

UK-BASED BULGARIAN SPY RING TARGETING KREMLIN CRITICS CONVICTED

A UK-based ring led by Orlin Roussev carried out surveillance operations for Russian intelligence between 2020 and 2023, tracking investigative journalists Christo Grozev and Roman Dobrokhoto and others across Europe. Prosecutors showed the group discussed kidnapping Dobrokhoto and another target and a 'honeytrap' against Grozev; no attack was carried out.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
BEYOND UKRAINE
AS OF 15 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF

COURT FINDING

A court, the European Court of Human Rights or a judicial public inquiry has found that Russia or its agents were responsible.

WHO ESTABLISHED IT

Six Bulgarian nationals were convicted at the Old Bailey of spying offences (guilty pleas and 2025 jury verdicts); the CPS stated they acted on instructions relayed from Russian intelligence services via fugitive Wirecard executive Jan Marsalek.

LATEST

On 12 May 2025 the six were sentenced to terms ranging from about 5 to 10 years 8 months; Marsalek remains at large.

SOURCES

B Crown Prosecution Service – How prosecutors brought a Russian spy ring operating in the UK to justice · 2025-05-12

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/node/26051>

C Meduza – London court imprisons six Bulgarian nationals for spying for Russia · 2025-05-13

<https://meduza.io/en/news/2025/05/13/london-court-imprisons-six-bulgarian-nationals-for-spying-for-russia-and-plotting-attacks-on-journalists-roman-dobrokhoto-and-christo-grozev>

WHAT WE ASK OF MEMBER STATES

- Attribute jointly and publicly; raise it at the UN.
- Sanction the officers and units who ordered the operation, not only those who carried it out.
- Expel intelligence officers operating under diplomatic cover.

Status follows four degrees of proof: court finding · official attribution · charged · suspected (suspected cases are listed only on the live page). Tier A = courts, UN bodies, international organisations · B = governments, prosecutors · C = media and investigators. Corrections: evidence@ukraine-evidence.org



live page · corrections