



Leipzig/Halle update: a DNA trace back to the 2024 parcel fire

A DNA trace recovered from the explosive drone matches evidence collected after the July 2024 incendiary-parcel fire at the same airport. It connects an isolated incident to a sabotage campaign already before a court.

INCIDENT DETAILS • 5WH

Who Still unattributed by German authorities and not matched to a named person. The trace is registered in Lithuania, where five people are on trial over the 2024 parcel series.

What A DNA trace from the drone reportedly matches one collected after the 20 July 2024 DHL fire at the same airport. The Federal Prosecutor General has not commented.

Where Leipzig/Halle Airport, Saxony - the same site, and the same operator's facilities, as the 2024 fire.

When Drone incident 4-5 Aug 2026; the DNA link reported 10 Aug; carried 11 Aug.

Why It converts an isolated, unattributed incident into a datapoint in a documented campaign against Ukraine-supporting logistics.

How Biological trace evidence recovered from a device that failed to function, matched through the European DNA database.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

A 20 Jul 2024: incendiary parcel fire at the DHL centre, same airport

B Mar 2026: five charged in Vilnius over the 2024 parcel series

C 6 Aug 2026: the Federal Prosecutor General takes the drone case

1 10 Aug: Bild reports a DNA match to the 2024 parcel fire

2 Die Zeit: the same profile is registered in Lithuania

3 The trace is not matched to any named person

4 Footage also shows the drone struck an Antonov wing at 19:30

5 The device then lay unfound on the apron for about four hours

IMPACT

- Attribution: a forensic thread now connects two attacks on one airport two years apart, and gives investigators a legal route.
- Threat picture: raises the assessed threat to DHL and air-cargo hubs, and to Ukrainian aircraft on European soil.
- Detection: the explosive device lay on an active cargo apron for about four hours before it was found.
- Unchanged: no arrests, no claim, and no German attribution of the drone to any actor.

ASSESSMENT, LESSONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The forensic link is the strongest thread in the file, and it is still not attribution.
- The chain weakens at each step: trace to trace, trace to case, case to a prosecutorial allegation.
- Four hours with an explosive device on an active apron is the protective finding, whoever flew it.
- It is highly likely that European air-cargo hubs handling Ukrainian freight remain a priority target.