

Turkey Calls for Safe Navigation in Black Sea After Drones Strike Commercial Ships

August 04, 2026



The Turkish-owned ship Nadezhda after it drones struck it on Aug. 3, 2026. **IHA / iha.com**

Turkey on Tuesday called on Russia and Ukraine to ensure the safety of commercial shipping in the Black Sea after two Turkish-owned cargo vessels were struck near the Russian port of Novorossiysk.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry [said](#) the civilian ships Yasar and Nadezhda were attacked after departing Novorossiysk on Monday evening, injuring several crew members, including Turkish citizens.

Ankara expressed concern that Russia's war against Ukraine is spreading further across the Black Sea, warning of "multifaceted negative repercussions, including for food security."

"We therefore reiterate our call to all relevant actors, particularly the warring parties, to urgently implement concrete measures to ensure the safety of navigation in the Black Sea,"

the ministry said in a statement.

The Nadezhda was sailing for the Turkish port of Samsun when it came under attack about 20 nautical miles off Novorossiysk, according to the Turkish Maritime Authority. All 22 crew members were brought to safety in Russia, including three who were seriously injured, while a fire continued to burn in the ship's bow.

Related article: [Russian Couple Detained in Istanbul for Reading Bible in Hagia Sofia](#)

According to vessel-tracking site MarineTraffic, the Yasar and Nadezhda fly the flags of Panama and Cameroon, respectively, but are owned by Turkish companies.

Ukrainian officials, who frequently claim responsibility for strikes on Russian warships and “shadow fleet” oil tankers, have not commented on the attacks.

The strikes follow weeks of escalating exchanges between Russia and Ukraine targeting each other's commercial vessels and port infrastructure, driving up global wheat prices.

Monday's strikes against the Yasar and Nadezhda come after a Turkish fishing vessel was hit off the Crimean coast in late June, leaving one dead and four injured. A Turkish cargo ship was also attacked in May.

Turkish officials have [warned](#) of an “uncontrolled escalation” in the Black Sea amid the strikes.

Both Russia and Ukraine have accused each other of jeopardizing grain exports in the region amid the harvesting season.

Reuters and AFP contributed reporting.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2026/08/04/turkey-calls-for-safe-navigation-in-black-sea-after-drones-strike-commercial-ships-a93411>