# Russian Air Defense Systems Intercept Five Ukrainian Drones, Conflict Escalates in Third Year



On June 22, 2024, Russia's Defense Ministry reported that its air defense systems shot down five unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) launched by Ukrainian forces. Two drones were intercepted over the Bryansk region, two over the Smolensk region, and one over the Sea of Azov. This action followed a reported downing of 120 aircraft and drones by Russian forces the previous day, targeting regions including Crimea and western Russia.

In Ukraine, Russian shelling in Kharkiv resulted in three fatalities and 19 injuries, as stated by local officials. Russian forces also launched an overnight missile and drone attack on June 21-22, damaging energy facilities in southeastern Zaporizhzhia and western Lviv. Ukrainian air defenses intercepted 12 of the 16 missiles and all of the 13 Shahed drones.

The conflict, now in its third year, continues with significant strikes on energy and infrastructure targets from both sides. Moscow's recent assault follows Ukrainian attacks on three oil refineries in southern Russia. Casualties were also reported in the Russian Belgorod region and partially occupied areas of eastern Ukraine, including Donetsk and Kherson.