

Report

Sabotage on Polish Railways in the Turkish Infosphere: An Analysis of Narratives and Disinformation



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About the project



Instytut Badań
nad Turcją



Disinformation
in MENAT



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Authors of the publication



dr Karolina Wanda Olszowska

President and Co-founder of the Institute for Turkish Studies

Turkologist and historian; PhD in Humanities; Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations at the Jagiellonian University. President and co-founder of the Institute for Turkish Studies. Author of the book Turkish-American and Turkish-Soviet Relations in 1945–1952 (Kraków, 2023).



Justyna Oszust

Expert at the Institute for Turkish Studies

Student of Turkology at the Jagiellonian University; member of the Institute for Turkish Studies; consultant at the Regional Centre for International Debate in the Silesian and Lesser Poland voivodeships. Participant in the YTB TÖMER Summer School of Turkology and the International Literary Translation Workshops in Ankara.

Introduction

On 16 November 2025, a section of railway tracks on the Warsaw–Lubin route was destroyed. Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that the destruction was caused by an explosion of an improvised explosive device. The sabotage was carried out by two Ukrainian nationals who had been previously recruited by Russian intelligence services. After detonating the railway tracks, they fled to Belarus.

As with violations of Polish airspace by Russian drones, Russian disinformation narratives rapidly emerged in the infosphere following the incident. Poland was depicted as a state that had orchestrated the incident itself to falsely accuse Russia and justify further military aid to Ukraine. Simultaneously, references were made to attacks on infrastructure in France, Germany, and the Czech Republic, portrayed as evidence that Europe was becoming a victim of the chaos it had fostered by supporting Ukraine[1].

Examples of Russian disinformation also emerged rapidly on Polish social media[2]:

- denial of acts of sabotage and explosions
- accusing the Ukrainian side and the media of orchestrating a provocation
- claiming that the explosion was intended to distract from a corruption scandal in Ukraine

[1] Disinformation narratives about the sabotage of Polish railway lines, <https://www.gov.pl/web/cyfryzacja/narracje-dezinformacyjne-na-temat-sabotazu-polskich-linii-kolejowych>

[2] Dywersanci zniszczyli tory kolejowe. Dezinformacja podważa ustalenia służb, „Demagog”, https://demagog.org.pl/fake_news/dywwersanci-zniszczyli-tory-kolejowe-dezinformacja-podwaza-ustalenia-sluzb/

Chapter 1

Turkish-language media on the sabotage in Poland

1.1. Turkish popular media

Name of the media outlet	Title	Appearing content
Yeni Şafak 19.11.2025	The last Russian consulate in Poland has been closed [3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski stated that Russia has not stopped its sabotage attacks on Poland — on the contrary, they have escalated. He stressed that when espionage and sabotage operations pose a risk to human life, one can no longer speak merely of sabotage but of “state terrorism.” He added that Poland does not intend to sever diplomatic relations with Russia. Prime Minister Donald Tusk reported an act of sabotage — the blowing up of railway tracks on the Warsaw–Lublin line, which is used to transport aid to Ukraine. Tusk later announced that two individuals responsible for this operation using explosive materials had been identified, and that they were Ukrainian citizens cooperating, according to Polish services, with Russian intelligence.
Hürriyet 17.11.2025	Poland reported sabotage on the Warsaw–Lublin railway line [4]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated that yesterday's damage on the Warsaw–Lublin railway line was caused by an act of sabotage involving explosive materials. NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte said that the Alliance remains in contact with Polish authorities regarding yesterday's explosion on the same railway line.
Hürriyet 18.11.2025	Sabotage on Polish railways... Russia suspected, as usual [5]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated that the railway line was destroyed because of sabotage using explosives. He emphasized that this is a key route used for transporting aid to Ukraine. He also pointed out that people traveling to Kyiv — including foreign leaders — enter Ukraine by train through Poland.

[3] Polonya'da Rusya'nın son konsolosluğu da kapatılıyor, <https://www.yenisafak.com/dunya/polonyada-rusyanin-son-konsoloslugu-da-kapatiliyor-4770231>

[4] Polonya, Varşova-Lublin demir yoluna sabotaj düzenlendiğini duyurdu, <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/dunya/polonya-varsova-lublin-demir-yoluna-sabotaj-duzenlendigini-duyurdu-43021941>

[5] Polonya'da demiryoluna sabotaj... Olağan şüpheli Rusya, <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/dunya/polonyada-demiryoluna-sabotaj-olagan-supheli-rusya-43022711>

