

POISONING OF ARMS MANUFACTURER EMILIAN GEBREV IN SOFIA

Bulgarian arms manufacturer Emilian Gebrev, his son Hristo and a company executive fell seriously ill after being poisoned in Sofia in April 2015; all three survived. Bulgarian prosecutors also cite earlier attempts on Gebrev, two of them outside Bulgaria.

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

The Sofia City Prosecutor's Office charged three Russian citizens in absentia with attempted murder (announced 23 January 2020; further details 21 February 2020), including 'Sergey Fedotov', identified by UK police as GRU officer Denis Sergeev, also charged over the Salisbury attack.

LATEST

No trial has taken place; the accused are believed to be in Russia, which does not extradite its nationals, and Bulgarian authorities have not formally attributed the operation to the Russian state as such.

SOURCES

B Prosecutor's Office of Bulgaria – press release on charges in the Gebrev case · 2020-02-21

https://prb.bg/en/news/40243-press-release_24_02_2020

B Sofia City Prosecutor's Office – press release (indictment, identities, extradition barrier) · 2020-09-15

<https://www.prb.bg/en/news/45994-press-release-of-the-sofia-city-prosecutor's-office>

C RFE/RL – Bulgarian survivor of suspected Russian poison attack decries suspended probe · 2020-09-03

<https://www.rferl.org/a/bulgarian-survivor-of-suspected-russian-poison-attack-decries-suspended-probe/30819349.html>

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