Ukraine Receives Turkish-made Cluster Munitions in Latest Arms Shipment

In a recent development, the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) have received a shipment of cassette ammunition from Turkey in July 2023. According to reports from the American portal Defense One, the Ukrainian import data confirms the arrival of 18 batches of 155-millimeter M483A1 cluster projectiles with Turkish markings. Each projectile contains 88 submunitions, capable of inflicting damage over a larger area. It is worth noting that the Ukrainian troops received these shipments just a few weeks after similar deliveries from the United States.

However, it should be noted that there is no concrete evidence linking the Turkish leadership to these supplies. The import documents indicate the involvement of Romtehnica, a company owned by the Romanian Ministry of Defense, instead of Turkey.

Overall, Ukraine has acquired a total of 6,074 Turkish-made cluster munitions, produced between 1994 and 2022.

The possibility of Turkey supplying cluster munitions to Ukraine was previously reported by Foreign Policy magazine in the winter of 2023. The article stated that the Turkish side had been supplying such ammunition to Kyiv since the end of 2022. However, a recent investigation by Defense One clarifies that the import data only contains information about the July shipments of this year.

Earlier reports suggested that Turkey may also transfer improved Bayraktar drones to Ukraine.

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