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# Turkish Ship Damaged in Russian Strike on Ukraine's Odesa Region

By AFP

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Firefighters work at the site of a civilian vessel hit during a Russian missile strike in the town of Chornomorsk, Odesa region, **State Emergency Service of Ukraine**

A Russian air strike damaged a Turkish-owned vessel in a port in Ukraine's Black Sea region of Odesa, Kyiv and the operator said in statements Friday.

The attack triggered fresh calls from Ankara to halt strikes on port infrastructure, hours after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had raised the issue personally with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

"Russia launched a missile strike on civilian port infrastructure in the Odesa region," Ukraine's Restoration Minister Oleksiy Kuleba said on Telegram, adding that a Turkish ferry had been damaged and there were no casualties.

Turkish maritime company Cenk Shipping said in a statement that its vessel "loaded entirely

with fresh fruits, vegetables and food supplies on the Karasu-Odesa route, was subjected to an air attack today at 16:00 local time, shortly after docking at the Chornomorsk port."

Images on social media showed the blue-and-white vessel on fire.

The ship is a 185-meter-long ferry that sailed under the Panama flag, according to an information document on the firm's website.

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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said earlier on Friday that "a civilian vessel in the port of Chornomorsk was damaged," without identifying the ship.

"This once again proves that the Russians not only refuse to take the current opportunity for diplomacy seriously enough, but are also continuing the war aimed precisely at destroying normal life in Ukraine," he said on social media.

The attack came as Turkey in the past weeks warned of a "worrying escalation" in the Black Sea after Ukraine claimed naval drone attacks on Russia-linked tankers in the area.

Erdoğan had called for a "limited ceasefire" concerning attacks on ports and energy facilities in the Russia-Ukraine war during face-to-face talks with Putin on Friday.

After the strike, Turkey's Foreign Ministry said: "We once again emphasize the importance of urgently ending the war between Russia and Ukraine, and we reiterate the need for an arrangement to prevent escalation in the Black Sea, including ensuring maritime safety and suspending attacks targeting energy and port infrastructure."

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