

Russia, Ukraine Trade Airstrikes as Geneva Talks Open



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Russia and Ukraine exchanged fresh accusations of overnight drone and missile strikes Tuesday as a new round of US-mediated peace talks opened in Geneva.

Russia's Defense Ministry said air defenses shot down 151 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 79 over the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, and another 27 between 7:00 and 9:00 a.m. Moscow time.

Authorities in the Krasnodar region reported a fire at the Ilsky oil refinery covering about 700 square meters. Sochi Mayor Andrey Proshunin described a “massive” drone attack on the resort city, with falling debris reported in several districts but no casualties or infrastructure damage. Russia’s aviation agency, Rosaviatsiya, said temporary flight restrictions were imposed at airports in Sochi, Krasnodar, Nizhnekamsk, Gelendzhik, and Izhevsk before being lifted later in the morning.

In Ukraine, officials reported casualties and significant damage from Russian strikes. Odesa regional authorities said at least two people were injured and civilian buildings and infrastructure were hit, while energy firm DTEK described damage to power facilities as “extremely serious.” Regional officials in Dnipropetrovsk said homes, administrative buildings, vehicles, and a private enterprise were damaged. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said tens of thousands of residents in Odesa were left without heating and water after drone attacks across 12 regions, injuring nine people. Ukraine’s air force said it downed 367 of 396 drones and all 25 missiles launched overnight. Ukraine’s military confirmed targeting the Ilsky refinery, while Moscow said it struck Ukrainian military-industrial and energy facilities. Ukraine also reported three deaths in a separate morning attack near Sloviansk.

The renewed strikes coincided with two-day negotiations in Geneva involving Russia, Ukraine,

and the United States. The Kremlin said talks would focus on territorial issues. Two earlier US-mediated rounds were held in Abu Dhabi, leading to a prisoner-exchange agreement earlier this month