Her Majesty's Secret Services Unveil 18 Russian Spies

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London – A network of Russian secret service agents (spies), involved in numerous attacks and sabotage in Europe, has been uncovered by British intelligence services. The UK government has published the identities and photographs of 18 Russian agents, revealing their involvement in destabilization operations across the continent. The investigation has led to sanctions against these spies, as well as three units of the Gru, the Russian military intelligence service, which will see their assets frozen and face a travel ban. Additionally, the agents will be barred from any dealings with British companies.

The unveiled Russian agents are accused of being responsible for a series of attacks aimed at destabilizing Europe. Among the acts of sabotage are explosions, fires, and damage to critical infrastructure, as well as cyberattacks. The goal of these attacks seems to be to undermine Western support for Ukraine and to favor the Russian invasion. Among the most striking operations are also the interceptions of electronic devices, including that of Yulia Skripal, victim

of an attempted nerve agent murder in Salisbury in 2018.

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An International Network of Complicity

British intelligence has worked closely with the FBI and other NATO countries' intelligence agencies in an operation that revealed a vast network of espionage activities. The British Foreign Minister, David Lammy, stated that Russia is conducting a "campaign of destabilization," undermining Ukraine's sovereignty and threatening the security of European and British citizens. Lammy added that the Kremlin's actions are directed not only against physical infrastructure but also against media, telecommunications providers, and political institutions across Europe.

The Gru units involved in these sabotages are the same ones that launched cyberattacks against the Estonian government in 2020 and interfered in the French elections of 2017. One of the most serious actions was the online reconnaissance to guide the Russian bombing of the Mariupol theater, which caused the death of hundreds of civilians. This attack has raised concerns about how technologies developed on the Ukrainian battlefield could be used in the future against Western countries.

Physical Sabotage and Cyberattacks in Europe

The sabotage activities are not limited to cyberattacks. Russian spies are also responsible for physical sabotage of important infrastructures such as ports, railway stations, border posts, and government facilities involved in aid supplies to Ukraine. In Britain, three men were recently convicted for an arson attack against a depot used to send humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including Starlink satellite systems. Investigators suspect that the sabotage may have been commissioned by the Wagner Group, the notorious Russian mercenary group.

Suspicions of Russian involvement do not stop at physical attacks. An incendiary package sent to a DHL sorting center in Birmingham, along with a series of sabotages on railway lines across Europe, has further fueled concerns. Additionally, the Gru has been involved in a campaign to recruit young Afghans and finance attacks against Western forces in Afghanistan. Another group of spies orchestrated disinformation campaigns on social media, aimed at discrediting the use of

vaccines in Africa.

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The Response of the United Kingdom and Its Allies

The United Kingdom, through joint intelligence action and sanctions, has demonstrated its determination to combat these destabilizing activities. Minister Lammy reiterated the country's strong commitment to defending Europe's security and supporting Ukraine, emphasizing that "Putin's hybrid threats and aggressions will not break our resolve."

With these revelations, the United Kingdom and its allies are calling for a united response and continuous vigilance against the growing Russian threats.

News link: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jul/18/lammy-announces-exposure-of-18-russian-spies-after-uk-cyber-attacks