

INCIDENT DOSSIER · GERMANY · 4–5 AUGUST 2026

Leipzig / Halle

The attempted drone bombing



A recovered drone, an alleged intelligence operation, and the changing public evidence behind a major European sabotage investigation.

Prepared for ISS Global · Research cut-off 15 September 2026 · Edition 1.3



Police response at Leipzig/Halle. Published by Tagesschau; credited Hendrik Schmidt/dpa. Context photograph, not a suspect image. [12]

Principal assessment

The attempted bombing is established in official public records. Germany’s attribution to Russia is explicit, while individual criminal responsibility remains under investigation. [01] [02] [11]

The reported GRU organiser is supported by more than one investigative newsroom, but the underlying classified material is unavailable for public examination. Names, travel details and precise payload claims need more qualified wording than the starting headline. [12] [13] [14]

02 Location atlas · regional and local maps

03	What happened	04–05	Device, payload & scene
06–07	Suspects & attribution	08–09	Reporting timeline
10–11	Discrepancies & context	12–14	Method, sources & print record

Scope: open-source investigation and documentary assessment. Labels distinguish official statements, investigative reporting, visual observations and analytical judgments. They do not imply access to police exhibits or classified files.

LOCATION ATLAS / LEIPZIG–HALLE AIRPORT

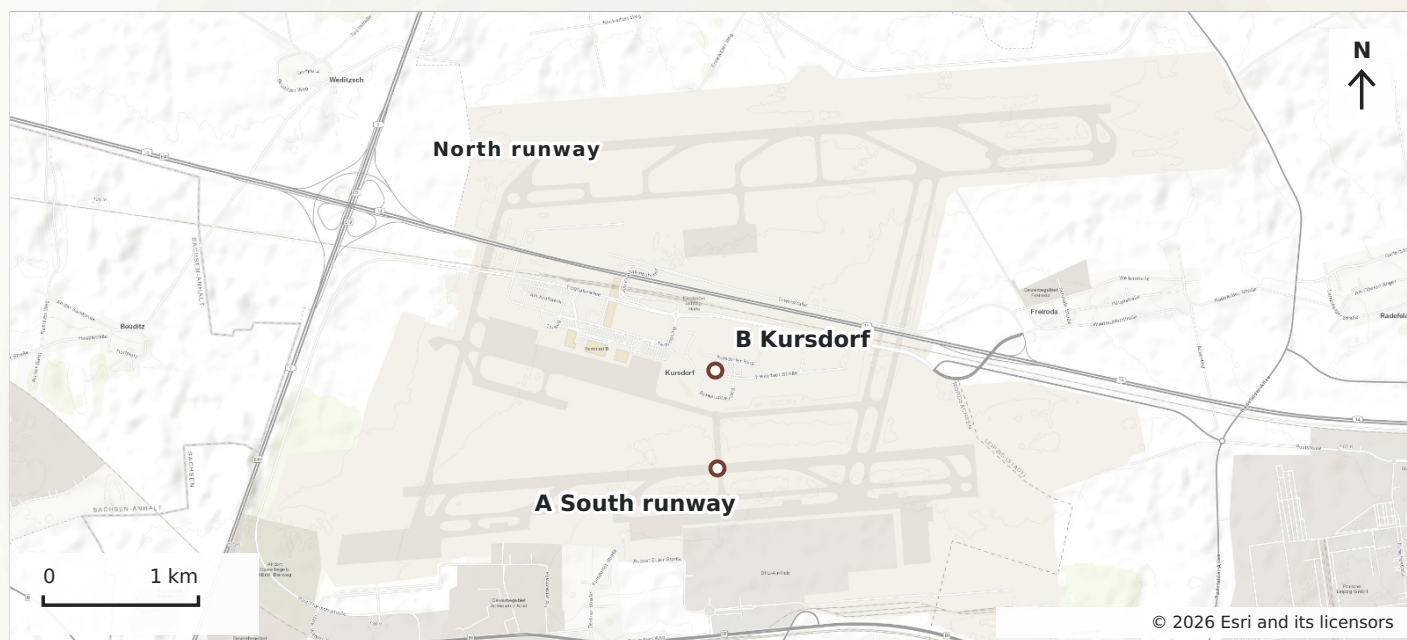
Schkeuditz, Saxony, Germany. Regional orientation and the airport surroundings relevant to the incident account.

