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Ukraine Says 3 Killed in Attacks, Shelling

By AFP

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Fire after Russian drone attack in Kyiv region. **National Police of Ukraine**

Russia's latest overnight attacks on military and energy infrastructure in Ukraine killed two, as frontline shelling left one more dead, authorities said Tuesday.

Moscow's army, meanwhile, said its air defenses downed 21 Ukrainian drones over Russian territory and the annexed Crimean peninsula, as Kyiv steps up cross-border aerial attacks.

Ukraine said Russian forces had launched two missiles and 35 attack drones across Ukraine and that 20 of the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) had bypassed air defense systems.

"The enemy directed some of the attack UAVs along frontline territories, trying to hit fuel and energy infrastructure, and civilian and military facilities near the front line and the state border with Russia," the air force said in a statement.

Officials in Kyiv have called on Western allies to bolster its air defense capabilities and said gaining control of the country's air space is a priority for this year.

The air force statement said that defensive systems mainly in eastern and southern regions had downed just 15 of the Iranian-designed drones.

Authorities said the barrage damaged civilian infrastructure in Kyiv and the regions of Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv, where officials said two people were wounded.

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Ukrenergo, a Ukrainian energy provider, confirmed one of its substations in a central region had been hit.

In the eastern Donetsk region, prosecutors said a Russian S-300 missile attack had killed one person and wounded another.

"A 38-year-old man who was riding a bicycle home from work was killed... A 50-year-old woman was injured. She was taken to the hospital," prosecutors said in a statement.

The regional governor later said a 47-year-old woman was killed by Russian shelling on the frontline town of Avdiivka, a hot spot of fighting where Russian forces are making incremental gains.

In the southern region of Kherson, which the Kremlin claimed to have annexed along with the Donetsk region in 2022, the governor said Russian shelling overnight had killed one man and wounded his wife.

In the southern Mykolaiv region, falling debris from a downed Russian drone injured one man, officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in response to the drone wave that Russia had fired some 330 missiles on Ukraine and around 600 attack UAVs in January alone.

"We must ensure Ukraine's control over its skies, which is also critical to ensuring security on the ground — from frontline positions to hospitals and schools in the rear," he said.

Zelensky said Ukraine was working with its allies to bolster the country's air defense systems, naming it as a priority along with electronic warfare systems.

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