

Hamas: Taking drone warfare lessons from Ukraine

Story by Dmytro Kaniewski / Oct. 20, 2023

Drones have long been part of modern warfare. Their deployment has been observed in many armed conflicts in recent years, including in Syria, Ukraine and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Using military drones has been part of modern warfare for some time now. But Russia's war on Ukraine marked a new milestone in drone warfare. Remodeled commercial drones deemed inappropriate for combat until recently were used for targeted, large-scale attacks for the first time.

[...]

Liran Antebi oversees high-tech programs and national security issues at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv. She has studied the deployment of drone technology in conflicts for over a decade and closely follows Russia's war against Ukraine. But even she was "surprised by the unexpected and complex use of Hamas drones," she said.

"This proves that, even if they are technologically quite primitive, they can be much deadlier in a complex mission than we previously would have admitted," the researcher told DW.

[...]

Liran Antebi recalls that it was originally in the Middle East that such drones were converted for combat purposes — the Islamic State (IS) terrorist organization used very basic ones against US forces.

"Later we saw it in Ukraine, and now we see it here as well," Antebi said.

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