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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Ukrainian Attacks Kill 2 in Belgorod and Target Wildberries Warehouse in Urals

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Warehouse workers evacuate a Wildberries logistics center in Yekaterinburg. **screenshot / Telegram**

Ukraine launched more than 300 drones into Russia on Saturday, killing at least two people in the western Belgorod region and reaching as far east as the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, Russian authorities said.

Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses intercepted 328 drones between Friday night and Saturday morning. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin claimed nearly 200 drones were directed at the capital region alone.

In the border region of Belgorod, acting Governor Alexander Shuvayev said two people were killed in overnight attacks.

Further east in Yekaterinburg, located just west of Siberia, online retailer Wildberries said it had temporarily halted operations at its logistics center for safety reasons, but added that the site had not been damaged. Around four hours later, it said operations had resumed.

Denis Pasler, governor of the surrounding Sverdlovsk region, confirmed the attack on Yekaterinburg. He reported no casualties in the city, adding that the drones caused a fire in a parking lot.

An air raid alert in Yekaterinburg also delayed the penultimate day of competition at the Russian Athletics Championships, which the city was hosting. Athletes and spectators had to leave the open stadium and take shelter.

Related article: Wildberries Freezes Loan Repayments for Merchants After Drone Strikes

Ukraine has struck Wildberries facilities across Russia and in annexed Crimea over the past week, accusing the company of supplying the Russian military with drone parts and other equipment.

In the western Siberian region of Tyumen, Ukrainian drones hit an oil refinery, local authorities said. The refinery, located more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) west of the border with Ukraine, has a production capacity of around 8 million metric tons of oil per year.

Emergency services were responding to the scene, Tyumen region Governor Alexander Moor said, without giving further details.

Saturday's wave of attacks came a day after a Ukrainian strike on a factory in the city of Kirov, hundreds of miles east of Moscow, killed five people and prompted local authorities to declare three days of mourning.

Separately, a Ukrainian strike on a Russian-occupied town in the Zaporizhzhia region of southern Ukraine killed eight people, including two children, Kremlin-backed officials said Saturday morning.

AFP and Reuters contributed reporting.

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