REGIONAL SETTING · LEIPZIG, HALLE AND SCHKEUDITZ



Map M1. Leipzig/Halle Airport lies between the two cities. The dashed frame identifies the detailed view below.

LOCAL SETTING · AIRPORT RUNWAYS AND KURSDORF



Map M2. A identifies the south runway; B identifies Kursdorf. These are geographic reference locations, not pins for recovered devices or blast sites.

A • South runway (08R/26L). The joint police and prosecutor statement places the device in the secured cargo area near this runway. It does not publish the aircraft stand or recovery coordinates. [01]

B • Kursdorf. Separate reporting describes a bang, smoke and later investigative activity here. Its relationship to the airport device remains unresolved; the marker shows the locality, not a verified launch or explosion point. [06]

Cartographic record. Maps retrieved 15 September 2026; current geographic context, not a reconstruction of conditions on the incident date. North is up. Web Mercator (EPSG:3857); scale bars show ground distance at their displayed latitude. Reference coordinates (WGS84, rounded): A 51.4129° N, 12.2324° E (runway reference point); B 51.4186° N, 12.2322° E (locality).

M1–M2 sources. Esri World Topographic Map, exported at 1,600 px width; basemap geography and colours retained. ISS Global added coordinate-based reference labels, scale bars and the detail frame. Point checks: south runway geometry; Kursdorf locality.

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community. © 2026 Esri and its licensors; used under static-map licence. OpenStreetMap data: ODbL, openstreetmap.org/copyright.

01 / INCIDENT RECONSTRUCTION

The immediate safety response ended within hours. Establishing what happened, who handled the equipment and who commissioned it took much longer.

The official minimum

An airport employee discovered an explosive-equipped drone in the secured cargo area near the southern runway during the night of 4–5 August. Federal police specialists examined and made it safe. Operations initially stopped; the northern runway reopened after checks. A cargo aircraft that went around during the closure struck an unidentified object and landed in Hanover with minor damage. [01]

On 6 August the federal prosecutor took over, with the BKA conducting police inquiries. The release described an intended explosion and suspected interference with air traffic. It identified a deliberate threat to German transport infrastructure, without publicly naming an attacker. [02]

The target and the outcome

Contemporary AP reporting placed the device near a Ukrainian cargo aircraft and reported no injuries. The physical discovery and disruption were reported independently of the September disclosures. [22] Leipzig/Halle's role in Ukraine-related and NATO logistics provides relevant target context. [23]

Ammunition was not established as being aboard at the time. NDR/WDR/SZ corrected an early account: the aircraft had recently carried ammunition but was understood to have returned empty. Fuel and cargo are separate questions. [04]

Events outside the airport fence

On 13 August, NDR/WDR reported a loud bang and smoke around 19:19 on the incident evening at Kursdorf, followed by a possible blast site and nearby electronics. Accident, deliberate destruction and the site's relationship to the attack remained unresolved. [06]

Later reporting described further drone remains near the airport. The public account does not yet support a single, fully reconciled inventory of every airframe, flight and impact. [07]

Assessment. Distinguish the attempted explosion beside the parked aircraft from the separate airborne collision. Proximity in time makes a common operation plausible; it does not establish that the unidentified collision object was one particular recovered drone.

02 / OBJECT PLATES



Plate 01 · Recovered drone. Welt photograph published with the starting investigation. Four arms and propeller assemblies are visible. [14]



Plate 02 · Reported payload container. Welt image; the contents are not visible. [14]

Catalogue description

OBSERVED An exposed-frame multirotor rests on marked pavement. The separate close-up shows a cylindrical metal food tin. These are observations of published images, not an examination of exhibits.

