

U.S. Citizen on Trial in Russia for \$7M Bribe

October 12, 2017



Alexander Gubin / Flickr (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

A U.S. citizen is on trial for offering a high-ranking post in Russia's Far East to a Muscovite in exchange for \$7 million.

The Kommersant business daily [named](#) the U.S. national as George Hager (born in Belarus as Georgy Korobochkin) in 2016. It wrote that Hager was one of four co-conspirators who allegedly offered a post in the newly-created auction house at the Federal Fisheries Agency to a businessman named A.K. Burtsev.

Burtsev reportedly agreed to the \$7-million bribe to be paid out in installments while simultaneously turning to the Federal Security Service, Kommersant [reported](#).

The Prosecutor General's Office reported Wednesday that the suspects conspired to defraud Burtsev with an accomplice who is being tried separately. "The partners developed a plan and assigned roles to each other," the office [said](#) in an online statement.

“Working in concert, they persistently persuaded the man that, using their extensive contacts with high-ranking state officials, [...] they would be able to secure his appointment to a senior position,” the office said.

The City Prosecutor’s Office has indicted Hager, alongside three Russian nationals, on charges of large-scale fraud and attempted crime.

The suspects received \$300,000 from the aspiring official between April and May 2016, the prosecution said. One of the accomplices was detained in a sting operation at a central Moscow cafe on May 24, 2016, leading to the detention of the others. Kommersant wrote that Hager was the first to be detained.

The case has been forwarded to a Moscow court.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/10/12/us-citizen-on-trial-in-russia-for-7m-bribe-a59251>