

DRONE EXPLODES NEAR CROCMAZ; MOLDOVA RECALLS ITS AMBASSADOR FROM MOSCOW

On 9 August 2026 a drone struck a tree in a forest strip near Crocmaz (Ștefan Vodă district), on the border with Ukraine's Odesa region, and exploded about 2.5 metres above the ground; police called it a 'drone-missile' of a type never before found in Moldova, and its debris damaged roofs and outbuildings of several homes, with no casualties. On 10 August the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalled Moldova's ambassador in Moscow, Lilian Darii, for consultations. On 12 August Defence Minister Anatolie Nosatîi said preliminary analysis showed a Russian propelled drone, more advanced than earlier ones, with the exact model still to be determined.

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

MFA, 10 Aug 2026 (communiqué via Agerpres / Wall-Street.ro): 'Acest incident reprezintă o încălcare gravă a suveranității și integrității teritoriale a Republicii Moldova'; 'Republica Moldova condamnă războiul de agresiune al Federației Ruse împotriva Ucrainei'; the ministry 'recheamă ambasadorul Republicii Moldova la Moscova pentru consultări'. Defence Minister Anatolie Nosatîi, 12 Aug, after the government meeting (via Ziarul Profit): 'este vorba de o dronă rusească cu propulsie' (preliminary). President Maia Sandu on X: 'Aceasta este o consecință directă a războiului purtat de Rusia și ne pune pe toți în pericol.'

LATEST

As of 12 Aug 2026 the exact model had not been published; Nosatîi said 'Numărul de radare din dotare nu asigură pe deplin supravegherea spațiului aerian național.' No final technical finding was found as of 20 Oct 2026.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The drone came down on the border with Ukraine's Odesa region during Russia's air war against Ukraine.

SOURCES

- C** Wall-Street.ro – Dronă-rachetă căzută în Republica Moldova. Chișinăul își recheamă ambasadorul de la Moscova (MFA communiqué via Agerpres; Sandu on X) · 2026-08-10
<https://www.wall-street.ro/articol/international/ambasadorul-moldovei-la-moscova-rechemat-dupa-incidentul-cu-drona.html>
- C** Adnkronos – Moldova recalls ambassador to Moscow after Russian drone crash in the south · 2026-08-10
<https://english.adnkronos.com/2026/08/10/ukraine-moldova-recalls-ambassador-to-moscow-after-russian-drone-crash-in-the-south/>
- C** European Pravda – Moldova says drone that exploded in country over weekend is first of its kind (police) · 2026-08-10
<https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2026/08/10/7243256/>
- C** European Pravda – Moldovan PM and president blame Russia for drone explosion in their country · 2026-08-10
<https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/eng/news/2026/08/10/7243243/>
- C** Ziarul Profit – Drona care a explodat la Crocmaz era un model rusesc avansat (Nosatîi quote) · 2026-08-12
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- C** Meduza – Moldova recalls ambassador from Russia after drone explodes in Crocmaz · 2026-08-10
<https://meduza.io/en/news/2026/08/10/moldova-recalls-ambassador-from-russia-after-drone-explodes-in-crocmaz-near-ukraine-s-border>

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.

