

FALSE
NARRATIVE

A video shows Ukrainian official Oleksiy Danilov stating Ukraine played a role in the Moscow attack

The False Narrative

A video shows senior Ukrainian defense official Oleksiy Danilov admitting Ukraine played a role in the March 22, 2024, Moscow concert hall attack.

The Facts

An altered video that emerged online on March 22, 2024 — the day of a concert hall terrorist attack near Moscow — appeared to show Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, saying in Ukrainian, “It’s fun in Moscow today, I think it’s very fun. I would like to believe that we will arrange such fun for them more often.” Two TV anchors seemed to nod along to his supposed comments in the video.

Russian state media cited the video as purported evidence that Ukraine was behind the concert hall shooting. However, the video was digitally manipulated.

In March 2024, gunmen killed at least 139 people at Crocus City Hall, a concert venue in Krasnogorsk, Moscow Oblast. In the days following the attack, Russian President Vladimir Putin claimed the attack was ordered by Ukraine, despite acknowledging that it was carried out by “radical Islamists.” Ukraine denied any

involvement. Terrorist group ISIS-K, an affiliate of the Islamic State, actually claimed responsibility for the attack.

The altered video was first spotted by Ukraine's Center for Countering Disinformation, which stated in Ukrainian in a March 23, 2024, Telegram post that "the quality of the deepfake is very low, its artificiality is evident from the very first second of viewing, and Oleksiy Danilov's facial expressions and speech do not match at all."

NewsGuard and other fact checkers determined that the deepfake was made by combining two separate videos. Both of these videos are available on YouTube.

The footage of Danilov talking was taken from a March 19, 2024, interview he conducted with Ukrainian news outlet Ukrainska Pravda. The footage of the TV anchors came from a March 16, 2024, interview by Ukrainian TV program My-Ukraine with another Ukrainian military leader, Kyrylo Budanov. Both videos preceded the Moscow attack.

The video was likely dubbed with AI-generated audio imitating Danilov's voice. Sam Gregory, an expert on AI content, told BBC Verify that Danilov's voice seemed to be a "voice clone deepfake."

Where the False Narrative Spread

It is unclear where the deepfake originated, but as noted above, it began spreading online on March 22, 2024. Russian state media and its reporters boosted the altered video.

The Telegram channel of Zvezda News, a network run by Russia's defense ministry, shared the video and stated in Russian on March 22, 2024, "Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksiy Danilov indirectly confirmed involvement in the terrorist attack in Crocus. On Ukrainian television, he said that 'we will give them this kind of fun more often.'" The post received 46,000 views as of March 25, 2024.

Olga Skabaeva, host of state-owned TV channel Russia-1's political talk show "60 Minutes," posted the video and said in Russian in a March 22, 2024, Telegram post, "Russophobe Danilov immediately confirmed Ukraine's involvement in 'Crocus' terrorist attack." As of March 25, 2024, she had added a note to the post, saying, "P.S. there is information that Danilov is a deepfake created by a neural network; the authenticity cannot be confirmed." However, the post remained online.

The post had 156,200 views as of March 25, 2024.

The false claim also spread in English, Chinese, Arabic, Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Written by: [Macrina Wang](#)

Edited by: [Dina Contini](#), [Macrina Wang](#)

Examples of this False Narrative [ⓘ]

- <https://www.observateurcontinental.fr/?module=news&action=view&id=5800>

“Les aveux possibles de Kiev concernant son implication dans l'attaque terroriste contre Crocus City Hall sont apparus en ligne.

Il s'agit d'une vidéo dans laquelle Oleksiy Danilov, secrétaire du Conseil de sécurité nationale et de défense, a indirectement confirmé l'implication de Kiev dans l'attaque ...

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- <https://infosplus.fr/attentat-de-moscou-qui-est-implique-dans-lattaque-terroriste-contre-crocus-city-hall/>

“Il s'agit d'une vidéo dans laquelle Oleksiy Danilov, secrétaire du Conseil de sécurité nationale et de défense, a indirectement confirmé l'implication de Kiev dans l'attaque terroriste. À la télévision ukrainienne, il a déclaré que « nous leur offririons ce genre de divertissement plus souvent. »

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- https://twitter.com/NOUREEN_SHIRAZ/status/1771476090017493107

“Escuchen lo que dice este gusano sobre el ataque terrorista en #Moscú.

Secretario del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional y Defensa de #Ucrania,
@OleksiyDanilov...

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- <http://www.fssb.su/spetzsluzby-rf/terroristicheskie-ugrozy-v-regionah-rossii/6746-na-zapade-znali-no-molchali.html>

“Кстати, секретарь украинского СНБО, один из наиболее приближённых к Зеленскому чиновников, Алексей Данилов, по сути, дал признательные показания, что на самом деле за терактом стоит киевский режим.”