A Haber 19.11.2025	The last Russian consulate in Poland has been closed[6]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski stated that Russia has not ceased sabotage attacks on Poland — on the contrary, they have escalated. He emphasized that when espionage and sabotage activities carry a risk to human life, it can no longer be referred to solely as sabotage, but as "state terrorism." He added that Poland does not intend to sever diplomatic relations with Russia. Prime Minister Donald Tusk reported an act of sabotage — the blowing up of railway tracks on the Warsaw–Lublin line, which is used to transport aid to Ukraine. Tusk later stated that two individuals responsible for the attack with explosives had been identified, and that they were Ukrainian citizens cooperating, according to Polish services, with Russian intelligence.
TRT Haber 19.11.2025	The last Russian consulate in Poland has been closed [7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski stated that Russia has not ceased sabotage attacks on Poland — on the contrary, they have escalated. He emphasized that when espionage and sabotage activities carry a risk to human life, it can no longer be referred to merely as sabotage, but as "state terrorism." He added that Poland does not intend to sever diplomatic relations with Russia. Prime Minister Donald Tusk reported an act of sabotage — the blowing up of railway tracks on the Warsaw–Lublin line, which is used to transport aid to Ukraine. Tusk later noted that two individuals responsible for the attack with explosives had been identified, and that they were Ukrainian citizens cooperating, according to Polish services, with Russian intelligence.
CNN Türk 18.11.2025	Explosion on the railway tracks: Did Russia sabotage Poland? [8]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An explosion occurred on the Warsaw–Lublin railway line. Prime Minister Donald Tusk described the incident—on a route also key for transporting weapons to Ukraine—as "sabotage." The attack follows a series of arson, sabotage, and cyberattacks in Poland and other European countries in recent months. Warsaw has repeatedly blamed Russia for such actions, while Moscow has consistently denied the allegations. In October, eight people were arrested in Poland on suspicion of allegedly planning sabotage on behalf of Russia.

[6] Polonya'da Rusya'nın son konsolosluğu da kapatılıyor, <https://www.ahaber.com.tr/dunya/2025/11/19/polonyada-rusyanin-son-konsoloslugu-da-kapatiliyor>

[7] Polonya'da Rusya'nın son konsolosluğu da kapatılıyor, <https://www.trthaber.com/haber/dunya/polonyada-rusyanin-son-konsoloslugu-da-kapatiliyor-926345.html>

[8] Demiryolu hattında patlama | Polonya'ya Rusya mı sabotaj düzenledi?, <https://www.cnnturk.com/video/dunya/demiryolu-hattinda-patlama-polonyaya-rusya-mi-sabotaj-duzenledi-2361278>

Anadolu Ajansi 17.11.2025	Poland: Sabotage occurred yesterday on the Warsaw–Lublin railway line [9]	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tusk stated: “The act of sabotage took place on the Warsaw–Lublin line, in the town of Mika. An explosion of explosives destroyed a section of the railway tracks.”• He emphasized that this line is of key importance for delivering aid to Ukraine.
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[The press articles discussed above relate to sabotage in Poland, specifically the attempted detonation of railway tracks on the Warsaw–Lublin line. The same outlets that reported on the breach of Polish airspace by Russian drones were analysed. There are noticeably fewer articles this time, and not all media chose to publish information about the incident. The available pieces are solely informational and contain no expert commentary or opinions.

At the same time, there is notably less “false balance” compared to the drone incident. Only CNN Türk echoed elements of the Russian narrative—specifically the denial of involvement—and emphasised that the arrests in October concerned “alleged” planned sabotage attempts. It is also worth noting that all reports concerning the closure of the Russian consulate in Gdańsk originated from PAP dispatches and were reproduced identically across outlets. Only the newspaper Hürriyet, in an article published on 20 November, described the verbal attack on Poland’s Ambassador to Russia, Krzysztof Krajewski; the ambassador was physically shielded by security personnel. The article stated that the Russian side claimed the individuals had simply wanted to ask the ambassador why Poland “claims to defend peace but finances war by arming Ukraine.” None of the articles included commentary from journalists or experts; they merely relayed the events.

The relatively small number of articles suggests that the attempted derailment in Poland did not generate much interest among the Turkish public. Not all media outlets that covered the Russian drone incursion into Polish airspace in August 2025 reported on the sabotage attempt. More detailed articles appeared only in a few specialised media outlets.

[9] Polonya: Varşova-Lublin demir yoluna dün patlayıcı maddeyle sabotaj düzenlendi, <https://www.aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/polonya-varsova-lublin-demir-yoluna-dun-patlayici-maddeyle-sabotaj-duzenlendi/3745755>

1.2. Niche Turkish Media

Name of the media outlet	Title	Appearing content
Haber Vakti 24.11.2025	Ukrainian Citizen Detained in Connection with Railway Sabotage in Poland [10]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In connection with the sabotage act, a Ukrainian citizen was detained. Polish authorities reported that two Ukrainian citizens carried out the sabotage on the railway line and then fled to Belarus. Tusk, claiming that the identified Ukrainians were cooperating with Russian intelligence services, has not yet presented any evidence to support this allegation.
YeniÇağ 24.11.2024	Railway Sabotage in Poland: Ukrainians in Custody [11]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Prosecutor's Office reported that four Ukrainian citizens detained last week on suspicion of involvement in a sabotage act have been released. In his parliamentary address on November 18, Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that there were two sabotage attempts on two different railway lines in the country. According to Tusk, both acts were carried out by two Ukrainian citizens who had been cooperating with Russia for some time. The Prime Minister added that one of them had been convicted by a court in Lviv for organizing sabotage acts in Ukraine in May 2025, while the other — connected to the Donbas region — entered Poland via Belarus in autumn 2025.
Astv.com.pl 21.11.2025	Polish Prime Minister Tusk: Kremlin-Supported Sabotage Crossed a Critical Line [12]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated in a parliamentary speech that recent events — including acts of sabotage on Polish railway lines — leave no doubt that Russia has entered a new phase of its hybrid war. Tusk emphasized that Russia's strategy is clear: Europe, Ukraine, and especially Poland itself is to be internally divided.
Ilkha 18.11.2025	Poland: Russia is responsible for the railway line explosion [13]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A spokesperson for the Polish Ministry for Coordination of Special Services (Minister for Special Services), Jacek Dobrzyński, stated that "all indications point to the railway incident over the weekend being orchestrated by Russian intelligence services." In the incident, which Prime Minister Donald Tusk described as an "unprecedented act of sabotage," a section of the railway line connecting Poland's capital, Warsaw, with the Ukrainian border was blown up over the weekend.

