

Syria: Russian pilot of downed jet killed himself with grenade **World**

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A Russian pilot who was shot down in Syria has been posthumously honored after reportedly killing himself with a grenade. Russian warplanes have been ordered to fly higher as they intensify attacks in Idlib.

MOSCOW, Feb 5, 2018 - The Russian pilot who was [shot down in Syria at the weekend](#) commit suicide with a grenade before he could be captured by Syrian rebels, the Russian defense ministry said Monday. Russian authorities have now lionized the pilot's death, seizing a propaganda victory from Syrian rebels who dramatically shot down the Sukhoi Su-25 jet involved in a major push into Idlib province. *Read more:* [UN warns of humanitarian disaster, displacement in northwest Syria](#) A last stand After taking heavy fire, Major Roman Filipov ejected and parachuted into a rebel stronghold in Syria's north-western Idlib province, Russia said. Severely wounded, Filipov opened fire on incoming militants with his service weapon before killing himself with a grenade as they closed in, according to Russia. An unverified video released by rebel-linked Youtube channel "Idlib Plus" purported to show about 10 fighters closing in on Filipov as he sheltered behind a rock. In the video, what sounds like small arms fire is followed by someone shouting in Russian "this is for my boys." Immediately afterwards, what looks to be a small explosion sends fighters scrambling and a small plume of smoke into the air. The Russian Defence Ministry posthumously awarded Filippov the title of Hero of the Russian Federation. Russian media reported that Syrian and possibly Russian special forces were trying to retrieve his body, and to find out who supplied the anti-aircraft weapon to the rebels. [...]<http://p.dw.com/p/2s9mu>