



Putin's Anguish: Kiev's Hi-Tech Trap and Nuclear Blackmail as a Shield

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The war in Ukraine is changing its nature, and for Vladimir Putin, the ground is becoming increasingly slippery. The months when Moscow's troops forced Kiev into a purely defensive stance seem to be over: today, the nearly thousand-kilometer front line is contested in both directions. Thanks to a **hi-tech war** that Ukraine is conducting with growing effectiveness, disrupting Russian logistics and striking hard at the symbols of Moscow's military power and intelligence, even in their headquarters.

Faced with this tactical reversal, the Kremlin's response has not relied on a spectacular counteroffensive on the ground, but on raising its most fearsome shield: **the tactical nuclear threat**.

Kiev's Hi-Tech Success: Drones and Intelligence Strike at Moscow's Heart

The Ukrainian shift has an absolute protagonist: the **accelerated development of medium and long-range drones** (such as the Hornet and FP-2). Supported by artificial intelligence and the Starlink satellite network — recently denied to the Russians —, Kiev's drones are devastating oil infrastructures and enemy command centers well beyond the front line.

The latest, sensational success of this strategy was announced directly by President Volodymyr Zelensky: the special forces of the Special Operations Center "A" of the SSU targeted the **headquarters of the Russian FSB** (the secret services) in Genicheska Hirka, in the occupied region of Kherson. The simultaneous drone attack caused about **a hundred casualties** among the occupiers and led to the destruction of a valuable Pantsir-S1 air defense system.

"The Russians must feel the need to end this war," commented Zelensky.

This kind of blow shows that Russia not only struggles to maintain the initiative but suffers human losses (among dead and wounded) that exceed the pace of new recruitments.



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Putin's Difficulties and Nuclear Compensation

It is precisely in this context of conventional vulnerability that the surge in Russian nuclear rhetoric is inserted. The more Moscow shows itself incapable of breaking through Ukrainian lines, the more the Kremlin raises the stakes of deterrence.

Russia has recently activated large-scale exercises, bringing units and departments to the highest level of readiness for the use of **tactical nuclear weapons**. The numbers of the

mobilization are impressive:

- Over **64,000 military personnel** involved.
- More than **7,800 vehicles** and **200 launchers**.
- **140 aircraft, 73 ships, and 13 submarines** (including 8 strategic missile submarines).

At the center of this show of force is the **Iskander M** system, a ballistic missile with a range of 500 kilometers capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads. With the active involvement of **Belarus**, transformed into a true advanced nuclear platform close to the borders of Poland and the Baltic States, Moscow has begun transferring special munitions to field depots.

The Strategy of Terror: Normalizing the Threat

Geopolitical analysts agree: Putin's nuclear maneuvers do not herald an imminent nuclear attack, but are a well-orchestrated **political and psychological message**.

1. **Restrain the West:** Every time NATO discusses sending more sophisticated weapons to Kiev, Moscow waves the nuclear specter to fuel fears of escalation in European and American parliaments, trying to divide the allies.
2. **Compensate for structural limits:** The nuclear weapon serves Putin to cover the failures of his conventional war machine and economic isolation.
3. **Indirect economic warfare:** The rise in nuclear tension forces European countries to divert billions of resources towards air defense, intelligence, and infrastructure protection, wearing down the Western economy.

The real danger of this phase of the war is therefore not only the outcome of the summer battles on the ground but Russia's attempt to impose a new and dangerous security logic: the **progressive normalization of nuclear blackmail** as an ordinary tool of daily geopolitical pressure. Kiev responds with high-tech drones; Moscow, finding itself cornered, responds by showing the keys to the apocalypse.