kakhovka Dam Explosion

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The Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant. **Russian Investigative Committee / TASS**

Ukraine's SBU security service on Friday [published](#) an intercepted phone call in which an alleged Russian soldier claims that Tuesday's explosion at the Kakhovka dam was organized by a Russian sabotage group.

"They [the Ukrainian military] didn't blow it up. That was our sabotage group. They wanted to scare [Ukrainians] with this dam," said the man identified by the SBU as a Russian soldier.

"But it didn't go according to plan, [they did] more than they planned to. The construction [of the dam] ... quickly collapsed."

The audio clip's authenticity could not be independently verified.

Related article: [Norwegian Seismologists Detect Explosion Signals From Ukraine Dam](#)

Kyiv and Moscow have blamed each other for the dam's collapse, which has sparked a

humanitarian and environmental catastrophe in areas downriver.

Thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate, and about 150 people have been [reported](#) missing. At least 16 people have been killed in the flooding.

Animals and fish have also been killed in mass numbers.

Ukrainian officials [accused](#) the Russian army of shelling and sabotage attempts against those involved in rescue and evacuation efforts.

Ukraine and Western countries have called the bombing of the dam and its consequences a war crime.

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