[10] Polonya'daki demiryolu sabotajıyla ilgili bir Ukraynalı vatandaş gözaltına alındı, <https://www.habervakti.com/polonyadaki-demiryolu-sabotajıyla-ilgili-bir-ukraynalı-vatandas-gozaltına-alındı>

[11] Polonya'da demiryolu sabotajı: Ukraynalı gözaltında, <https://www.yenicagazetesi.com.tr/polonyada-demiryolu-sabotajı-ukraynalı-gozaltında-982783h.htm>

[12] Polonya Başbakanı Tusk: Kremlin destekli sabotaj kritik sınırı aştı, <https://astv.com.tr/polonya-basbakani-tusk-kremlin-destekli-sabotaj-kritik-siniri-asti/>

[13] Polonya: Demiryolu hattındaki patlamadan Rusya sorumlu <https://ilkha.com/dunya/polonya-demiryolu-hattındaki-patlamaandan-rusya-sorumlu-492296>

Reporteri.net.tr 18.11.2025	Poland suspects Russia behind railway line explosion [14]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poland suspects that the explosion on one of the main railway lines used for military transport and aid to Ukraine was carried out by Russian intelligence services. Prime Minister Donald Tusk described the incident as an “unprecedented act of sabotage.” According to available information, the suspects are Ukrainian citizens who acted in cooperation with Russian intelligence and fled to Belarus. On 18 November, the Kremlin stated that Poland is “succumbing to a wave of Russophobia” that is “spreading across Europe.” Polish officials, like representatives of other European countries, have long accused Moscow of conducting a “complex” campaign of sabotage and espionage targeting countries supporting Ukraine since the start of the full-scale invasion in February 2022. Moscow consistently denies Western allegations of arson, break-ins, poisonings, and attacks on individuals in the West.
Ekonomiknokta.com	Railway sabotage incident in Poland highly suspicious [15]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The railway sabotage in Poland raises suspicions, as previous events suggested attempts to draw the country into a conflict with Russia. The “deep state” had previously, without success, pressured the president to adopt a tougher stance toward Moscow — it’s possible they are trying again. The Prime Minister had warned a week earlier about Russian “fifth columns,” coinciding with a reduction of tension along the Poland–Belarus border. The sabotage seemingly harms Russia, so there is no logical reason for Moscow to have ordered it — it could even damage its interests and complicate negotiations with the U.S. Such an incident primarily benefits the “hawks” seeking to escalate the conflict and portray Russia as the aggressor. The sabotage could be a false-flag operation, targeting U.S.–Russia relations, particularly in the context of the proposed bill on punitive tariffs against Moscow’s trading partners. According to this narrative, American, Polish, British, and Ukrainian intelligence services could have an interest in such an event. Russian intelligence sources had previously warned about a supposed Polish–Ukrainian “simulation” of an attack on critical infrastructure.

[14] Polonya, demiryolu patlamasının arkasında Rusya'nın olduğundan şüpheleniyor, <https://reporteri.net/tr/haberler/tekne/Polonya--demiryolu-patlamasi%C4%B1n%C4%B1n-arkas%C4%B1nda-Rusya%27n%C4%B1n-oldu%C4%9Funda-%C5%9E%C3%BCpheleniyor/>

[15] Polonya'daki Demiryolu Sabotaj Olayı Son Derece Şüpheli, <https://ekonomiknokta.com/polonya-daki-demiryolu-sabotaj-olayı-son-derece-supheli-amp28313.htm>

Unlike major press outlets, Turkish niche media more frequently introduce elements that undermine the official narrative of the Polish authorities. Many of them emphasise the Ukrainian angle—portraying Ukrainian citizens as the primary perpetrators of the sabotage, thereby diverting audience attention away from Russia's actions and towards the Ukrainian context. It is also typical that they consistently stress the alleged lack of solid evidence for the involvement of Russian intelligence services, contributing to a sense of uncertainty and ambiguity. At the same time, some outlets allow, and sometimes even promote, alternative scenarios, including “false flag” interpretations, references to a “deep state,” or speculation about conspiracies involving Western intelligence agencies.

Within these narratives, two primary trends emerge. The first includes outlets that report on the events but approach Polish statements with scepticism—this group features Haber Vakti, YeniÇağ, and, to some extent, Reporteri.net.tr and İlkha. The second trend comprises openly speculative and conspiratorial media that reinterpret the events; the most notable example is Ekonomiknokta.com, which reproduces narratives aligned with Kremlin interests, questions the credibility of Russian responsibility, and also suggests the involvement of other actors, including Western states.

1.3. Russian Turkish-language media

Sputnik Türkiye also shared its perspective on the events in Poland, although it published relatively few articles—and importantly, none of them attracted attention in mainstream Turkish media. Nevertheless, these pieces do present the Polish position, but contrast it either with claims about the lack of evidence or with statements from the Kremlin. This framing creates an impression of doubt regarding the Polish stance and uses a technique of false objectivity.

