

Russia Blames U.S. for Deadly Missile Attack on Crimea

By [AFP](#)

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Andrei Rubtsov/TASS

Russia on Sunday said the United States had responsibility for a Ukrainian missile attack on Russian-annexed Crimea, which it said killed five people, including three children, and wounded over 100.

A missile exploded above a beach area of the city of Sevastopol, firing shrapnel at people relaxing there, Russian-appointed officials said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said Washington and Kyiv bore "responsibility for a deliberate missile strike on peaceful residents," which it said used U.S.-supplied ATACMS missiles.

Sevastopol governor Mikhail Razvozhayev said in a video posted on Telegram that three children and two adults had died and almost 120 people were injured.

The Black Sea port city and naval base on the Crimean peninsula was annexed by Russia in

2014 but is still internationally recognized as part of Ukraine.

Sevastopol regularly comes under fire from Ukraine but Sunday's attack was unusually deadly.

Razvozhayev said the attack hit Uchkuyevka, an area with sandy beaches and hotels.

Videos posted on social media showed people running from the beach as explosions went off and people in swimming outfits carrying a stretcher. AFP could not verify their authenticity.

Embed:

Из-за падения кассетных боеприпасов сбитой украинской ракеты на пляж в Севастополе трое мертвы — двое из них дети, еще 100 человек пострадали, рассказал глава аннексированного региона Михаил Развозжаев.<https://t.co/BBIVb19Qyj>

Видео: соцсети pic.twitter.com/aGjKXe8j7n

— Новая газета Европа (@novayagazeta_eu) [June 23, 2024](#)

A local news channel on Telegram, ChP Sevastopol, cited witnesses as saying that an elderly woman was killed as she swam in the sea.

'Terrorist act'

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said it was opening an investigation into "a terrorist act."

The governor said Ukraine had launched five missiles which Russian air defenses intercepted over the sea but fragments fell onto the shore area and shrapnel wounded people.

Razvozhayev said missile fragments hit beach areas in the north of the city and set fire to a house and woodland.

A Russian Defense Ministry statement said Ukraine committed a "terrorist attack on the civilian infrastructure of Sevastopol with U.S.-supplied ATACMS tactical missiles loaded with cluster warheads."

The ministry said four missiles were downed and a fifth changed trajectory after being intercepted "with its warhead exploding in the air over the city."

It added that "all flight missions for U.S. ATACMS are entered by U.S. specialists based on the U.S.'s own satellite reconnaissance data."

"Such actions will not be left without a response," the ministry warned.

Ukraine's military has not commented on the attack, which came a day after a Russian guided

bomb strike on the city of Kharkiv hit an apartment building, killing two people and injuring more than 50.

Related article: [Russian Attack on Ukraine's Kharkiv Kills Two - Rescuers](#)

On Sunday, another Russian strike hit a house in the city, killing one and injuring five, regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said. Kharkiv mayor Ihor Terekhov said three people were wounded by a separate strike on a children's educational facility.

A drone launched by Ukraine on Russia's southern Belgorod region on Sunday killed a man, the governor said.

Three Ukrainian attack drones struck Graivoron, near the border with Ukraine, said Belgorod governor Vyacheslav Gladkov, with one hitting a car park near a multi-storey block of flats.

"A peaceful civilian was killed. The man died from his wounds on the spot" and three people were wounded, Gladkov wrote on Telegram.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a social media post urged supporter countries to help Ukraine step up attacks on Russian soil.

"We have enough determination to destroy terrorists on their territory — it is only fair — and we need the same determination from our partners. We can stop Russia," Zelensky wrote.

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