

Beat: Politics

No news of a Spanish military helicopter crashed in the Atlantic

Is not ruled out a kidnapping

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USPA NEWS - The most absolute mystery surrounding the crash of a helicopter Superpuma of the Spanish Army injured Wednesday night in the Atlantic, off the coast of Africa and only 50 miles from its base in the Canary Islands.

On board were three soldiers -a captain, a lieutenant and a sergeant, the last survivor of a previous accident with another helicopter-returning from Dakar, in Senegal, to participate in a training exercise. The helicopter fell into the water and, before sinking, was seen floating on the waves and a rubber dinghy in which a lighted flare spotted. The Government of Morocco reported that three soldiers were safe aboard a fishing boat that had gathered. However, the next morning Spanish Government had to deny the information because neither the unit nor its three crew and the fishing that supposedly collected had been located.

Since then, nothing is known. Divers Spanish army and air and naval resources are scouring the area, but until now have been able to reach the cabin of the helicopter or the boat may have encountered or fishing. Search the device has joined the ship Olympic Zeus, specialized in underwater work and currently hired by the Spanish Ministry of Development to monitor fishing spillage Russian Oleg Naydanov, sunk in the Atlantic last April. The search focuses on the area where it was found the beacon of the helicopter, but no results so far.

The Spanish Ministry of Defense maintains all scenarios, including the kidnapping of the three soldiers by a pirate boat mafias usually operating in that area of the African coast open. Minister Pedro Morenes moved to the Canary Islands to oversee operations and the Spanish Government has spoken with his Moroccan counterpart, in an attempt to shed light on what happened. But the questions accumulate.

The crashed helicopter was a Superpuma of the Spanish Air Force, assigned to Air Rescue Service (SAR for its Spanish acronym), and was the subject of a review during a scheduled stopover in Nouadibou, in Mauritania. Of the three soldiers aboard, the sergeant was the only survivor of another crash of a military helicopter in which seven soldiers died.

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