Former Kremlin-Backed Mayor of Luhansk Killed in Explosion

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Manolis Pilavov. **t.me/government_lnr**

The former Kremlin-installed mayor of Luhansk in eastern Ukraine was killed in an explosion in the city's center, local media reported Thursday.

"Unfortunately, it's true," the state-run Luhansk Information Center quoted an unidentified relative of ex-Mayor Manolis Pilavov as saying.

Authorities in the self-proclaimed Luhansk People's Republic confirmed one death and three injuries in the blast but did not name any of the victims.

Investigators said they launched a criminal investigation into the explosion.

Video published by law enforcement authorities showed a blown-out entrance door to a residential building.

Mash, a Telegram news channel with ties to Russian security services, reported that a bomb went off when someone opened the door. The outlet later claimed that a woman may have

unknowingly been carrying an explosive device in her purse.

It was not immediately possible to verify that report.

Pilavov served as the Moscow–backed mayor of Luhansk from 2014, when pro–Russian forces seized the city, until 2023.

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