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Valdai Residents Report No Signs of Claimed Ukrainian Drone Attack on Putin Residence

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Putin's residence at Valdai. **navalny.com**

Residents of the town of Valdai in Russia's Novgorod region said they neither heard nor saw signs of a large-scale drone attack overnight on Monday despite official claims that nearly 100 Ukrainian drones targeted President Vladimir Putin's residence there.

Fourteen residents told the independent outlet Mozhem Obyasnit that they received no text alerts warning of a drone threat and did not hear any buzzing sounds or explosions characteristic of a drone attack.

"There was no noise that night, no explosions, nothing," one resident was quoted as saying. "If something like that had happened, the whole town would have been talking about it."

Putin's Valdai residence, known as Dolgiye Borody, lies northeast of the town and is separated from it by Lake Valdai.

Residents told Mozhem Obyasnit that they usually know when the Russian president visits his residence due to the heavy helicopter traffic accompanying his arrival.

Related article: Ukraine Launched Drone Attack on Putin's Valdai Residence, Lavrov Claims

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday that Ukraine's armed forces had attempted a "massive" drone attack on Putin's residence using 91 drones, all of which were allegedly destroyed by air defense systems.

The Russian Defense Ministry's official report said only 18 drones were shot down over the Novgorod region during the night.

Lavrov said the alleged attack would prompt Russia to revise its negotiating position on Ukraine, though he added that Moscow did not plan to withdraw from talks with the United States.

He also warned that the incident would not go unanswered, saying Russian forces had already selected targets and timing for retaliatory strikes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called Lavrov's allegations "fake" and "extremely dangerous," arguing that Moscow was trying to sabotage diplomatic efforts to end the war and justify continued strikes on Ukraine.

Shortly after Lavrov issued his statement, the White House said U.S. President Donald Trump concluded a "positive" phone call with Putin about Ukraine.

Trump then criticized the alleged Ukrainian drone attack, saying it was "not the right time" given the ongoing talks to end the war.

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