

French Police Investigating Bomb Attack at Russian Consulate in Marseille

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The Russian Consulate in Marseille. TF1 Info

Three explosive devices were thrown at Russia's Consulate General in the southern French port city of Marseille, French media <u>reported</u> Monday, citing sources in law enforcement.

Only two of the explosive devices were believed to have gone off after they were tossed at the consulate's facade, an unnamed police official <u>told</u> Le Monde. A bomb squad was <u>sent to</u> <u>defuse</u> the remaining undetonated bomb, French broadcaster BFMTV reported.

No injuries or damage have been reported, though Russia's Consul General in Marseille, Stanislav Oransky, <u>confirmed</u> the explosion and said firefighters were responding to the scene.

According to BFMTV, Oransky and all other diplomatic staff were forced to wait inside the consulate for bomb disposal experts to defuse the explosive device that did not detonate. Around 30 firefighters and police officers were deployed to the site, it added.

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Earlier, media reported that unidentified assailants threw two Molotov cocktails into the consulate's garden. However, law enforcement authorities later ruled out that Molotov cocktails were used in the attack.

According to journalist Nicolas Boutin of Valeurs Actuelles, who <u>cited</u> anonymous police sources, authorities were investigating a stolen vehicle found nearby.

Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova <u>called</u> the explosion a "terrorist act" and urged French authorities to conduct a thorough investigation, according to the state-run RIA Novosti news agency.

France's Foreign Ministry condemned the incident.

"The inviolability, protection and integrity of diplomatic and consular premises, as well as their personnel, are fundamental principles of international law," a foreign ministry spokesperson told reporters.

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