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Saratov Court Jails Accomplice in Russian General's Assassination for 23 Years

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The wreckage of a car is loaded onto the platform of a truck after a blast caused by an explosive device killed its driver in Balashikha, outside Moscow, on June 9, 2026. **Igor Ivanko / AFP**

A Saratov region court this week sentenced a local man to 23 years in a maximum-security prison over the 2025 assassination of a senior Russian general.

Lieutenant General Yaroslav Moskalik was killed by a remote-controlled car bomb in the Moscow suburb of Balashikha on April 25, 2025. A military court in November 2025 sentenced another man, Ignat Kuzin, to life in prison on accusations of assembling and planting the bomb.

The Saratov Regional Court on Monday found businessman Vyacheslav Grafsky guilty of treason, weapons trafficking and money laundering over his role in an intelligence-gathering plot that resulted in Moskalik's assassination, according to a statement on the court's website.

State prosecutors accused Grafsky of tracking and targeting Moskalik on behalf of the Ukrainian special services, which were said to recruit him online in June 2023. His initial assignments were said to be conducting surveillance on military personnel, their vehicles and homes near a military installation in the Saratov region.

In February 2025, the court said Grafsky received Moskalik's photograph.

"Following the instructions, the defendant identified the lieutenant general's place of residence and the personal vehicle he used, and reported this to his handler," the court said.

Investigators also claimed that Grafsky laundered cryptocurrency payments received for his intelligence activities through digital asset sales.

Grafsky pleaded not guilty to the charges. It was not immediately clear whether his defense planned to appeal the court ruling.

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