OFFICIAL The GBA confirmed explosive material and a detonator on the recovered drone. Its release did not publish a make, model, laboratory certificate or exact charge mass. [02]

REPORTED The September account describes approximately 1.8 kg of Semtex intended for the operation. That is not a verified measurement of the contents of this particular tin. [15]

The images retain their published colours and framing. No generative reconstruction, enhancement, dimensional scale or component identification has been added. Original capture dates and official exhibit numbers were not supplied with the retrieved copies.

03 / VISUAL EVIDENCE ASSESSMENT

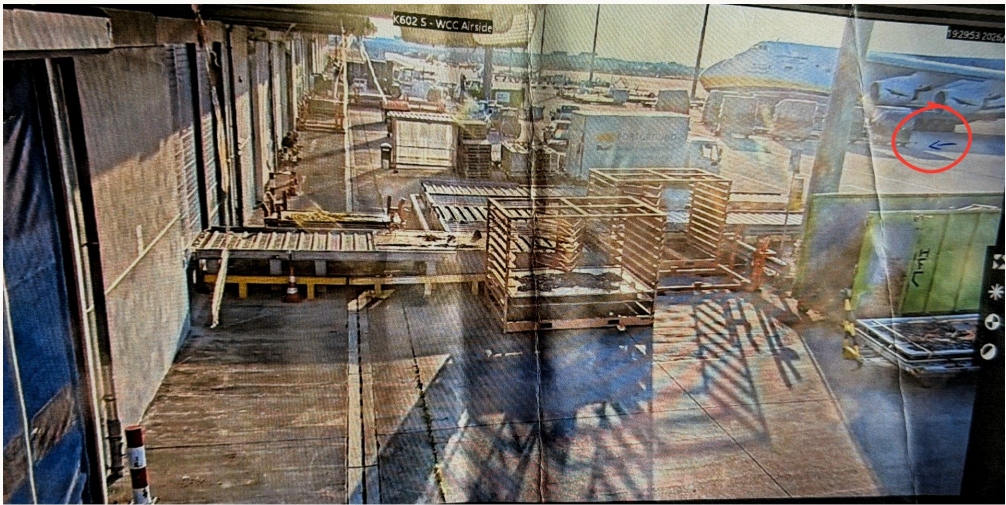


Plate 03 · Published surveillance reproduction. Welt, via the syndicated article. The red circle and blue arrow are already present in the source image. [14]

A photograph can establish less than its caption

The scene image shows an airport apron, ground equipment and part of a large aircraft. Its source marks a small object near the aircraft. At this reproduction quality, the object cannot independently be matched to Plate 01. Neither its contents nor the aircraft’s fuel state can be read from the picture.

The photograph is a reproduction of a display or printed image, with perspective distortion and surface artefacts. A partially visible time/date overlay is not a calibrated event clock. The report therefore does not use it to fix the time of arrival, landing or discovery.

QUESTION	WHAT THIS REVIEW CAN ESTABLISH
Does the pictured object contain Semtex?	No visual confirmation. The chemical identification remains a reported laboratory finding; a sealed container is not diagnostic.
Why did the charge not function?	Early reporting described a defect; September reporting describes a detached detonator. The forensic failure analysis is not public. [04] [15]
Could the aircraft have burned?	A serious hazard is plausible. The reported 25,000 litres of fuel and projected destruction are source claims, not a verified consequence model. [15]
Does the equipment prove Russian manufacture?	No. Appearance and widely available components cannot by themselves establish origin, operator nationality or state tasking.

Inference boundary. The photographs corroborate the existence of published device and scene imagery. Authenticity of the original files, capture timing, exhibit continuity and the attributed contents would require access to the originals and the investigative record.

04 / PERSONS & ASSOCIATIONS

Two alleged functions emerge: an organiser responsible for preparation and a recruited operative associated with handling the equipment.

PUBLISHED IDENTIFIER	REPORTED ROLE AND EVIDENTIAL STATUS
Oleg Le. Also Oleg L.	Named in the September Welt-derived reporting as the Russian organiser with suspected GRU ties. The Insider repeats that he entered via Turkey and BER, left for Serbia and was believed to be in Russia. These remain attributed claims. [20]
Andrei Ka. Also Andrei K.	Reported Belarusian operative. The earlier NDR/WDR/SZ investigation described a Belarusian suspect with a Russian passport and an Italian tourist visa, alongside DNA matches in European databases. [12]

What corroborates the role split?

