

RUSSIAN-ORIGIN GERAN-2 DRONE CRASHES NEAR COPANCA; MOLDOVA HANDS RUSSIA A PROTEST NOTE

At about 01:03 on 13 July 2026 a drone came down on the outskirts of Copanca (Căușeni district) and exploded on impact; burning fuel destroyed its wings and rear section, but its 40 kg shrapnel warhead did not detonate and was destroyed by army engineers. Moldova's Ministry of Defence identified it as a Gheran-2 (Shahed 136) of Russian origin that had entered during Russian air attacks on Ukraine's Odesa region. On 14 July the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned Russia's ambassador-designate Oleg Ozerov and handed him a protest note. No casualties were reported; Radio Moldova reported that the drone fell about 50 metres from a house.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
BEYOND UKRAINE
AS OF 20 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF

OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTION

A government, a prosecutor, the EU, NATO or a UN body has formally named Russia, its services or its state-backed forces. This is a position of that authority, not a verdict.

WHO ESTABLISHED IT

Ministry of Defence, 13 Jul 2026 (army.md, English release): a Gheran-2 (Shahed 136) drone 'of Russian origin', 248.2 kg with a 40 kg explosive charge, that flew in during 'the air attacks of the Russian Federation on the Odessa region'. MFA, 13 Jul (via Antena 3 / Newsweek.ro): 'Acest nou incident constituie o încălcare gravă și inacceptabilă a spațiului aerian al Republicii Moldova.' MFA protest note to Ozerov, 14 Jul (Moldpres English): the incident is a 'serious violation of national sovereignty' with 'risks created for the security of citizens'; Moldova calls on Russia to 'avoid any actions that could endanger the security of the Republic of Moldova'.

LATEST

Ozerov said Russia could 'not confirm anything yet' and asked for the flight path and photographic evidence (TASS/RBC via Logos Press, 14 Jul 2026). Speaker Igor Grosu said 'Only a coincidence prevented the explosion' and called for more investment in air defence (Radio Moldova, 16 Jul).

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The Ministry of Defence said the drone entered Moldova during Russian air attacks on Ukraine's Odesa region.

SOURCES

- B** Ministry of Defence of Moldova – Inform! (Copanca, Gheran-2 of Russian origin) · 2026-07-13
<https://www.army.md/en/press-releases/inform-1>
- B** Ministerul Apărării – Informează! (Copanca) · 2026-07-13
<https://www.army.md/ro/comunicate-de-presa/informeaza-1>
- C** Moldpres – Ministry of Defense: Gheran-2 drone crashed in Copanca to be safely detonated by sappers · 2026-07-13
<https://moldpres.md/eng/society/ministry-of-defense-gheran-2-drone-crashed-in-copanca-to-be-safely-detonated-by-sappers>
- C** Moldpres – Russia's ambassador summoned to Foreign Ministry · 2026-07-14
<https://moldpres.md/eng/politics/russia-s-ambassador-summoned-to-foreign-ministry>
- C** Antena 3 CNN – O dronă rusească Gheran-2 s-a prăbușit și a explodat în Moldova (MFA quote) · 2026-07-13
<https://www.antena3.ro/externe/o-drona-ruseasca-gheran-2-s-a-prabusit-si-a-explodat-in-moldova-noaptea-trecuta-795384.html>
- C** Radio Moldova – Moldova protests to Russian envoy after armed drone falls near home · 2026-07-14
<https://radiomoldova.md/p/80805>
- C** Radio Moldova – Igor Grosu calls for defense investments after Copanca drone incident · 2026-07-16
<https://radiomoldova.md/p/80973>
- C** Logos Press – Russia seeks answers over drone incident in Moldova's Copanca · 2026-07-14
<https://logos-pres.md/en/news/russia-has-questions-for-moldova-regarding-the-drone-in-copanca/>

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Name each violation in national statements and at the UN Security Council.
- Support NATO air defence along the eastern flank.
- Hold Russia responsible under international law for each incursion.

