The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Zelensky Claims Russia Preparing Radiation Leak at Nuclear Plant

By AFP

June 22, 2023



The Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine. **Olga Maltseva / AFP**

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Thursday that Moscow's forces were considering launching a "terror attack" at the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant, a recurring flash point of concern throughout Russia's invasion.

"Intelligence services have received information that Russia is considering the scenario of a terrorist act at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant — a terrorist act with the release of radiation. They have prepared everything for this," Zelensky said in a statement on social media.

Fears for Europe's biggest nuclear plant, which have persisted throughout Moscow's Ukraine offensive, have been exacerbated by the destruction of a dam that provided the cooling water for the plant.

Related article: Will the Kakhovka Dam’s Destruction Hinder Ukraine’s Counteroffensive?

The Kremlin rejected Zelensky's claims that Russian forces could be orchestrating a radiation leak, pointing to a recent visit to the facility by the head of the UN's nuclear agency.

"This is another lie. There were just contacts with the IAEA at the site — a very high assessment from the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). They saw everything, everything they wanted to see," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Moscow meanwhile on Thursday announced that UN nuclear chief Rafael Grossi would be arriving in the Russian region of Kaliningrad to meet with the head of Russia's nuclear agency.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2023/06/22/zelensky-claims-russia-preparing-radiation-leak-at-nuclear-plant-a81591