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# Ditch the Camo and Zs, Officials Tell Russians in Border Areas Amid Drone Attacks

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Civilians close to Russia's border with Ukraine are being told to avoid wearing camouflage and driving in vehicles marked with army symbols, as it could make them look like military targets amid near-daily Ukrainian drone attacks.

Vladimir Zaytsev, who heads the Bolshesoldatsky district in the southwestern Kursk region, is at least the second official in recent weeks to issue civilian visibility guidelines in areas that regularly face cross-border strikes.

"Refrain from wearing military uniforms or using vehicles with military-style coloring (khaki, dark green, gray or olive), especially those bearing markings used by the Russian Armed Forces, when traveling in border areas and nearby districts," Zaytsev said Wednesday.

Zaytsev, who detailed the guidelines in a post on the social media website VKontakte, may

have been referring to the pro-war Z and V symbols in mentioning military "markings."

He said following the guidelines is necessary in order to "prevent death or injury to the civilian population and the destruction of motor vehicles."

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At least two people, including a citizen of St. Kitts and Nevis, have been killed in Ukrainian drone strikes on moving vehicles in the Bolshesoldatsky district since the start of the year.

The district does not share a border with Ukraine, but it had briefly become a frontline area after Ukrainian troops launched a surprise incursion into parts of the nearby Sudzhansky and Korenevsky districts in August 2024.

The governor of the Belgorod region, which borders both the Kursk region and eastern Ukraine, also recently urged civilians to avoid wearing military uniforms within 15 kilometers (9 miles) of the Ukrainian border.

Kursk and Belgorod have faced frequent shelling and drone strikes since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

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