# Russia Escalates Bombing Campaign in Eastern Ukraine with Upgraded Glide Bombs



**Russia Intensifies Bombing Campaign in Eastern Ukraine Using Retrofitted Glide Bombs**

**Kharkiv, Ukraine, May 25, 2024** – A major Russian bombing raid targeted the Epicenter shopping complex in Kharkiv, resulting in 19 fatalities, including two children. This marks one of over 50 attacks on the city this year by Russian glide bombs. The Soviet-era bombs, now enhanced with modern electronics, allow Russian warplanes to launch them from a distance. Other affected cities include Avdiivka, Chasiv Yar, and Vovchansk.

**Investigative Efforts and Damage** – A third bomb that failed to detonate is being examined for clues about the bomb's supply chain. Ukrainian investigators have traced the bombs' origins to at least eight Russian air bases within 100 kilometers of Ukraine. Photographic evidence shows glide bombs being launched from near Belgorod, Russia.

**Strategic Developments** – Russia is finalizing a new airstrip near Belgorod, situated within striking distance of Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported that Russia launched over 3,000 glide bombs in May alone.

**Response and Future Plans** – Ukrainian officials and analysts stress the importance of targeting these air bases to hinder Russia's bombing capabilities. Despite restrictions, some Western allies have recently approved strikes on certain Russian targets. The Netherlands and other nations are expected to deliver F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine by this summer, which Ukrainian officials hope will change the dynamics of the conflict.

**Survivor Accounts** – Nina Korsunova, a salesperson at the Epicenter, recounted crawling through the rubble to safety after the bombs struck. Despite the destruction, she and store manager Oleksandr Lutsenko remain determined to stay in Kharkiv.

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