

BULGARIAN ARMS DEPOT EXPLOSIONS (2011-2020)

Four explosions between 2011 and 2020 hit Bulgarian arms and ammunition facilities, including Lovnidol (2011), two blasts at VMZ-Sopot's Iganovo depot (2015) and the Arsenal plant near Maglizh. Bulgarian prosecutors charged six Russian nationals, who entered under false identities, with terrorism and issued European Arrest Warrants. Prosecutors said in 2021 the six were believed to be GRU agents and the case may be linked to the 2015 poisoning of arms dealer Emilian Gebrev.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

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AS OF 15 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF CHARGED Suspects have been charged and Russian involvement is alleged by prosecutors; there is no verdict yet and the presumption of innocence applies.	WHO ESTABLISHED IT Bulgarian Prosecutor's Office, 28 Apr 2021: at least six Russians believed to be GRU agents were in Bulgaria around the blasts; prosecutors cited a 'reasonable assumption' of a link to the Gebrev poisoning and the 2014 Vrbětice blast. The six were charged in 2021 with terrorism (Art. 108a(1) Criminal Code); the Sofia City Prosecutor's Office reissued European Arrest Warrants on 30 Jan 2024.
LATEST Suspects at large, not tried; EAWs reissued January 2024.	
SOURCES B Sofia City Prosecutor's Office: EAW issued against Russian nationals accused of terrorism · 2024-01-30 https://prb.bg/en/news/68319-sofia-city-prosecutor%E2%80%99s-office-issued-eaw-against-russian-nationals-accused-of-t C RFE/RL: Bulgaria to expel Russian diplomat over arms depot blasts · 2021-04-29 https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgaria-to-expel-russian-diplomat-over-arms-depot-blasts/31229772.html C Meduza: Connecting the dots · 2021-04-28 https://meduza.io/en/feature/2021/04/28/connecting-the-dots C Civil.ge: Bulgaria Alleges Russia Behind Georgia-Bound Arms Explosions · 2021-04 https://civil.ge/?p=416765	

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Treat sabotage on your territory as part of Russia's war against Ukraine and its supporters.
- Share evidence across borders; support Eurojust and joint investigation teams.
- Sanction the GRU units and recruiters behind the operations.