03/23/2024

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- <https://new.qq.com/rain/a/20240323A06FL200>

“在事情发生后，乌克兰国防委员会秘书丹尼洛夫就在电视上说：“今天的莫斯科好玩吗？我认为非常好玩，我们会经常为他们组织这样的活动”。”

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- <https://t.me/skabeevy/35174>

“Русофоб Данилов сразу подтвердил причастность Украины к теракту в ‘Крокусе’

‘Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им устраивать чаще. Все-таки ‘братский’ народ, а родственников нужно чаще радовать и чаще к ним в гости...

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- <https://en.topwar.ru/238895-razmyshlenija-na-temu-terakta-v-krokus-centre-terroristy-horosho-podgotovlennye-profi.html>

“ This is a statement by the Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Alexey Danilov. At first it surprised me greatly, but on reflection I realized that Danilov was not showing off. He simply poured out his emotions. Read what he wrote:

...

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 20 / 100 en.topwar.ru (en_US)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4YsKm6NFtTw>

“Klip z ukraińskiej strony”

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  [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (en_US)

- https://k.sina.com.cn/article_1633537680_m615dce9003301bsnh.html

“#俄罗斯莫斯科—音乐厅发生枪击事件##莫斯科遭遇恐怖袭击# 著名人渣，乌克兰国家安全与国防委员会秘书达尼洛夫：“今天的莫斯科好玩吗？我认为非常有趣。我相信我们会经常为他们组织这样的活动”各位预测一下，这人渣何时何地走到生命尽头”

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- <https://www.ru.newsroom.kz/81850/veselo-segodnya-v-moskve-ukraina-prichasna-k-teraktu>

“В своем канале он выложил глумливый пост. «Весело сегодня в Москве? ...Я считаю, что такое веселье мы будем устраивать им чаще».

«Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им ...

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- https://m.vk.com/wall-112496564_1221204

“Секретарь СНБО Украины Данилов фактически взял ответственность за теракт

«Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им устраивать чаще. Все-таки «братский» народ, а родственников нужно чаще радовать и чаще к ним в гост...

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“但是呢，乌克兰国家安全与国防委员会秘书达尼洛夫却称：“今天的莫斯科好玩吗？我认为非常有趣。我相信我们会经常为他们组织这样的活动。””

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- https://vk.com/wall-205805412_366428

“Секретарь СНБО Украины Алексей Данилов подтвердил причастность Незалежной к теракту в «Крокусе»

В эфире украинского телемарафона Данилов поглумился над жертвами теракта....

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- <https://pravda-en.com/world/2024/03/22/383260.html>

““Is it fun in Moscow today? I think it's very fun! I would like to believe that we will arrange such fun for them more often. After all, they are brotherly people, and we need to please our relatives more often and visit them more often. So, let's go... ”

...

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- <https://pravda-fr.com/world/2024/03/22/97381-amp.html>

“Le secrétaire du Conseil national de sécurité et de défense de l'Ukraine, Danilov, a effectivement assumé la responsabilité de l'attaque terroriste.

« Est-ce que c'est amusant à Moscou aujourd'hui ? Je pense que c'est très amusant. ...

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- <https://dzen.ru/video/watch/65fe0a4f0b55d76e3c139e59>

“Александр Семченко. Секретарь Совета нацбезопасности Рейха Данилов прямым текстом признал причастность к теракту в Москве.

Совета нацбезопасности Рейха Данилов: "Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье МЫ БУДЕМ им устраивать чаще. Все-таки "братский" народ, а родственнико...

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- <https://t.me/skabeeva/26650>

“Русофоб Данилов сразу подтвердил причастность Украины к теракту в ‘Крокусе’

‘Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им устраивать чаще. Все-таки ‘братский’ народ, а родственников нужно чаще радовать и чаще к ним в гости...

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- https://twitter.com/The_Real_Fly/status/1771305261824610481

“Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Alexey Danilov -

Having fun in Moscow today? I think it's a lot of fun. I would like to believe that we will arrange such fun for them more often.”

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- <https://twitter.com/Sprinterfactory/status/1771296371779268838>

“Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Alexey Danilov -


Having fun in Moscow today? I think it's a lot of fun. I would like to believe that we will arrange such fun for them more often. After all, they are “brotherly” people, and you need...

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- <https://twitter.com/Cyberspec1/status/1771294556283408546>

“ Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Alexey Danilov basically confirmed Ukraine’s involvement in the terrorist attack at Crocus:

Is it fun in Moscow today? I think it's a lot of fun. ...

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- <https://twitter.com/MarioNawfal/status/1771298073983042027>

“Someone needs to fire this guy...”

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- https://twitter.com/UKR_Report/status/1771295412156060093

“#BREAKING— ⚡ 🇷🇺 🇺🇦 "We will give them this kind of entertainment more often," Secretary of the National Security Council of Ukraine Alexey Danilov said on Ukrainian television about the terrorist attack in Crocus.”

