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FSB Says It Killed 2, Detained 4 Over Alleged Ukrainian Sabotage Plot

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Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said it killed two people and detained four others in an operation against an alleged Ukrainian intelligence network accused of plotting attacks on ships in the Caspian Sea, military airfields and infrastructure.

The agency said it made the arrests in the southern cities of Maykop, Tikhoretsk, Kizlyar and Rostov-on-Don. It said officers shot and killed two other suspects after they put up armed resistance.

The latest deaths bring to 14 the number of suspects killed by FSB officers during arrest operations this year and to 89 since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, based on figures previously compiled by the exiled investigative outlet IStories.

The FSB alleged that the group worked for Ukraine's military intelligence agency, known as the HUR, and the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU.

It said the group had received more than 700 kilograms (1,540 pounds) of what it described as Western-made explosives, as well as dozens of drones and six jet skis, since the start of the year.

The agency estimated that Ukrainian intelligence services had spent at least $2.5 million preparing the alleged operation.

It named Mykola Ulianytskyi, a deputy head of the SBU's special operations center, and HUR Major General Giorgi Lortkipanidze as its alleged coordinators.

Lortkipanidze previously served as a deputy interior minister in Georgia under then-President Mikheil Saakashvili. He received Ukrainian citizenship in 2015 and went on to head the police force in Ukraine's Odesa region.

He was appointed deputy head of Ukraine's counterintelligence service in 2022.

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