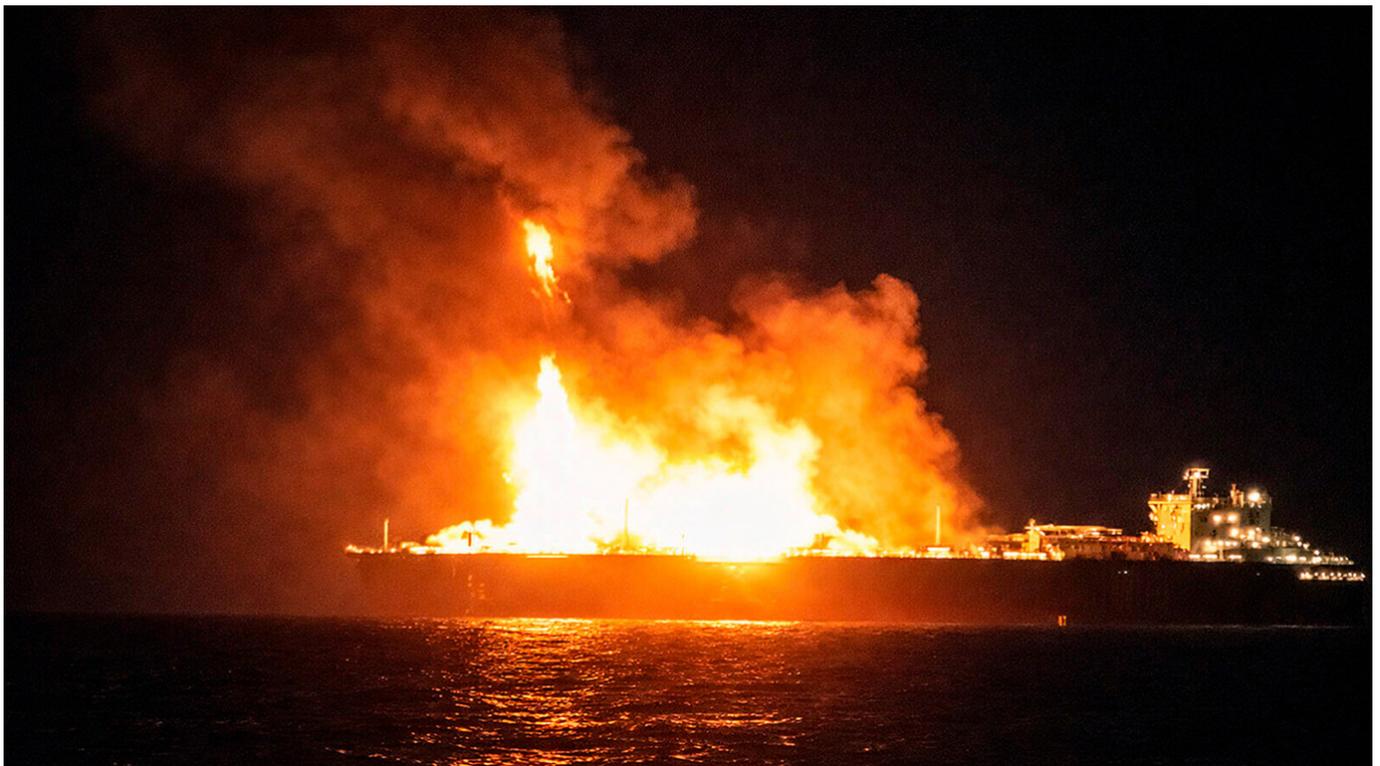


# Ukraine Attacked Russian LNG Tanker Near Malta, Transportation Ministry Says

March 04, 2026



An image purported to be the LNG tanker Arctic Metagaz on fire near Malta. [@Archer83Able / X](#)

Russia's Transportation Ministry [said](#) Wednesday that a Ukrainian naval drone attacked a Russian-flagged liquefied natural gas carrier in the Mediterranean Sea after earlier reports said the ship had erupted in a blaze near Malta.

The ministry said the attack took place on Tuesday near the territorial waters of Malta, an EU member, and targeted the LNG tanker Arctic Metagaz.

"The tanker was carrying cargo documented in full compliance with international regulations from the port of Murmansk," the ministry said in a statement.

It claimed the Ukrainian naval drone that attacked Arctic Metagaz was launched from the coast of Libya. The ministry called the incident an "act of international terrorism and piracy."

Maltese and Russian rescuers managed to bring all 30 crewmembers of the LNG tanker to

safety, the Transportation Ministry said.

There was no immediate comment from Ukraine about the incident.

**Related article:** [Belgium Holds Russian 'Shadow Fleet' Tanker on 10M-Euro Bond](#)

On Tuesday, Reuters [reported](#) that Malta's armed forces received a distress signal from Arctic Metagaz, which is under U.S. and U.K. sanctions. The tanker's crewmembers were later found in a lifeboat within Libya's search-and-rescue region.

Images shared on social media appeared to show the vessel engulfed in flames at night. It was not immediately possible to verify their authenticity.

Ukraine previously claimed to have attacked Russian oil tankers with naval drones near Turkey's Black Sea coast. In December, Ukraine [reportedly struck](#) a Russian oil tanker in the Mediterranean Sea.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/03/04/ukraine-attacked-russian-lng-tanker-near-malta-transportation-ministry-says-a92113>