# Russian Ka-29 Helicopter Shot Down by Air Defences in Black Sea Region



A Russian Ka-29 assault helicopter was shot down by Russian air defenses near Anapa on the Black Sea, killing all four crew members. The incident occurred due to a malfunction in the 'friend or foe' identification system of a Russian Pantsir surface-to-air missile system. The helicopter, valued at £19 million, was engaged in operations targeting Ukrainian kamikaze sea drones. The Russian Ministry of Defense has not formally acknowledged the incident, but it was widely reported by Russian pro-war channels.

This event follows a series of aggressive operations and drone attacks in the region, where Ukrainian forces have targeted Russian oil depots, radar centers, and military installations. Notably, Kyiv's drone strikes recently hit several key locations, including a fuel train in the Tambov region and oil depots in Adygea. The ongoing conflict has seen heightened use of sophisticated sea and aerial drones by Ukrainian forces, which have caused significant damage to Russian naval assets in the Black Sea.

Despite these developments, analysts from the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) suggest that Russia is unlikely to prevail in the conflict if the West fully mobilizes its resources to support Ukraine. They highlight that Russian President Vladimir Putin's threats, including those involving nuclear weapons, are intended to destabilize the international coalition backing Ukraine, although actual nuclear escalation is deemed unlikely.

Simultaneously, Russia's internal military strategy and the morale of its troops face significant challenges, as evidenced by frustration expressed by military bloggers regarding the invasion's objectives. The situation remains precarious, with the potential for increased Western support playing a critical role in the ongoing conflict.