# Russian Defense Ministry Downs Five Ukrainian UAVs in Western Russia



**Russian Defense Ministry Reports Downing of Five Ukrainian UAVs in Western Russia**

MOSCOW, June 22, 2024 – The Russian Defense Ministry announced on Saturday that air defense systems had downed five unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) launched by Ukrainian forces. The incidents took place late on Friday and targeted regions in western Russia and the Sea of Azov. Specifically, two drones were intercepted over the Bryansk region, another two over the Smolensk region, and one over the Sea of Azov.

On Thursday, Russian forces claimed to have destroyed 120 aircraft and drones launched by Kiev into Crimea and western Russia, marking an escalation in the conflict. Ukrainian drones and missiles have continued to target border areas of southwestern Russia, prompting President Vladimir Putin to advocate for an expansion of Russian military operations in Ukraine.

In Ukraine's Kharkiv region, local officials reported that at least three people were killed and 19 injured due to Russian shelling in an area of dense residential development. In addition, a new wave of overnight Russian missile and drone attacks hit Ukraine, damaging energy facilities in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia and western Lviv regions. Two energy workers were injured in the Zaporizhzhia attack.

Overall, the Ukrainian Air Force reported that they intercepted 12 of 16 missiles and all 13 Shahed drones launched by Russia overnight. The ongoing conflict has resulted in significant damage to Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, causing widespread blackouts and affecting half of the country’s power generation capacity.

Both Russia and Ukraine continue to target each other’s infrastructure, aiming to weaken each other’s ability to sustain the war effort, which has now entered its third year. The recent exchanges have also resulted in casualties in Russia’s Belgorod region and Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and partly occupied Kherson regions.