Name of media outlet	Title	Appearing content
Sputnik Türkiye 18.11.2025	Polish Prime Minister Tusk Holds Ukrainians Responsible for Railway Explosion [16]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk stated that Ukrainian citizens are responsible for the explosion on the railway line in Poland. According to Tusk, one of them had previously been convicted of terrorism in Lviv, while another — a resident of Donbas — entered Poland from Belarus. Tusk claimed that the Ukrainians were cooperating with Russia, although he did not provide evidence, and added that after the explosion the perpetrators crossed the border at the Brest–Terespol checkpoint.
Sputnik Türkiye 18.11.2025	Peskov: Europeans Should Carefully Consider the Role of Ukrainians in Polish Sabotage [17]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov pointed out that in the context of the railway sabotage in Poland, the names of Ukrainian citizens have appeared, stating that European countries should “carefully consider this matter.” He also referred to previous reports alleging that Ukrainians were responsible for the Nord Stream pipeline explosions. He added that “Poland blames Russia for all kinds of hybrid actions and direct aggressions.” “It is remarkable that Ukrainian citizens once again appear in the context of sabotage and terrorist acts targeting critical infrastructure,” he said.

[16] Polonya Başbakanı Tusk, demiryolu hattındaki patlamadan Ukraynalıları sorumlu tuttu, <https://anlatilaninotesi.com.tr/20251118/polonya-basbakani-tusk-demiryolu-hattindaki-patlamadan-ukraynalilarin-sorumlu-tuttu-1101098060.html>

[17] Peskov: Avrupalılar Polonya'daki sabotajda Ukraynalıların rolünü iyi düşünmeli, <https://anlatilaninotesi.com.tr/20251118/peskov-avrupalilar-polonya-daki-sabotajda-ukraynalilarin-rolunu-iyi-dusunmeli-1101098783.html>

Sputnik Türkiye 19.11.2025	Polish Prime Minister Tusk Asked Zelensky for Information on Ukrainians Involved in Sabotage [18]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Donald Tusk appealed to the leader in Kyiv to provide information regarding Ukrainian citizens allegedly involved — according to Polish authorities — in sabotage activities on Polish territory. In his full statement, he said: "Poland expects that all available data, which may help us identify potential threats arising from the cooperation of Russian intelligence services with certain Ukrainian citizens, will be promptly provided to us." On Monday, Prime Minister Tusk reported that an explosion had occurred at the site, classified the incident as sabotage, and identified Ukrainian citizens as responsible. The Polish prosecutor's office has initiated criminal proceedings on charges of terrorism.
Sputnik Türkiye 24.11.2025	Railway Sabotage in Poland: Ukrainian Detained [19]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Prosecutor's Office reported that a Ukrainian citizen was detained in connection with the incident. According to investigators, two Ukrainian citizens allegedly carried out sabotage on the railway line and then fled to Belarus. Tusk, claiming that the identified Ukrainians cooperated with Russia, has so far presented no evidence to support this allegation. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov stated that "it is unusual that Ukrainians appear once again in the context of railway sabotage in Poland." He also noted that Poland accuses Russia of hybrid warfare at every opportunity, adding that in this situation "it would be surprising if Moscow were not accused of something."

[18] Polonya Başbakanı Tusk, ülkedeki sabotajlara karışan Ukraynalılar hakkında Zelenskiy'den bilgi talep etti, <https://anlatilaninotesi.com.tr/20251119/polonya-basbakani-tusk-ulkedeki-sabotajlara-karisan-ukraynalilar-hakkinda-zelenskiyden-bilgi-talep-1101131446.html>

[19] Polonya'da demiryolu sabotajı: Bir Ukraynalı gözaltına alındı, <https://anlatilaninotesi.com.tr/20251124/polonyada-demiryolu-sabotaji-bir-ukraynali-gozaltina-alindi-1101241400.html>

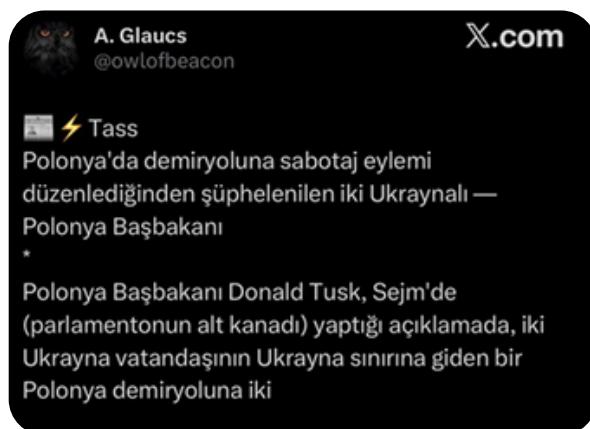
Chapter 2

Information About Events in Poland on Online Platforms

2.1. Social Media

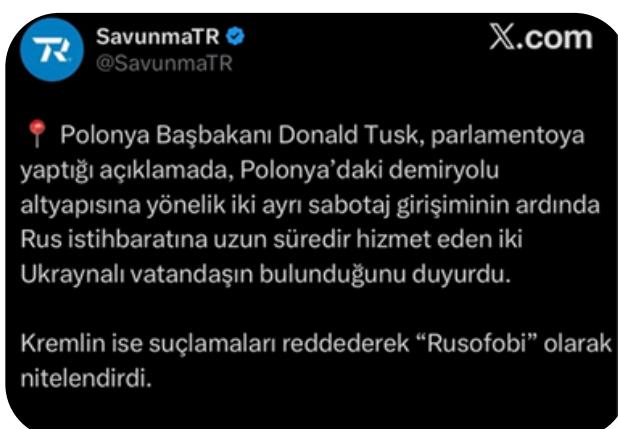
On Turkish online platforms, posts of disinformation appeared. The following are the main narratives identified:

- Citing Russian sources:



"Two Ukrainians Suspected of Sabotage in Poland" – A statement from the TASS agency was published that, following the Russian narrative, omitted the detail that the Ukrainian citizens suspected of sabotage in Poland were allegedly connected to Russian services and acted on their orders.

