

An Analysis of
NBC News: *Russian Black Sea Fleet commander was killed in Crimea missile strike, Ukraine*
says

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On Friday, Ukraine sent missiles to Sevastopol, Crimea in an attempt to attack the Black Sea Fleet at Russia's naval headquarters(Smith, 2023). The attack was planned to occur at the same time as a meeting held by Russian navy senior members(Smith, 2023). On Saturday it was reported that at least nine people were killed and 16 were wounded due to the attack(Smith, 2023). Ukraine alleged that among those killed was the Black Sea Fleet commander, Viktor Sokolov(Smith, 2023). This attack was important as Ukraine promised to take back Crimea after Russia seized it in 2014(Smith, 2023).

In the past few weeks of SRA 211, we have been defining terrorism and how we use it to identify people and events. The class as a whole has been attempting to differentiate between crime, terrorism, and war as one may involve the other but not the other way around. As we have seen since September 11th, terrorism has shaped the way we live and think in our daily lives(L.S. Defining Terrorism). In class, we decided that the three major components of terrorism involved violence or intimidation, attacking civilians, and political influence. We also defined the terms crime as the act of doing something illegal and war as conflict between military or states. It was also critical for us to look into new forms of terrorism such as cyberterrorism because of its use in the Russia and Ukraine war which may not always include violence.

This topic relates back to what we are learning in class because it is important to understand if Russia targeting navy commanders in their missile strike is an act of war or

terrorism. Classifying attacks like these as war or terrorism is important because it influences how media outlets portray these events to the public. When speaking on the strike, Ukraine's Special Operation Forces reported that it "was carried out 'on time and accurately' during a meeting of the Russian navy's senior members at the building(Smith, 2023)." As mentioned earlier in the paper, the Black Sea Fleet commander was allegedly killed in this strike(Smith, 2023). Since technically nothing illegal was done, we can cross crime off our list of how to define this attack. Because members of the navy were the target of this strike, and eventually ended up being the ones wounded and killed, this attack does not fit into our definitions of terrorism. Although the strike did involve violence and was used to influence Russia into letting go of Crimea, it was an attack between militaries and should be considered an act of war.

References

Smith, A. (2023, September 25). *Russian Black Sea Fleet commander killed in strike, Ukraine says*. NBC News. Retrieved September 25, 2023, from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russian-black-sea-fleet-commander-sokolov-killed-ukraine-strike-crimea-rcna117133>

Lesson Slides-Defining Terrorism