NDR/WDR/SZ had already described an organiser/instructor, reportedly departing two days before the incident. That predates the named account, but identity reconciliation still depends on unpublished records. [12]

From an object to a person

Earlier reporting identifies DNA on the drone, charge and nearby antenna. [06] The later account describes glove remnants on the antenna and associates the trace with the Belarusian suspect. [15]

Analytical limit: a reported DNA match can support contact with an item. Without the laboratory report, sampling record, transfer assessment and investigative context, it does not independently establish when contact occurred, who flew a drone or who issued instructions. These are distinct propositions.

Logistics and the “known spy” claim

The starting investigation reports a suspected explosive supply route through Bulgaria and Serbia, plus possible local storage locations traced using rental-car data. No public movement records were obtained. [14]

Tagesschau reports the allegation that the organiser’s intelligence connection was known on entry but he was not observed. Its newsroom says NDR/WDR/SZ research also points to GRU direction. No disclosed record here explains what was known, by whom or why surveillance was absent. [13]

Identity and imagery. Initials are retained; full surnames are not reconstructed. No authenticated suspect portrait or case-specific wanted notice was located. No arrest, charge or conviction of either named man was verified in the sources reviewed as of the cut-off. This is a search limitation, not a declaration that no unpublished action exists.

05 / CORROBORATION & CONFIDENCE

Germany’s 4 September explanation sets out three pillars: the pattern and means of attack, police investigation, and intelligence findings. It expressly describes a political attribution while criminal proceedings continue. [11]

PROPOSITION	PUBLIC SUPPORT	ASSESSMENT
Deliberate explosive attack attempt	Police/prosecutor releases; contemporary reporting. [01] [02] [22]	High for the core event.
German government attributes responsibility to Russia	On-record government statements and diplomatic action. [10] [11]	High that this is the official position.
Russian state direction as an analytical conclusion	Official assessment plus convergent investigative reporting. [11] [12] [13]	Strongly supported , but the underlying intelligence cannot be independently audited here.
A specific GRU-linked organiser	Welt-derived named account; ARD cooperation reports GRU direction. [13] [20]	Moderate at publicly verifiable individual level.
Exact personnel chain, payload allocation and aircraft consequences	Anonymous briefings and derivative accounts; originals absent.	Unresolved in material respects.

Two reporting families, not a tally of headlines

NDR/WDR/SZ constitute one investigative cooperation. Welt, the Telegraph syndication and articles explicitly crediting Welt constitute another reporting family. Euronews and The Insider add reach, but their September summaries do not disclose a separate examination of the leaked files. [12] [14] [15] [20]

The groups may have consulted some of the same officials. Editorial independence increases the value of convergence; it does not prove independence of underlying witnesses or intelligence. Wire reports are separately valuable for observing statements and the immediate response.

Alternative explanations and the denial

Russia’s embassy rejected the accusations both before and after formal attribution. [16] [17] A mere drone sighting or accidental hobby flight is inconsistent with the prosecutor’s description of a fitted explosive charge. Independent criminal action is conceivable, but would have to explain the reported intelligence connections and role separation. The reviewed sources provide no affirmative evidence of staging.

Confidence labels are qualitative judgments about the accessible record, not numerical probabilities or substitutes for a court finding. Repetition of the same anonymous claim does not raise its grade.

06 / HOW THE STORY DEVELOPED

Event time and publication time are separate. Later discoveries and corrections must not be projected back into the first night's information picture.

Times below use German local time (CEST, UTC+2) unless stated. A displayed update time is not necessarily the first publication time. The sequence records key verified publications, not every broadcast or headline.

