

## Little damage to MSC container ship targeted by Russian attack

Container ship and bulker remained seaworthy after Russian missiles missed their mark in Odessa.

[Nick Savvides](#), Europe correspondent

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Image: Farid Mernissi/Wikimedia Commons

[MSC Levante F](#) suffered little damage after being targeted by [Russian](#) missiles and is understood to have left Odessa already. The ship was attacked by the Russian military, which claimed the ship was carrying weapons onboard bound for Ukraine.

The 2006-built vessel with a capacity of 1,100 teu was fired upon on 1 March with two missiles missing their target, but damaging the 28,500 dwt *Super Sarkas*, a bulk carrier registered in Sierra Leone, which was loading 21,000 tonnes of corn and soya at the time, reported Ukraine's deputy prime minister Alexiy Kuleba.

Two dockers injured in the attack were rushed to hospital and are reported to be in a stable condition, according to a local source.

The source added that Panama flagged *MSC Levante F* did not receive structural damage while docked at the HHLA terminal in Odessa Port, but the source said the vessel remained seaworthy.

The container ship sustained “some minor damage like broken portholes, mainly from the impact of the shock wave. But the crew remained unharmed, and the vessel safely sailed [left Odessa] today.”

*Super Sarkas*, owned by the Turkish company Thor Shipping, registered in Istanbul, also sustained minor damage and has also left Odessa.

Meanwhile, some port superstructure and some containers in the container yard were damaged,

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Kuleba said this was the 29th vessel which was damaged by Russian military attacks since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

A grain corridor functioned for some months until mid-2023 when Russia unilaterally closed the seaway. Kyiv, however, has since then operated a humanitarian corridor, and Kuleba said since then some 106m tonnes of cargo has been handled by Ukrainian deep sea ports, of which 70m tonnes was a grain.

No armaments or military equipment were on the MSC ship's cargo manifest and Odessa port remains operational, according to local reports.