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Turkey Says Another Tanker Was Attacked in the Black Sea

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Turkish authorities said Tuesday that another tanker has come under attack in the Black Sea while traveling from Russia to Georgia, the latest in a series of incidents supposedly linked to Ukraine that have raised safety concerns for commercial shipping in the region.

The tanker, the Midvolga 2, "reported that it was attacked 80 nautical miles off our coast," Turkey's maritime affairs directorate wrote on X. The vessel, which was carrying sunflower oil and had 13 crew members aboard, did not request assistance and reported no injuries or damage, the directorate added.

Russia's federal agency for sea and river navigation, Rosmorrechflot, later told state media that drones attacked the Midvolga 2. According to the agency, the ship sustained only minor damage, with "no water leaks" being reported.

The Midvolga 2 was heading toward the port of Sinop on Turkey's central Black Sea coast, a stretch of shoreline running roughly 1,600 kilometers (994 miles) along the sea's southern

edge.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry denied any involvement and accused Russia of staging the attack.

The incident followed explosions that struck two other tankers off Turkey's coast on Friday. A Ukrainian security official later told AFP that Ukraine's military had carried out those earlier strikes, saying drones targeted vessels "covertly transporting Russian oil."

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday condemned the earlier drone attacks as a "worrying escalation," saying Turkey "cannot under any circumstances accept these attacks."

The war between Russia and Ukraine, Erdogan said, had now reached a point where it "threatens the safety of navigation in the Black Sea."

AFP contributed reporting.

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