

Russian Spy Satellites Helping Iran's Allies Target Sites in Saudi Arabia – AP

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A large plume of black smoke rises from the fuel storage area at King Khalid International Airport, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. **REUTERS**

Russian satellites have consistently appeared in the skies above facilities in Saudi Arabia that Iranian-backed Houthis and Iraqi militia groups have struck with missiles and drones over the past several months, the Associated Press [reported](#) Tuesday.

Nawaf Obaid, founder of the Geneva-based firm AURORAH Geosignal Intelligence, told the news agency that he and his colleagues tracked 72 Russian military and government satellites between July and October, finding them orbiting above Saudi sites before and after they were attacked.

“What we found is a 100% match,” Obaid said.

The targeted facilities include Saudi Arabia’s East-West Pipeline, which was forced to shut down immediately after it was attacked in September.

Another example is the Kind Fahd Air Base. When the base was attacked last month, an Italian fighter jet was struck while a nearby Saudi aircraft was left unscathed.

Obaid said the apparent precision of the strike on Kind Fahd suggests vital intelligence is being collected and transferred for Houthi and Iraqi militia targeting, given that the groups lack sophisticated reconnaissance capabilities on their own.

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An official briefed on Saudi investigations into the recent attacks told AP that evidence showed Russian satellites were being used for targeting. A senior Houthi official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iranian military advisers are directly providing the Russian reconnaissance information.

Moscow is one of Tehran's closest partners and has repeatedly condemned the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran. In 2025, the two countries signed a strategic partnership agreement that includes provisions for countering shared threats.

American officials, including President Donald Trump and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, have sought to minimize a growing number of [reports](#) that Russia is actively helping Iran target U.S. forces in the Middle East.

Trump [claimed](#) last week that Russia is "doing very little, if anything" to help Iran in the war. That came as President Vladimir Putin reiterated that Russia is ready to play a mediating role in ending the conflict.

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