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Russia Jails Ukrainian Nuclear Plant Worker 15 Years Over 'Attempted Sabotage'

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Natalia Shulga. **Video grab**

A court in occupied southeastern Ukraine sentenced an employee of the Russian-controlled Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant to 15 years in prison on charges of attempted sabotage, Russian authorities said Thursday.

Federal prosecutors accused Ukrainian national Natalia Shulga of planting an explosive device on a transmission tower in the city of Enerhodar in June. Russian security agents allegedly discovered and replaced the device with a dummy before it could be detonated.

The Russian Prosecutor General's Office claimed Shulga had joined a Ukrainian special services "sabotage group" in February 2022, the month Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

A Russian-controlled court in the Zaporizhzhia region found Shulga guilty of participating in

a sabotage group, attempted sabotage and attempted arms smuggling.

Shulga, 56, was sentenced to 15 years in a medium-security penal colony and fined 500,000 rubles ($5,600). The Russian Prosecutor General's Office said the sentence fully aligned with its request.

Russian forces seized the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant — Europe's largest — within days of launching their invasion. Since then, both sides have accused each other of endangering nuclear safety by attacking the site.

Inspectors from the UN's International Atomic Energy Agency have been stationed at the plant since September 2022 to monitor nuclear security.

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