REPORT PUBLISHED	EVENT OR PERIOD DESCRIBED	WHAT ENTERED THE PUBLIC RECORD
5 Aug 07:00; 13:45	Night of 4–5 Aug	The joint Saxon release cites a 07:00 police notice and provides the 13:45 official account of the explosive device, collision and reopening. The earlier notice's contents were not separately inspected. [01]
5 Aug 21:41 update	Discovery and response	Tagesschau reports the explosive device and detonator; AP independently reports the incident and disruption. [03] [22]
6 Aug 19:19 update	4 Aug; previous ammunition transport	Investigative reporting adds aircraft and CCTV detail, but corrects the claim that ammunition was on board at discovery. [04]
6 Aug 19:22	Federal takeover that day	The GBA formally assumes the investigation and commissions the BKA. [02]
7 Aug	Russia's initial response	Reuters records the embassy denial while Germany has not yet formally attributed responsibility. [16]
10 Aug	Competing discovery accounts	A government transcript records questions about employee contact versus later ground discovery; the ministry refers details to investigators. The question itself is not confirmation. [05]
11 Aug 08:38; updated 10:39	Early forensic leads	Euronews summarises DNA reporting and possible earlier-case links. Its ammunition wording illustrates the persistence of superseded details. [24] [04]
13 Aug 13:40 update	4 Aug, about 19:19; later searches	NDR/WDR reports a bang, smoke, possible blast traces and electronics at Kursdorf. [06]
25 Aug 06:00 update	14–15 Aug recovery	NDR/WDR/SZ reports another drone at Kabelsketal and suspected explosive material nearby. Publication follows the alleged recovery by about ten days. [07]
31 Aug	Decision still to be announced	Government declines to pre-empt attribution or specify its response. [08]

06 / ATTRIBUTION AND SUBSEQUENT DISCLOSURES

REPORT PUBLISHED	EVENT OR PERIOD DESCRIBED	DEVELOPMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE
1 Sep 19:54 / 22:51 updates	Ministers' announcement that day	Dobrindt and Wadehul attribute the attempted attack to Russia. ARD explains the evidential reasoning; reporting records proposed measures. [09] [25]
1 Sep	Russian response	Reuters reports the embassy's rejection and warning of consequences. [17]
2 Sep	Government and EU follow-up	The official transcript confirms coordination; Reuters reports European solidarity and consideration of further measures. These reactions are not additional forensic evidence. [10] [18]
2 Sep 14:00 update	Earlier travel and forensic work	NDR/WDR/SZ reports two suspects, their alleged division of roles, travel-document descriptions and DNA matches. [12]
4 Sep	Official explanatory statement	The government separates political attribution from the continuing criminal process; Bonn consulate closure is scheduled for 18 September. [11]
9 Sep 08:18 UTC	Bundestag statement that day	Merz says preparation in Russia lasted months and harm was avoided by chance. This strengthens the on-record political account, without exposing its underlying files. [19]
12 Sep 07:00 UTC / 09:00 CEST	Retrospective account of preparations and attack	The accessible Telegraph syndication publishes the Welt investigation and device imagery. This is the publication timestamp of that edition, not the attack time. [14]
12 Sep 13:05 update	GRU connection	Tagesschau relays the new claims and says its research cooperation also supports GRU direction. [13]
12 Sep 15:21 CEST	Same investigative disclosures	Euronews publishes a Welt-based account. It adds no disclosed independent access to the investigative files. [15]
14 Sep 13:11 displayed	Same suspect account	The Insider repeats the Welt findings. Its later publication date is not evidence of a new arrest or new forensic result. [20]

Cut-off · 15 September 2026. The reviewed material does not close the criminal investigation. Future events, including the scheduled 18 September consulate closure, are recorded as planned rather than completed.

