

Zelensky Orders 'Tangible Response' Against Russia After Drone Strikes SBU HQ in Kyiv

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Smoke billowing from the SBU headquarters in Kyiv, Ukraine. pravda.com.ua

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky [said](#) he has ordered the head of Ukraine's SBU security service to carry out an "appropriate and tangible" response to a Russian drone strike against the agency's headquarters in central Kyiv on Friday afternoon.

In a post on X, Zelensky wrote that a Russian drone took direct aim at the office of SBU chief Oleksandr Poklad.

Ukrainian media [reported](#) that Poklad was not in his office at the time of the attack, which took place at around 3:30 p.m. local time.

Heavy black smoke was seen rising in central Kyiv following the strike, which Ukraine's foreign minister described as a major escalation of the war.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko [said](#) at least seven people were injured in the attack.

Zelensky said he spoke with Poklad and instructed him to prepare a response that “mirrors” the Russian strike. “Our military will support this response,” the Ukrainian president wrote.

The Kremlin did not immediately comment on the attack.

Ukraine’s SBU is a vast and secretive agency responsible for ambitious operations deep inside Russia.

It is also widely seen as a leading player in a campaign of covert assassinations of senior Russian military officials and other figures blamed by Ukraine for carrying out war crimes.

Reuters contributed reporting.

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