

Moroccan drone targets Polisario militia infiltrating buffer zone for terrorist attacks

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A Moroccan drone struck a vehicle on Tuesday carrying four members of the Polisario militia who were attempting to infiltrate the buffer zone with intentions of carrying out terrorist attacks in Morocco's southern provinces, sources told Hespress AR.

Photos showed MINURSO personnel at the site of the incident where the drone targeted a four-wheel vehicle 100 km from the city of Smara.

Algerian media claimed that the targeted car belonged to a group of Mauritanian gold prospectors. This ignores the Mauritanian military's

decision in 2019 to designate the northern region of Mauritania as a prohibited area for civilians.

The source told Hespess AR said the four Polisario members planned attacks similar to those in Smara and the Aoussard province in southern Morocco.

On October 29, four explosions rocked the city of Smara in Morocco's Southern Provinces, resulting in the death of a young man and the injury of three others.

In mid-December, Polisario militias targeted an area 6 kilometers away from residential areas in Aoussard.

The recent attacks mark a concerning deviation from established conflict patterns. The acknowledgment by the Polisario Front of their responsibility for targeting civilians raises significant concerns about a potential shift in the conflict's dynamics, signaling an escalation of the already delicate situation in the region.

Abdelouahed Oulad Mouloud, International Relations and African studies expert warned that the Polisario Front's persistent breaches of the buffer zone ceasefire and provocations could escalate the conflict in the region in a previous statement to Hespess AR.

Given their diplomatic setbacks, he noted that this is their ultimate objective, along with Algeria.

The expert emphasized that the Polisario Front bears full responsibility for all incidents that occur in the Sahara in terms of violations, and the UN remains a key party in the ceasefire resolution.

"It is essential for Morocco to take necessary actions before the UN, as they bear full responsibility for securing the buffer zone, given that the Front has breached this area. Consequently, this situation cannot be

ignored," explained Oulad Mouloud.