07 / CLAIM AUDIT

CLAIM REQUIRING CARE	COMPARISON AND REPORT TREATMENT
“An ammunition-laden aircraft”	The correction described on page 03 supersedes the original claim. Later repetition does not reverse that correction. [04] [24]
Exactly three drones	“Recovered”, “used” and “planned” are not interchangeable counts. The early and later accounts do not reconcile the collision object with the recovered airframes. An exact operation total remains unverified. [07] [12] [20]
Semtex, hexogen and quantities	The 25 August report describes about 50 g of suspected hexogen near a later find; Euronews’s September account calls it Semtex. Treat these as source descriptions of a separate recovery, not an established laboratory equivalence or a basis for adding masses together. [07] [15]
Detonator detached / police removed it	The official first response describes removal of a detonator; the later report attributes non-functioning to detachment. Those accounts might concern different stages or terminology. A sequence cannot be inferred without the technical record. [01] [15]
Suspect nationality and passports	The early account includes Russian/Latvian documents; later naming uses nationality shorthand. These may coexist: citizenship, birthplace and travel document are different fields. Do not silently overwrite one with another. [12] [20]
Employee intercepted the drone	Early reporting described contact; a subsequent government question challenged it. The official response did not settle the details. State employee discovery, without presenting an interception narrative as proven. [04] [05]
Hours before discovery	An early report places CCTV arrival around 19:28 and discovery near 23:42, while also describing later hovering. The discontinuity is unresolved. A still image cannot repair the missing sequence. [04]
2024 DHL and Łódź are one link	The Insider distinguishes earlier reporting about a DHL DNA association from a separate alleged Łódź arson link. Neither is a verified person-to-case match in the public primary records reviewed. [20]

These qualifications narrow the claims that can safely be repeated. They do not erase the official evidence for an attempted explosive attack.

08 / WHAT FOLLOWS FROM THE EVIDENCE

A plausible campaign context, with separate case boundaries

AP's contemporary explainer notes the airport's military logistics significance and the earlier 2024 incendiary incident. [23] Reuters separately reported on 8 September that Romania's SRI had disrupted a Russian-directed operation involving collection of imagery of strategic targets, including Ukrainian Antonov aircraft. [21]

Assessment: a recurring interest in logistics and these aircraft is consistent with disruption of support to Ukraine. It is insufficient to demonstrate the same organiser, equipment source or command chain across Leipzig, Łódź, the 2024 DHL case and Romania.

Diplomatic consequences

The government announced the Bonn consulate closure for 18 September, termination of the operating agreement for the Russian House in Berlin, proposals for EU listings, tighter entry checks and increased pressure on Russia's shadow fleet. These are announced actions as described on 4 September. [11]

European support for Germany followed. [18] The policy response establishes the seriousness with which allies treated the attribution; it cannot substitute for a published evidential chain.

Priority evidence still needed

1. **A reconciled exhibit inventory.** Link each whole drone, fragment, container and off-airport recovery to an official identifier and recovery time. Resolve whether the collision object is a separate airframe.
2. **Original imagery and timing.** Obtain the complete CCTV sequence, camera-clock offset, original photographs and transfer history. Separate event time, recovery time and publication time.
3. **Forensic findings tied to exhibits.** Confirm the explosive classification, recovered mass and failure assessment for each item. Keep preliminary field identification distinct from final laboratory results.
4. **Person-to-item and person-to-role evidence.** Establish which DNA profile belongs to which sample, how identities were resolved and what independently supports handling, operation, instruction and state tasking.
5. **Cross-border records.** Seek attributable confirmation of the Finnish/Lithuanian matches and Polish case association, plus authoritative clarification of citizenship and travel documents.
6. **The intelligence and surveillance account.** Clarify what the relevant agency knew before entry, the basis of the GRU association and the chronology of any surveillance decision.

These are documentary research priorities, not findings that the missing records contain particular evidence. They provide a practical route for strengthening or revising this assessment.

09 / RESEARCH METHOD

The review checked German prosecutor and government publications, contemporary wire coverage, original investigations, later reporting, suspect imagery and procedural developments.

The supplied Telegraph page itself could not be retrieved through the research interface. Its accessible AOL syndication supplied the article text, timestamp and three Welt images. The report does not claim direct access to Welt's confidential documents. [14]

German material is paraphrased in English. Event and reporting dates, explicit corrections and evidential limits are preserved. Nationality or travel alone is not evidence of guilt.

