

VRBĚTICE AMMUNITION DEPOT EXPLOSIONS

Two explosions at ammunition storage depots near Vrbětice (16 October and 3 December 2014) killed two employees and caused major material damage. Czech authorities attributed the blasts to officers of Russian military intelligence (GRU); the munitions were reportedly intended for onward sale abroad.

UKRAINE EVIDENCE HUB
BEYOND UKRAINE
AS OF 15 OCT 2026

DEGREE OF PROOF

OFFICIAL ATTRIBUTION

A government, a prosecutor, the EU, NATO or a UN body has formally named Russia, its services or its state-backed forces. This is a position of that authority, not a verdict.

WHO ESTABLISHED IT

Czech government publicly attributed the blasts to GRU operatives on 17 April 2021 and expelled 18 Russian officials; NATO's North Atlantic Council expressed solidarity on 22 April 2021. On 29 April 2024 Czech police closed the case, calling GRU involvement a proven fact but unable to prosecute because Russia refused cooperation.

LATEST

Case closed by Czech police in April 2024 without indictment because of Russian non-cooperation; no trial possible. Two named suspects (Chepiga and Mishkin, also wanted by the UK over Salisbury) remain in Russia.

LINK TO THE WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Czech officials and media have said the stored munitions were probably destined for buyers abroad, possibly including Ukraine; this destination is not officially confirmed.

SOURCES

B NATO North Atlantic Council statement in solidarity with the Czech Republic · 2021-04-22

<https://nato.int/en/about-us/official-texts-and-resources/official-texts/2021/04/22/north-atlantic-council-statement-in-solidarity-with-the-czech-republic>

B Czech MFA: Minister Kulháněk acquainted NATO allies with evidence of Russian agents' involvement · 2021-04-22

https://mzv.gov.cz/jnp/en/issues_and_press/archive/events_and_issues/x2021/x2021_04_22_minister_kulhanek_acquainted_nato_allies.html

B Policie ČR: Ukončení prověřování výbuchů muničních skladů ve Vrběticích · 2024-04-29

<https://policie.gov.cz/clanek/ukonceni-proverovani-vybuchu-municnich-skladu-ve-vrbeticich.aspx>

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.

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