



How Ukraine Struck Deep into Russia with FPV Drones

Published on 02/06/2025

Unprecedented operation: Ukraine strikes deep into Russian military airports with commercial FPV drones equipped with explosives. Estimated damages exceed 2 billion dollars. All on the eve of peace talks in Istanbul.

One of the most significant Ukrainian military operations since the beginning of the conflict struck at the heart of Russia, thousands of kilometers from the front. A wave of drones targeted several Russian military airports causing, according to Kyiv, the destruction of **41 bombers** and damages of **over two billion dollars**. A severe blow for Moscow, coming just hours before the start of new peace negotiations at the Ciragan Palace in Istanbul.

“Deep” Attack: Details of the Operation

The operation, prepared for over a year and a half by Ukrainian intelligence services (SBU), was described by President Zelensky as «an absolutely brilliant result». Direct supervision by the

head of intelligence Vasyl Malyuk, with the use of FPV drones modified for carrying explosives, hidden inside prefabricated modules and then transported near the targets by trucks.

The attack hit military installations in at least **five Russian regions**, including:

- **Irkutsk**, in central Siberia (over 8,000 km from Moscow)
- **Murmansk**, in the northwest near the Finnish border
- **Ivanovo, Ryazan, and Amur**, in the Far East

Moscow confirmed the damage to «some aircraft» but tried to downplay it, speaking of «repelled terrorist attacks». The Ukrainians, on the other hand, declared that «all personnel involved has been withdrawn from Russian territory» and mocked Russian announcements of alleged arrests: «Do not believe those who say they have captured the responsible parties».

Internal Sabotage and Civilian Casualties

At the same time, **two serious sabotage incidents** hit Russian infrastructure:

- A **road bridge** exploded in the **Bryansk** region, causing the **derailment of a passenger train**, with at least **7 dead** and over **70 injured**.
- A second **freight train** derailed in the **Kursk** region, following the explosion of a railway bridge.

The Russian Response: 472 Drones on Ukrainian Targets

Moscow's reaction was swift. Kyiv reported **the largest Russian drone attack** since the start of the war, with **472 drones** and **7 missiles** launched in just one night between Saturday and Sunday. A raid hit a **training center** in Ukraine, causing at least **12 deaths and over 60 injuries**. Internal controversies led to the **resignation of General Mikhailo Drapaty**, commander of the Ukrainian ground forces.

Towards Istanbul: The War on the Ground and the Diplomatic One

As military clashes intensify, delegations from Kyiv and Moscow are traveling to **Istanbul**, where new peace talks will open. Leading the two sides:

- For **Ukraine**, Defense Minister **Rustem Umerov**
- For **Russia**, **Vladimir Medinsky**, former minister without significant political weight in the Kremlin's inner circle

Zelensky has set the objectives for his delegation: **immediate and unconditional ceasefire, release of prisoners, and return of deported children**. He also proposed the idea of a **high-level summit**, which could directly involve **Putin** and, according to Ankara, also **Donald Trump**.

International Reactions

European authorities avoided direct comments on the military operations but reiterated Ukraine's right to defend itself. «Kyiv acts in accordance with the United Nations Charter», stated Anouar El Anouni, spokesperson for the European Commission.

Berlin also took a stance, clarifying that **it is not required to be informed** in advance by Kyiv: «Ukraine has the right to defend itself», explained German government spokesperson Stefan Kornelius.

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