- Two perspectives



Prime Minister Tusk stated that in Poland, there were two attempts at sabotaging railway infrastructure carried out by Ukrainian citizens working for Russian intelligence. The Kremlin denied the accusations, calling them Russophobia.

 **World Vibe**
@world_vibe_ 

Polonya, demiryollarındaki sabotajlar için Moskova'yı suçladı. Kritik altyapıyı korumak amacıyla gözetleme sistemli bir "drone filosu" kurulacağı açıklandı. Henüz bir kanıt sunulmadı.

Poland accuses Moscow of railway sabotage. A 'drone fleet' with surveillance systems has been announced to protect critical infrastructure. So far, no evidence has been provided.

- Downplaying the issue – a serious accusation of a terrorist act is paired with a meme showing politicians travelling by train.

 **Hüsamettin Aslan** @HusamettinAslan · 6 dni 

Polonya demiryolunun patlatılması emrini Rus Gizli Servisi'nin verdiği ve bu iş için iki Ukraynalıyı görevlendirdiğini. Ayrıca, Polonya'dan hemen Belarus'a kaçan faillerin kimlikleri tespit edilmiş

Kaynak: AB yetkilileri



0:02 

Od Emperor Trajan

European officials claim that the order to blow up the Polish railway line was issued by Russian intelligence, which assigned two Ukrainians to the task. The identities of the perpetrators, who fled from Poland to Belarus, have also been established.

However, it is worth noting that posts on this topic were relatively few—much fewer than those concerning the violation of Polish airspace by Russian drones. They also attracted little attention and were quickly overshadowed by other topics.

2.2. YouTube videos and comments

After the sabotage, a few videos emerged attempting to explain the events in Poland. There were not many, as the platform contained only two videos with commentary, rather than just segments from Turkish news programmes. These videos took various forms, ranging from those

- A video about the sabotage was uploaded to a Turkish channel that focuses on issues related to Russia. Notably, the creator films himself against the backdrop of Moscow's Red Square, and his YouTube channel has over 21,000 subscribers. The video indicates that the sabotage was minor, as trains were operating on the line the following day. The author repeatedly states that he does not know what happened, that various scenarios could be possible, but highlights that Russians are always suspected in Poland, that Russia denies involvement, and the arrested individuals were Ukrainians. This casts doubt on the official Polish statements, which were also read in the video. The Polish topic lasted only a few minutes of the hour-long recording, thus having little influence on the comments.
- Another video reporting on the events in Poland was quite generic, explaining what hybrid warfare is, mentioning drone attacks and sabotage, and noting that Europeans are concerned. The video did not attract many views (around 6,000), but the comments beneath it were noteworthy because they resemble the activity of Russian trolls, commonly seen under videos targeting European audiences. Some of the comments spreading the Russian narrative included:

 @fahrisahinkus1215 8 dni temu
Polonya polisi sabotajla ilgili 2 Ukrayna vatandaşını gözaltına aldı. Olay yerine 300 metre yakındaki parka kablo döşenmiş. Zanlı parkta cep telefonunu unutmuş. Haberi sen değil biz veriyoruz.
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 9 Odpowiedz

“The Polish police detained two Ukrainian nationals in connection with the sabotage. A park 300 metres from the site was bugged, and the suspect left his phone there.”

 @History_fun-crazy 6 dni temu
Polonyada yaşayan biri olarak söyleyorum halk drone ihlalinde çok gergindi ama bu tren sabotajında bir reaksiyon vermedi ve polonyalılar nato ya güvenmiyor dibinde alman tankı almak yerine kore den satın alıyor
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 1 Odpowiedz

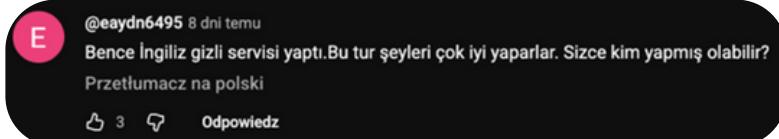
“I live in Poland and can say that society was very concerned about the drone attacks, but almost nobody reacted to the train sabotage. Poles don't trust NATO — instead of buying German tanks, they prefer ones from Korea.”

 @tankurt1881 7 dni temu (edytowany)
MiG31 ve kinzhal füzesine ilişkin m16 ve Ukrayna istihabatının ortak hareketi, bu polonya sabotaj olayının false flag olduğu izlenimini veriyor.
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 1 Odpowiedz

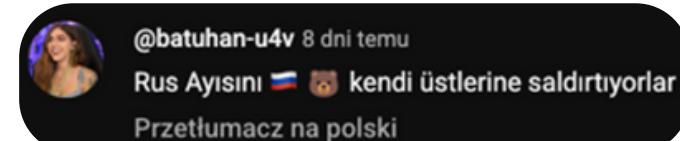
“Joint operations of MI6 and Ukrainian intelligence around MiG-31 and Kinjal missiles suggest that the Polish sabotage was a false-flag operation.”