EVIDENCE LABEL	MEANING IN THIS CATALOGUE
Official	An attributable public statement by the authority concerned. Strong evidence of what the authority says; underlying material may remain undisclosed.
Reported	A journalistic assertion, including anonymous-source and leaked-document reporting. The cited publisher and reporting family matter.
Observed	A feature visible in the retrieved image. Does not authenticate capture time, contents, ownership or chain of custody.
Assessment	This report's interpretation of the accessible evidence. Inferences remain open to revision.

References · 01–08

- 01 **Dresden prosecutors / Saxony LKA** · 5 Aug 2026 · 13:45 CEST
Initial joint incident statement
 Primary. Confirms discovery, response, aircraft collision and reopening; cites an earlier 07:00 police notice.
- 02 **Federal Prosecutor General (GBA)** · 6 Aug 2026 · 19:22 CEST
Federal takeover of the Leipzig/Halle investigation
 Primary release distributed by news aktuell. Establishes the investigative remit and BKA responsibility.
- 03 **Tagesschau** · 5 Aug 2026 · 21:41 CEST
Explosives and detonator discovered at Leipzig/Halle
 Contemporary reporting of the discovery and immediate response.
- 04 **NDR / WDR / Süddeutsche Zeitung, via Tagesschau** · 6 Aug 2026 · 19:19 CEST
Was an ammunition transport the intended target?
 Original reporting with an explicit correction: ammunition carriage preceded the incident; the aircraft had returned empty.
- 05 **German federal government** · 10 Aug 2026
Government press conference transcript
 Primary. Records unanswered questions about discovery and discussion of drone protection.
- 06 **NDR / WDR investigation, via Tagesschau** · 13 Aug 2026 · 13:40 CEST
The unexplained explosion at Kursdorf
 Original reporting on witness accounts, possible blast traces, electronics and DNA.
- 07 **NDR / WDR / Süddeutsche Zeitung, via Tagesschau** · 25 Aug 2026 · 06:00 CEST
Further drone and suspected explosive material found
 Original reporting. Separates 14–15 August recovery events from their later publication.
- 08 **German Foreign Office** · 31 Aug 2026
Government press conference before attribution
 Primary. Officials declined to pre-empt attribution and the response package.

09 / REFERENCES · 09–23

All sources accessed 15 September 2026. Source links also appear beside the claims they support. Multiple articles citing the same investigation are not counted as independent confirmations.

- 09 **Tagesschau** · 1 Sep 2026 · 22:51 CEST
Government holds Russia responsible for attempted attack
Reporting of the ministers' 1 September announcement, with Russian response.
- 10 **German Foreign Office** · 2 Sep 2026
Government press conference on attribution
Primary. Confirms the preceding day's decision and international coordination.
- 11 **German federal government** · 4 Sep 2026
Government explanation of attribution and measures
Primary. Explicitly distinguishes political attribution from unfinished criminal proceedings.
- 12 **NDR / WDR / Süddeutsche Zeitung, via Tagesschau** · 2 Sep 2026 · 14:00 CEST
Investigators identify suspected perpetrators
Original reporting on roles, passport descriptions, travel and European DNA matches.
- 13 **Tagesschau / ARD research cooperation** · 12 Sep 2026 · 13:05 CEST
Investigative trail reportedly reaches the GRU
Cites Welt for new particulars; says NDR/WDR/SZ research also supports GRU direction. Anonymous sources may overlap.
- 14 **Alexander Dinger · Telegraph / Global Reporters Network, via AOL** · 12 Sep 2026 · 07:00 UTC / 09:00 CEST
Revealed: Known Russian spy was behind Leipzig drone attack
Accessible syndicated text of the user's starting article; the three Welt image plates were obtained here. One reporting family, not independent corroboration.
- 15 **Euronews Berlin** · 12 Sep 2026 · 15:21 CEST
Leipzig investigation and suspected Russian intelligence links
Derivative of Welt. Useful for comparison, including differences in explosive descriptions.
- 16 **Reuters** · 7 Aug 2026
Russia rejects early suspicions about the incident
Contemporary reporting of the Russian embassy's denial, before formal German attribution.
- 17 **Reuters** · 1 Sep 2026
Russian embassy rejects German attribution
Confirms the denial and diplomatic dispute; does not adjudicate the underlying evidence.
- 18 **Reuters** · 2 Sep 2026
EU response and further German sabotage inquiries
Independent reporting on diplomatic reaction. Suspect particulars repeat German media findings.
- 19 **Reuters** · 9 Sep 2026 · 08:18 UTC
Merz says the attack was prepared in Russia over months
Direct reporting of the Chancellor's Bundestag remarks; no accompanying forensic dossier.
- 20 **The Insider** · 14 Sep 2026 · 13:11, displayed zone unspecified
Suspected GRU link in Leipzig investigation
Explicitly attributes its new account to Welt; also recalls earlier reporting about a possible 2024 DHL link.
- 21 **Reuters** · 8 Sep 2026 · 13:06 UTC
Romania reports disrupting a Russian sabotage operation
Separate case, quoting SRI. Context for interest in Antonov aircraft; no demonstrated shared Leipzig perpetrators.
- 22 **Associated Press** · 5 Aug 2026
Explosive drone found and defused at a German airport
Independent contemporary reporting on disruption, absence of injuries and official reaction.
- 23 **Associated Press** · August 2026
Explainer on the explosive-drone investigation
Independent contextual reporting on logistics significance and the earlier 2024 incident. Exact day not relied upon.

