

Russia Summons U.S. Envoy Over American Media Reports From Kursk Region

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U.S. Embassy Chief of Mission Stephanie Holmes arriving at the Russian Foreign Ministry building.
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Russia's Foreign Ministry [said](#) Tuesday it had summoned a senior U.S. Embassy official in Moscow over what it called “provocative actions” of American journalists reporting from Ukrainian-held parts of the Kursk region, as well as an alleged U.S. mercenary presence on Russian territory.

The ministry said it expressed “strong protest” to U.S. Embassy Chief of Mission Stephanie Holmes “in connection to the provocative actions of American reporters who illegally entered the Kursk region to produce propaganda for covering up the crimes of the Kyiv regime.”

That move comes after CNN [aired](#) reports last week from the Russian-Ukrainian [border](#) — where Ukraine mounted its surprise incursion two weeks ago — and the Kursk region town of Sudzha, which is currently under Ukrainian control.

The Russian Foreign Ministry [lodged](#) a similar protest with Italy's ambassador in Moscow last Friday after the Italian state broadcaster RAI aired the first foreign media report from the embroiled region in southwestern Russia. RAI said its two reporters would [return](#) home for safety reasons after Russian police [opened](#) a criminal investigation into their reporting trip.

In Tuesday's statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said law enforcement authorities would "carry out the necessary investigative measures" in assessing U.S. journalists' work in the Kursk region.

The ministry said it also summoned Holmes over "evidence that has emerged of the participation of American private military companies on the side of the Ukrainian armed forces during" the recent incursion into Russia.

It did not identify the U.S. private military companies by name, but Russian state media earlier [reported](#) that the American military lifestyle brand Forward Observations Group [posted](#) photos on Instagram with the caption "the boys in Kursk."

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