 @kopukkaramel 7 dni temu
Rusya'nın böyle bir şey yapması için hiçbir sebep yok yapınca elini ne geçecek daha fazla düşman. Anlamsız bir eylem. Savaşın uzamasını devam etmesini Avrupa Birliği istiyor bunun içinde her şeyi yapıyorlar bu tarz olaylar dahil.
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 1 Odpowiedz

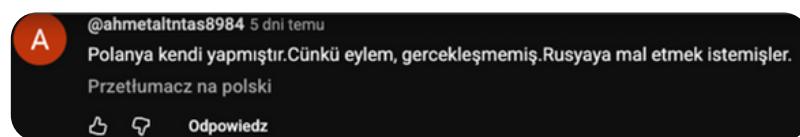
"There's no reason for Russia to do something like this. What enemies would it make? It makes no sense. The EU wants the war to continue and will do anything to ensure it — including incidents like this. In my opinion, they just want to portray Russia as the aggressor and consolidate the war economy."



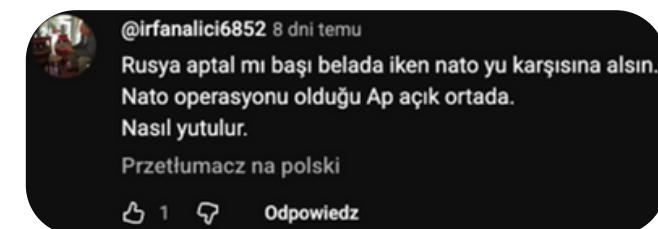
"In my opinion, it's the work of British intelligence. They're good at this. What do you think — who did it?"



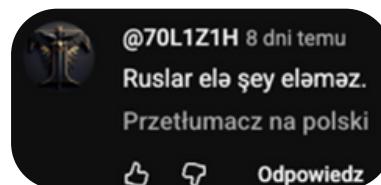
"They're forcing the Russian bear 🇷🇺 🐻 to strike."



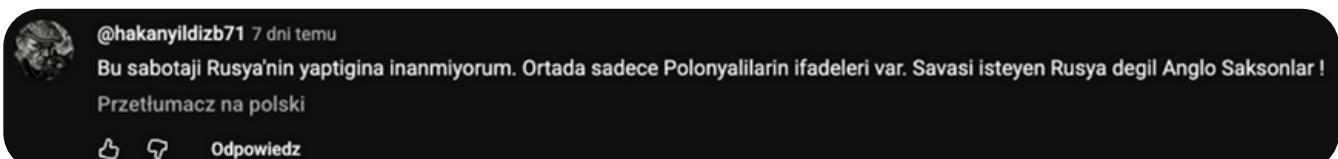
"Poland did it themselves. Nothing really happened. They just wanted to blame Russia."



"Would Russia be so stupid to start something against NATO while it has its own problems? Obviously, it's a NATO operation. How can anyone believe otherwise?"



"Russians don't act like that."



"I don't believe Russia was behind this sabotage. There are only statements from the Poles. It wasn't Russia that wanted a war — it was the Anglo-Saxons!"

M @muratcak2734 8 dni temu
Rusya dünkü ülke degili nije polonyada bu işi yapsın Ukranya içinde yapardı Ukranya bir NATO ülkesini ates sokup NATO rus savasını başlatmaktadır. Ozaman Zelenski Ukranya rahatlayacaktır tuzaklara dikkat edilmeli.
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 1 Odpowiedz

“Russia is no longer the country it used to be. Why would it do something like that in Poland? If it wanted to, it would do it in Ukraine. It's Ukraine that is pushing a NATO state into a conflict to trigger a war between NATO and Russia. Zelensky and Ukraine would then breathe a sigh of relief. We must watch out for such traps.”

M @mahmutkiliç5851 7 dni temu
NATO Türkiye hariç örtlü ve bazende açıdan zaten ruslara savaşda birşer abd özel kuvvetlerinin sperbasma videoları var abd üniformalı asker cesedi görüldü videolarda rusya tren hatlarına polonyada neden sabotaj uşrasının öyle bir şey yapacak olsa tüm Ukrayna'daki ana ve kesimeli tren hatlarını zaten bombaladı. 4yıldır NATO ekipmanı Ukrayna'ya rafahla donbasa kadar gelyorsa ruslarda bir bildiği vardır demekki onlarda NATO'nun elinde ne kadar kara araca varsa gelsin bende ucuz duuronları varıştı demekki yoksa odesa limanını dindür ebedibildi limanlarında vurmuyor. İngilizle abd y 2. Dünya savaşına sokmak için defalarca tren hatlarına ve limanlarına alman kılığında sabotaj yapmış ve abd iler sonunda İngilizleri sizin yaptığınızı biliyoruz demişti 80 lerde 90'ların sonuna kadar İsrailde sivil yerleşim yerlerine otobüslerle ve cafe'lere filistinli kılığında saldırdı sahte bombalama olayları yapıp filistin topraklarına saldırmaya bahanesi yapıyordu ve bu gün bu konuda ne kadar başarılı olduğunu ortada 7 ekimde hamasın baskınından haber yokmuştu İsrail'in haması Fk'ye rakip olsun diye kuran zaten İsrail'de hangi hamasının olduğunu bilecek kadar bilgisi vardır

Pożar mniejsz

Przetłumacz na polski

↓ 2 Odpowiedz

“NATO is already at war with Russia — quietly, and sometimes openly. Turkey is the exception. There are plenty of recordings showing sabotage by American special forces — you can see the bodies of soldiers in American uniforms. Why would Russia sabotage a railway in Poland? If it wanted to, it would have destroyed the main railway lines in Ukraine long ago. Since NATO equipment has been arriving there without problems for four years, the Russians clearly know what they're doing. They say: 'Bring all the NATO vehicles you want — I'll destroy them with cheap drones anyway.' They could have destroyed the port of Odesa, and they haven't even touched it.