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- <https://t.me/zvezdanews/140162>

“ **!** Секретарь Совета национальной безопасности и обороны Украины Алексей Данилов косвенно подтвердил причастность к теракту в "Крокусе". В эфире украинского телевидения он заявил, что "такое веселье мы будем устраивать им почаще".

...

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- <https://twitter.com/mazzenilsson/status/1771299438838829269>

“Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine Oleksiy Danilov indirectly confirmed involvement in the terrorist attack in Crocus.

On Ukrainian television, he said that “we will give them this kind of fun more often.”...

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- https://twitter.com/Ricardo_1934/status/1771307911500722568

“Danilov sobre ataque terrorista em Moscou:

"Está divertido em Moscou hoje? Eu acho que está muito divertido. Espero que nós continuemos a ter esse tipo de diversão com mais frequência. Afinal, são nossos "irmão...

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- <https://twitter.com/drhossamsamy65/status/1771299272404672788>

- أمين مجلس الأمن القومي والدفاع في أوكرانيا أليكسي دانييلوف“

هل تستمتع في موسكو اليوم؟ أعتقد أن الأمر ممتع للغاية. أود أن أصدق أننا سنرتب لهم مثل هذه المتعة في كثير من الأحيان. بعد كل شيء، هم أشخاص "أخوة"، وتحتاج إلى إرضاء أقاربك في كثير من الأحيان وزيارتهم في كثير من الأحيان. لذلك سوف نسير على نفس

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- https://twitter.com/silvano_trotta/status/1771295970564686106

“Le secrétaire du Conseil national de sécurité et de défense de l'Ukraine a indirectement annoncé l'implication de l'Ukraine dans l'attaque terroriste de Crocus.

« Est-ce que c'est amusant à Moscou aujourd'hui ? Je pense que c'est très amusant.

J'aimerais croire que nous organiserons de tels divertissements pour eux plus souvent. ...

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- <https://twitter.com/BPartisans/status/1771298503811026950>

“Le secrétaire du Conseil national de sécurité et de défense de l'Ukraine, Alexeï Danilov, a confirmé l'implication de l'Ukraine dans l'attaque terroriste de Crocus : Est-ce que c'est amusant à Moscou aujourd'hui ? Je pense que c'est très amusant. J'aimerais croire que nous organiserons de tels divertissements pour eux plus souvent. Après tout, ce sont de...

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- <https://t.me/nicolaililin/9111>

“L'Ucraina

Il segretario del Consiglio di sicurezza e difesa nazionale dell'Ucraina, Alexei Danilov, ha ammesso il coinvolgimento del regime di Kiev nell'attacco terroristico a Mosca. Danilov ...

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- <https://weibo.com/tv/show/1034:5015408521183247>

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- <https://lnr-news.ru/incident/2024/03/23/344360.html>

“Есть такой выродок с фамилией Данилов. Из Луганска родом. У этого 22 марта праздник наступил в прямом смысле. Тут восторг, почти слюни текут: «Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им устраивать чаще. Все-таки «братский» народ, а родственников нужно чаще радовать и чаще к ним в гости ходить. Значит, будем ходить»....

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u-v-krokus-siti-holle

<https://t.me/CenterCounteringDisinformation/9708>

<https://www.open.online/2024/03/23/falso-video-danilov-ucraina-rivendica-strage-crocus-city-hall-mosca-fc/>

<https://t.me/zvezdanews/140165>

<https://www.pravda.com.ua/eng/news/2024/03/23/7447789/>

<https://youtu.be/ULwYjaqFsCU?feature=shared&t=108>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGDrPbBHUxQ>

<https://www.cnn.com/europe/live-news/russia-attack-moscow-03-25-24/index.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/25/world/europe/russia-moscow-concert-attack.html>

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?534482-1/white-house-daily-briefing>

<https://mfa.gov.ua/en/news/komentar-mzs-ukrayini-shchodo-strilyanini-u-pidmoskovnomu-krasnogorsku>

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"Весело сегодня в Москве? Я считаю, что очень весело. Хочется верить, что такое веселье мы будем им устраивать чаще. Все-таки 'братский' народ, а родственников нужно чаще радовать и чаще к ним в гости ходить. Значит, будем ходить"

"Hay diversión hoy en Moscú?"

"Est-ce que c'est amusant à Moscou aujourd'hui ?"

"هل تستمتع في موسكو اليوم؟ أعتقد أن الأمر ممتع للغاية. أود أن أصدق أننا سنرتب لهم مثل هذه المتعة في كثير من الأحيان. بعد كل شيء، هم أشخاص "أخوة"، وتحتاج إلى إرضاء أقاربك في كثير من الأحيان وزيارتهم في كثير من الأحيان. لذلك سوف نسير على نفس المنوال طوال الوقت"

"今天的莫斯科好玩吗"

"nous leur offririons ce genre de divertissement plus souvent" AND Danilov

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