Iran Claims Mine Attacks on Three Tankers



Collected photo.

Iran's Navy has claimed that three oil tankers caught fire after striking sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz. On the same day, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reported that another oil tanker caught fire in its engine room after being struck by an unidentified object while leaving the strait.

The information was reported by Anadolu Agency on Monday (November 16), citing Iran's state broadcaster IRIB.

According to the Iranian Army's Navy, a tanker struck a sea mine early Monday in a restricted area declared by Iran in the eastern part of the Strait of Hormuz. The vessel caught fire and lost its ability to navigate.

The Iranian Navy also said it was monitoring vessel movements in the eastern section of the strait. Warning against entering restricted waters with automatic identification systems switched off, the force said shipowners would be held responsible for any violations of maritime navigation instructions.

Meanwhile, the naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) claimed that two more tankers were hit by mines in the southern part of the Strait of Hormuz.

According to a statement from the IRGC's public relations department, the two vessels were operating under the direction of US officials and with support from American warplanes. Several powerful explosions occurred aboard the tankers after they struck the mines. The statement added that flashes from the explosions lit up the sky over the strait for several hours.

The IRGC further claimed that two tankers had previously been attacked in the same area. It said a total of six tankers had caught fire since Sunday and were sinking. However, the force did not clarify whether the tanker mentioned by the Iranian Army's Navy was among the six vessels.