10 / REFERENCES · 24–25

24

Euronews · 11 Aug 2026 · 08:38 CEST; updated 10:39
Early reporting on DNA leads
Media synthesis. Its ammunition claim requires reading alongside the correction in source 04.

25

Michael Götschenberg / ARD · 1 Sep 2026 · 19:54 CEST
How investigators and government assessed responsibility
Explanatory reporting on evidence collection and the move to attribution.

Image accession record

Images are embedded in the HTML, so the plates remain available offline. All were retrieved on 15 September 2026. No suspect photograph was verified. Source credit is retained; this catalogue does not grant republication rights.

PLATE	PROVENANCE AND LIMITS
01 · Drone	Welt → Telegraph/AOL [14]. Published 12 Sep. JPEG, 1582 × 990 px. Original photographer, capture time and exhibit number unavailable.
02 · Container	Welt → Telegraph/AOL [14]. Published 12 Sep. JPEG, 1206 × 1022 px. Source associates it with the payload; contents cannot be confirmed visually.
03 · Scene	Welt → Telegraph/AOL [14]. Published 12 Sep. JPEG, 1920 × 958 px. Existing annotations preserved. The reproduced overlay is not independently verified.
04 · Response	Tagesschau [12], credited Hendrik Schmidt/dpa. JPEG, 1280 × 560 px. Used as context on the opening page; capture time not independently established.

Maps M1–M2 and their source credits are on [page 02](#). Map coordinates identify reference features; exact incident points remain unverified.

Publication and print specification

A4 portrait · 210 × 297 mm · 12 mm margins on all edges. Headers, rules and folios sit inside that printable area. A full-page ivory wash and faint ISS Global coin watermark sit behind the content. Photographic colours are preserved.

Self-contained HTML with embedded typefaces and images; linked citations require an internet connection. Browser print settings: A4, portrait, scale 100%, use the document’s CSS margins, and turn off browser-generated headers and footers. A separate PDF records the verified pagination. Enable background graphics. The PDF carries the wash to the paper edge; physical full-bleed printing requires a borderless printer.

Validation: WeasyPrint 70.0 produced 14 A4 pages. Automated checks verified page dimensions, 12 mm content bounds, folios, embedded images and links; the supplied ISS Global coin is embedded beside the title and ISS Global appears in all 14 footers; all pages were visually reviewed for clipping and overlap. Browser-specific pagination was not independently tested; the supplied PDF is the verified print proof.

Editorial conclusion

The public case for a deliberate attack is firm. Russia’s responsibility is Germany’s explicit assessment and is supported by convergent reporting. The identity-level GRU allegation remains a serious reported finding whose underlying proof is not publicly inspectable.