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China Developing Attack Drone Modeled on Iran's Shahed for Russia – Bloomberg

July 03, 2024



An Iranian built drone Shahed 136. **Sobhan Farajvan / Pacific Press via ZUMA Press Wire / TASS**

Chinese and Russian companies are developing and testing an attack drone modeled on the Iranian-made Shahed for shipment to Russia, Bloomberg reported Tuesday, citing anonymous European officials familiar with the matter.

Although the name of the unmanned aircraft under development has not been revealed, Bloomberg says reports by Chinese defense websites and media outlets suggest the Shahed-like drone is called the "Sunflower 200."

Bloomberg's report also did not identify the companies involved in the attack drone development.

The European officials cited by Bloomberg said Ukraine's allies worry China could produce attack drones "at a far greater rate" than Russia or Iran.

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China has not condemned Russia's use of thousands of Shahed drones in its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Instead, Beijing has positioned itself as a neutral party in the war and previously presented a peace plan that Kyiv and its Western allies largely dismissed.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Wednesday that "we don't react in any way" to the report, according to the state-run TASS news agency.

Russia's defense and foreign ministries did not reply to Bloomberg's request for comment.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington denied that Beijing provides weapons to Russia or Ukraine and said it strictly controls exports of dual-use goods.

"It is quite clear to the international community who is calling for dialogue and striving for peace, and who is fueling the fight and inciting confrontation," said embassy spokesman Liu Pengyu.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said last month that Chinese President Xi Jinping had promised him not to provide Russia with weapons.

The United Kingdom claimed in May that China was sending or preparing to send "lethal aid" to Russia for use in the war against Ukraine. The United States questioned that assessment at the time.

According to Bloomberg's report, Washington believes Beijing sends Moscow kits that can be converted into attack drones and is still considering whether to send fully built drones, Bloomberg reports.

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