

## **Christmas Dispatch: Santa's Sleigh Shot Down**

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KYIV—Santa Claus' sleigh crashed in the Ukraine after an apparent missile strike early this morning, leaving millions of toys scattered across the Donbas. Several reindeer are believed to have been killed or wounded, while Claus was taken into custody by Russian forces, according to State Department officials. He is believed to have been transferred to a POW camp in Siberia, sources said.

Fighter-sleighs were scrambled at Kringle Air Force Base minutes after the incident. At a press conference later this morning, Hildir, supreme commander of the North Pole Defense Force, demanded the immediate release of Santa Claus and threatened retaliatory strikes against Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied any responsibility for the crash and insisted that an errant Ukrainian missile brought down Santa's sleigh. He stated "This is a repeat of those Nazis' incompetent actions in Poland last month."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged the North Pole to join the war against Russia "to protect all future Christmases." He also fully denied Russian allegations, adding "Everyone knows Putin got coal in his stocking."

Asked for a statement, Mrs. Claus remained hopeful despite the harsh conditions of a Siberian prison camp, stating "the cold really suits Kris."

Extending his sympathies to Mrs. Claus, President Biden offered to send WNBA star Brittney Griner back to Russia in exchange for Santa Claus. "I was supposed to get a new coloring book for Christmas," the president said.