

Why Isn't Israel Accepting Ukrainian Know-how to Intercept Drones?

Keren Setton / Oct. 13, 2024

Israel's multilayered defense is under increasing pressure from drone strikes, marking a new chapter in regional conflict

A drone attack in the Binyamina area of central Israel Sunday night has left at least 39 people injured, according to reports from the Magen David Adom and United Hatzalah emergency response services. Four of the injured are in critical condition, and medics are providing treatment to the injured on-site.

[...]

Data from the Institute of National Security Studies (INSS) at Tel Aviv University shows that since the conflict began a year ago, 180 drones have been launched by Houthi rebels, 150 by Shia militias in Iraq, and 170 by Iran. Most of these drones have been intercepted, many before entering Israeli airspace.

The number of drones launched by Hezbollah in Lebanon is believed to be significantly higher, though the exact figure has not been disclosed by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). According to the Alma Research and Education Center, which specializes in terrorism studies, there have been 556 incidents involving Hezbollah drones targeting Israel, with at least 1,500 drones involved.

[...]

Dr. Yehoshua Kalisky, a senior researcher at INSS, explained that UAVs are typically small, offering several advantages to their operators. Many drones used by Israel's adversaries are produced in Iran, the primary supporter of these proxies, or in factories in Syria overseen by Iranian engineers. Israel has reportedly struck drone production sites in Syria.

"They are cheap to manufacture and easy to operate," **Kalisky** told The Media Line. "Their small radar signature makes them difficult to detect, and they can easily maneuver to evade interception. Their slow flight speed also makes them challenging for Israeli fighter jets to intercept."

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