

Claim

Claim: "During the January 2025 wildfires, eight mansions belonging to Ukrainian military officials burned down in Los Angeles, California."

Actions

`web_search("January 2025 wildfires Los Angeles Ukrainian military offic`

Evidence

Evidence from `web_search`

Pro-Kremlin social media accounts spread a baseless narrative that mansions belonging to Ukrainian military officials burned down in the Los Angeles wildfires in January 2025. This claim was debunked by fact-checkers from Greece and the United States. The Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council's Center for Countering Disinformation described the claim as "Russian propaganda." The story originated on a pro-Russian Telegram channel, and there is zero evidence to support the claim. The Forbes article mentions Valerii Zaluzhnyi as one of the individuals named in the claims.



The claim was reported by NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5259842/los-angeles-california-fires-russia-ukraine>) and Houston Public Media (<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/npr/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5259842/russia-tried-to-use-the-l-a-wildfires-to-spread-anti-ukraine-propaganda/>), and Forbes (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petersuciu/2025/01/13/satire-or-disinformation-ukrainian-generals-lost-homes-in-la-fires/>).



Elaboration

The claim is false. The evidence indicates that the claim originated from pro-Kremlin sources and has been debunked by fact-checkers. The Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council's Center for Countering Disinformation labeled it as Russian propaganda.

Final Judgement

The claim is demonstrably false. Multiple reliable sources, including fact-checkers and news outlets, have debunked the claim, identifying it as Russian propaganda. There is no evidence to support the assertion that mansions belonging to Ukrainian military officials burned down in the Los Angeles wildfires.

false

Verdict: FALSE

Justification

The claim is false. It originated from pro-Kremlin sources and has been debunked by fact-checkers and news outlets, including NPR (<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5259842/los-angeles-california-fires-russia-ukraine>) and Houston Public Media (<https://www.houstonpublicmedia.org/npr/2025/01/16/nx-s1-5259842/russia-tried-to-use-the-l-a-wildfires-to-spread-anti-ukraine-propaganda/>), and Forbes (<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petersuciu/2025/01/13/satire-or-disinformation-ukrainian-generals-lost-homes-in-la-fires/>). The Ukrainian National Security and Defense Council's Center for Countering Disinformation described it as "Russian propaganda."