O @osmanaslan272 8 dni temu
Savaş ortamları kırıldı. Tamam işin aslı bu dersin, arkasından apayrı bir hikaye çıkar. Akıllanca yönlendirme yapanları görünce tam tersinin doğru olduğunu düşünmeye başlıyorum. Şüphe duymayan gazetecilik 90'larda kaldı ki, sayın Zentürk sen 90'lara bile gelememişsin. Durumun daha da vahim. İhlas, sabotajlar hala iddia saflasında. Sabotaj dolayısıyla iki Ukrayna vatandaşlığı yakalanmış. Peskov hâli durumun anlatın da anlayalım, minvalinde açıklama yapmış. Uyanık makine, deli bırakın başsız sabotajcılar, iki Ukrayna vatandaşlığı, Ruslara düşmanlık etmekten gözü dönmüş Polonyalılar, Ukrayna'da finik atan İngilizler. Böyle bir ortamda bizim cevval gazetecimiz işi çözmüştür!!! Ben demiyorum ki, Ruslar yapmadı. Belki de işin arsında Ruslar var. Ama görüntüye bakınca içime de kurt düşmüyordu değil

Pożar mniejsz

Przetłumacz na polski

↓ 1 Odpowiedz

“Drones and sabotage are still just accusations. Two Ukrainian citizens were detained in connection with the sabotage. Peskov commented along the lines of: 'Let's clarify the situation so we know what's going on.' A smart driver, saboteurs who leave evidence, two Ukrainians, Poles blinded by hostility towards Russians, and the British going wild in Ukraine.”

t @fatihmehmetalin8919 8 dni temu
O sabotaj polonyanın rusya'ya karşı yaptıklarının milyonda biri bile değil. polonyanın dokunuılmazlığını var. bence putin çok sabırı bir insan. aslında polonyanın yaptıklarına karşı rusyanın polonyayı yerle bir etmesi gerekiyor
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 2 Odpowiedz

“This sabotage is not even a millionth of what Poland has done to Russia. Poland has immunity. Putin is really very patient. In fact, Russia should destroy Poland for what it's doing against it.”

t @toprakkaya-x4w 8 dni temu
göster lan şu havaya ucan yolu göster haydi bir görelim... yabancı kanalda gördüm öyle havaya ucan birsey yok... keşke rusya öyle bir şey yapsa oraya gelen tirenleri uçakları havaya uçursa... sen asker gönder her türlü silah gönder rus askerini öldür başkentini limanını bombalabilsen yok demi ama yalandan bir sabotaj yudur savaş çıkaracak de birde rusya bunu Ukrayna içinde yapmıyor gidiyor bunu polonyada yapıyor öylemi... kan emici vampirlersiniz... insanlığın sonu sizin gibi getirecek
Przetłumacz na polski
↓ 2 Odpowiedz

“Show me these tracks that supposedly exploded... I saw it on a foreign channel — nothing looked like an explosion. I wish Russia really did something like this, blowing up trains and planes that go there... You send troops, weapons, you kill Russian soldiers, you bomb their cities and ports. You say, 'nothing is happening' and then you invent sabotage and frighten people with war. And supposedly, Russia, instead of acting in Ukraine, goes and does this in Poland? You're bloodthirsty vampires. People like you will bring the world to an end.”

Chapter 3

Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

Analysis of the Turkish-language infosphere following the sabotage on the Warsaw–Lublin railway line indicates that, while the event was acknowledged, it did not become a significant reference point in either mainstream media or broader public debate in Turkey. Compared with the violation of Polish airspace by Russian drones in September 2025, the level of interest was evidently lower: the number of articles was limited, and some editorial offices that reported on the drone incident did not cover the railway sabotage at all. The predominant messaging was purely informational, mainly based on PAP dispatches and official statements from Polish authorities, without expert commentary or detailed analysis.

In popular Turkish media outlets such as Yeni Şafak, Hürriyet, TRT Haber, A Haber, Anadolu Ajansı, and CNN Türk, the sabotage was generally depicted as part of a larger sequence of events related to the war in Ukraine and Russian hybrid activities in Europe. Articles highlighted the positions of Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski, underlining the strategic significance of the Warsaw–Lublin line for delivering military aid to Ukraine and the broader context of increasing sabotage and espionage attributed to Russia. Only a few pieces—mainly from CNN Türk—introduced elements of “false objectivity,” contrasting Polish accusations with Russian denials and using phrasing such as “alleged” sabotage attempts. Nonetheless, the mainstream narrative remained largely aligned with the Polish interpretation of events, and Russian perspectives were not widely echoed.

