

US CHARGES RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE NETWORK OVER MURDER-FOR-HIRE AND ATTACKS IN EUROPE

On 15 September 2026 the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York unsealed an indictment charging five members of what it calls a Russian intelligence services network with conspiracy to finance terrorism. They include FSB officer Kirill Khrameev, 27, and his father Yuri Khrameev ('Colonel Yuri'), 63; three of the five are also charged with murder-for-hire conspiracy. Prosecutors allege that the network offered \$40,000 in summer 2026 to kill a prominent Russian dissident in the US, and in 2025 offered about \$25,000 to a US citizen to kill a Lithuania-based critic of Russia. They also allege that defendant Oemis Romagoza Durruthy coordinated attacks in Prague (June 2024) and at a manufacturer in Šiauliai, Lithuania, of mobile radio stations intended for the Ukrainian military (September 2024). All five remain at large.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB

BEYOND UKRAINE

AS OF 20 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

Indictment (SDNY, unsealed 15 Sep 2026; counts under 18 U.S.C. §§ 2339C and 1958) describes an 'RIS Network' of individuals 'working for the intelligence services of the Russian Federation'. It says that since the 2022 invasion the network has conducted operations against 'nations perceived as Ukrainian allies', and quotes Yuri Khrameev: 'I am interested in all the countries that are helping Ukraine.' The DOJ/SDNY press release (No. 26-262) says Yuri Khrameev allegedly confirmed he was a 'colonel of Russian intelligence agencies' and offered a 'simpler job', such as 'throw[ing] a bottle of gasoline at an electrical substation'. AAG for National Security John A. Eisenberg: 'These defendants allegedly operated as part of a global assassination network that reached into the United States.'

LATEST

The indictment has been unsealed; all five defendants are at large and none is in US custody. The allegations are unproven in court. The defendants face up to 20 years on the terrorism-financing count and up to 10 years on the murder-for-hire count.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

The indictment says the network targeted 'nations perceived as Ukrainian allies'. One of the attacks it lists hit a Lithuanian maker of radio stations intended for Ukraine's military.

SOURCES

A

US v. Yuri Khrameev et al., Sealed Indictment (S.D.N.Y.) · 2026-09-15

https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/media/1461336/dl

B

US DOJ, USAO SDNY – Members Of Russian Intelligence Services Network Charged With Conspiring To Finance Terrorism And Commit Murder For Hire In The United States · 2026-09-15

https://justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/members-russian-intelligence-services-network-charged-conspiring-finance-terrorism-and

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.