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Russia Says 3 Children Killed in Eastern Ukraine Shelling

By AFP

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A view of Donetsk. **Dmitry Yagodkin / TASS**

A Moscow-installed official on Friday said Ukrainian shelling of the Russian-held city of Donetsk killed three children.

Russia claims to have annexed the Donetsk region, even though it does not have full control of it and the frontline regional capital comes under frequent shelling attacks.

"As a result of barbaric overnight shelling ... a direct hit was recorded on a house in the residential sector," Alexey Kulemzin, the Russian-appointed mayor of Donetsk, said in a post on Telegram.

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"Three children died. A girl born in 2007, a girl born in 2021, and a boy born in 2014," he added.

Moscow last month captured the city of Avdiivka — just a few kilometers to the north of Donetsk — and says pushing Ukrainian forces back will help protect residents of areas under its control from shelling.

The city center of Donetsk is around 20 kilometers from the front lines.

The Donetsk region has been at war since 2014 when Russian-backed separatists tried to secede from Ukraine following mass pro-EU demonstrations in Kyiv.

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