Niche Turkish media exhibit a notably greater susceptibility to content that weakens the Polish narrative. Some outlets emphasise the Ukrainian angle—portraying Ukrainian citizens as the primary perpetrators and shifting the focus from Russian intelligence responsibility to a Ukrainian context. Simultaneously, their persistent highlighting of a lack of “hard evidence” for Russian involvement creates an impression of uncertainty and diminishes the authority of official Polish statements. Certain outlets even entertain openly speculative scenarios, including suggestions of a false-flag operation, references to a “deep state,” or intricate conspiracy theories where potential beneficiaries of the incident include not only Poland and Ukraine but also the US, the UK, or the wider West. This trend is especially apparent in the narrative of Ekonomiknokta.com, which largely mirrors Russian propaganda—questioning the plausibility of Russian responsibility, blaming Western “hawks,” and framing the sabotage as an anti-Russian provocation.

The Russian state media outlet Sputnik Türkiye responded to the Polish events with a delay and moderate intensity. Its articles formally reported on Prime Minister Tusk’s statements and Polish prosecutorial actions, but systematically cast doubt by emphasising the Ukrainian origin of the suspects, highlighting the lack of evidence of their ties to Russian intelligence, and presenting extensive commentary from Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov. Juxtaposing Polish statements with Russian denials and referencing other cases where Ukrainians were alleged saboteurs (e.g., Nord Stream), reflects a classic “false objectivity” tactic while reinforcing the narrative of “Russophobia” in Europe.

On social media and YouTube, the railway sabotage became a pretext for recycling well-known, larger pro-Russian and anti-Western narratives, although the extent of this discussion was limited and short-lived. Posts about Poland were fewer compared to earlier drone attacks, and the content was quickly replaced by other topics. Where present, three motifs dominated: questioning the credibility of Polish authorities (“no evidence,” “Poland did it itself”), shifting responsibility onto the West (US, UK, NATO), and portraying Russia as a rational actor unwilling to escalate, supposedly forced to react by aggressive Western actions. Comments under YouTube videos—both openly pro-Russian and more “informative” ones—reinforce the portrayal of Poland as provocative, NATO as the real aggressor, and Ukraine as an actor bringing allies into conflict with Russia.

The collected material shows that the sabotage of the Warsaw–Lublin railway was a low-impact event in the Turkish information sphere, but it clearly demonstrates how Russian information warfare operates in Turkey. Mainstream outlets reported the incident fairly neutrally, relying on Polish sources and largely ignoring aggressive Russian narratives. In contrast, niche portals, Russian-language Turkish media, and segments of social media and YouTube formed a dense web of messages questioning Poland’s stance, downplaying Russian responsibility, and shifting blame onto Ukraine and the wider West. The relatively low intensity of this narrative wave, compared to the drone incident, is mainly due to the lower media appeal of the sabotage itself; however, the pattern of using Polish security experiences to fuel narrative disputes in Turkey remains consistent.

Recommendations

- Enhance proactive Polish communication within the Turkish-language information environment. The extent and type of coverage indicate that Polish positions primarily reach Turkish media through PAP dispatches and quotations from the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Increasing direct communication in Turkish—such as brief statements, Q&A sessions, and infographics explaining the context of sabotage (including the role of the Warsaw–Lublin line, its significance for Ukraine, and the hybrid warfare aspect)—targeted at both media outlets and social media audiences, could diminish the space for interpretations imposed by Russian or pro-Russian sources.
- Systematic monitoring and swift response to “no evidence” narratives. A recurring theme in niche media, Sputnik, and YouTube is questioning Polish findings by highlighting the “lack of evidence.” Establishing ongoing surveillance of Turkish-language media and social platforms for such narratives, along with prepared explanatory materials (e.g., how investigations work, standards of intelligence cooperation, and reasons some evidence may remain classified for security purposes), would enable quick, consistent, and reusable responses in similar situations.
- Engagement with niche media as a “risk area”. Niche portals, especially those with conspiratorial or anti-Western leanings, are particularly vulnerable to adopting pro-Russian narratives. These outlets should be considered a risk zone but not solely as a threat—some still reference Polish sources despite scepticism. Soft measures could include offering interviews with Polish experts, providing straightforward explanations about hybrid warfare, or clarifying facts regarding Poland’s support for Ukraine to reduce dependence on Russian-origin narratives.

- Presence on YouTube and social media in an ‘explainer’ format. YouTube videos and comments show that much of the discussion happens in emotional, simplified stories, often mixing historical, conspiratorial, and current threads. Short, Turkish-language videos (3–5 minutes) explaining hybrid attacks, support for Ukraine, and why the railway sabotage is a real threat — not a “made-up incident” — could be shared via embassy channels, research institutes, or in collaboration with Turkish experts.
- Connecting the sabotage narrative to the wider story of European security. In many Turkish media reports, particularly mainstream outlets, the sabotage is framed within the context of the Ukraine war and the security of supply routes. This framing should be purposefully emphasised: Poland should be depicted not only as a victim but as a vital part of European security and the infrastructure that supports Ukraine. This strategy helps foster understanding in Turkey, where public perception of the war tends to be more detached.
- Preparation of “communication scenarios” for future incidents. Both airspace violations by drones and railway sabotage have shown that each crisis prompts a swift wave of disinformation on the Turkish-language internet. It is recommended to develop ready-to-use communication response scenarios (pre-bunking and debunking) for future incidents: including a set of key messages in Turkish, a prioritised list of media outlets and influencers, and a matrix of familiar pro-Russian narratives with appropriate responses. This approach would reduce response times and improve the coherence of Poland’s presence in the Turkish information sphere.