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Putin Says His Spy Chiefs Know Nothing About Alleged Agent Butina in U.S.

By Reuters

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Maria Butina / Vkontakte

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday it was unclear to him why a Russian woman, Maria Butina, had been detained in the United States and accused of being a Russian agent because his intelligence chiefs had told him they knew nothing about her.

Butina is suspected of trying to infiltrate the National Rifle Association and influence U.S. policy towards Russia and is expected to plead guilty this week following a deal between her lawyers and U.S. prosecutors, according to court filings on Monday.

Related article: Founder of Pro-Gun Group Butina Arrested in Washington, Accused of Espionage

"...she risks 15 years in jail. For what?" asked Putin. "...I asked all the heads of our intelligence

services what is going on. Nobody knows anything about her."

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