# Terrorist Attacks in Dagestan and Crimea Claim Lives as Russia Blames External Forces



On Sunday, October 29, 2023, terrorist attacks in Dagestan, Russia, resulted in the deaths of at least 19 people, including 17 police officers and an Orthodox priest. The attacks occurred at several locations in the regional capital, Makhachkala, and in Derbent, targeting a police post, a synagogue, and Orthodox churches. Dagestan is a predominantly Muslim region in Russia's North Caucasus, known for its history of Islamist militancy.

Russian authorities, including local and national politicians, have blamed external forces, mainly Ukraine and NATO, for these coordinated assaults. However, the Islamic State-affiliated Al Azaim Media had posted a statement claiming the attacks were in response to calls for action on behalf of ISIS. The governor of Dagestan, Sergei Melikov, reported that six suspects were killed during the police operation.

In a related incident, Russian officials also accused the United States of involvement in a missile strike on Sevastopol, Crimea, on the same day, which killed four civilians, including two children. Russia's ministry of defense stated that the ATACMS missiles used were supplied by the U.S. and guided by American satellites. The Kremlin has vowed consequences for the U.S., emphasizing the perceived direct involvement of American forces in the strike.