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Russian Court Arrests Suspected Lithuanian Spy – Interfax

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Lithuania has said it caught at least four spies working directly or indirectly for Russia in 2014 and so far this year.

Russia arrested a suspected Lithuanian spy on Thursday, a court spokeswoman said, adding to a list of espionage allegations as tensions grow between Moscow and the Baltic states it once governed.

Lithuania, a former Soviet republic with a significant ethnic Russian minority, has complained of increased Russian military activity since Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea region last year.

Court spokeswoman Yulia Skotnikova named the suspected spy as Yevgeny Mataytis, a citizen of both Russia and Lithuania.

"Mataytis is suspected of gathering secret information and sending it abroad, he has been arrested," news agency Interfax reported her as saying.

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Vilnius said in May it had detained an employee of Russia's Federal Security Service who had been trying to infiltrate the country's leadership and security forces. Weeks later, Russia arrested a man it said was a Lithuanian military intelligence officer in Moscow.

Mataytis will be detained for two months, Skotnikova said. He faces a prison term of 10 to 20 years if found guilty of espionage under Russian law.

Along with its fellow Baltic states Latvia and Estonia, Vilnius wants a permanent NATO troop presence on its soil to counter what it sees as an increasing threat from Russia, once dubbed "a terrorist state" by Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaite.

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