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U.S. Indicts Russian National for Stalking Palantir Employees as 'Foreign Agent'

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People try the Palantir Maven Smart System. **REUTERS / Kim Kyung-Hoon**

A U.S. federal grand jury has indicted a Russian national on charges of acting as an unregistered foreign agent and stalking employees of the defense and software company Palantir over its support for Ukraine, the Justice Department announced Wednesday.

"The allegations in this case describe a state-sponsored operation to target and harass employees of an American technology and defense company because of that company's assistance to Ukraine in its war with Russia," said U.S. Attorney Craig H. Missakian.

Bloomberg, citing a source familiar with the matter, identified the targeted Silicon Valley technology and defense company as Palantir. Reuters later corroborated that report.

Igor D'iu is charged with interstate stalking, document fraud, as well as conspiracy to act and acting as an agent of a foreign government. He faces up to 21 years in prison if convicted on all four counts.

According to court documents, unidentified co-conspirators had recruited D'iu on Telegram, telling him his work was for "the Motherland," and arranged for him to travel from Istanbul to Mexico City before illegally crossing the Texas-Mexico border in July.

Once in California, D'iu allegedly followed Telegram instructions to buy the needed gear to photograph employees' laptop screens at a coffee shop near Palantir's Palo Alto office, as well as place his computer nearby so handlers could remotely attempt to intercept staff data.

In August and September, D'iu allegedly searched online for staffers' home addresses and began tailing employees, including a nearly 30-mile pursuit of a female worker toward San Francisco on Sept. 3 that ended only after she called 911 and drove to a police station. When Palo Alto police questioned him, D'iu changed cars and phone numbers and briefly relocated to Reno, Nevada, before returning to resume surveillance.

During an October raid in East Palo Alto, FBI agents seized $18,000 in cash, two Russian passports, laptops, iPhones and wireless networking gear.

D'iu is scheduled to appear in court next Tuesday after his initial appearance on Nov. 2.

Russia's Embassy in Washington and Palantir did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Exiled Russian investigative outlet Agentstvo used leaked state registries and job portals to identify D'iu as a 25-year-old native of Far Eastern Russia's Kamchatka region who previously went by the last name Golodnyuk.

After declaring bankruptcy in 2024, he reportedly posted online resumes last year seeking work as a laborer in Kamchatka and a private driver in Moscow.

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