

FACT SHEET: Supporting Ukraine and Imposing Accountability for Russia's Invasion

Since Russia's unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, the Department of Justice has used all tools at its disposal to impose accountability and serious costs on Russia and its enablers. Dozens of prosecutors, agents, analysts, and other personnel from across the Department are working tirelessly, joined by partners in Ukraine and across the globe. The Department is leveraging the entirety of its expertise through new initiatives to disrupt criminal networks that support the Russian war effort. In the two years since Russia's 2022 invasion, the Department of Justice has successfully:

Seized, restrained, or obtained forfeiture judgments against approximately \$700 million belonging to Russian oligarchs and others who unlawfully supported the Russian regime and evaded U.S. economic countermeasures.

- Secured millions in civil and criminal forfeitures, money judgments, and financial penalties from defendants found responsible of violating U.S. export control and sanctions laws against Russia, including:
 - In January 2024, Kristina Puzyreva pleaded guilty to money laundering conspiracy for her role in a multimillion-dollar scheme to send UAV components and guided missile systems to Russia. The government has [seized](#) approximately \$1.68 million in connection with this export scheme.
 - In December 2023, Cyril Buyanovsky consented to the [forfeiture](#) of over \$450,000 worth of avionics equipment and accessories, and a \$50,000 personal forfeiture judgment.
 - In October 2023, John Unsalan agreed to [forfeit](#) over \$160 million in criminal proceeds for violating sanctions by conducting more than \$150 million in transactions with sanctioned oligarch Sergey Kurchenko. And in September 2023, Unsalan's co-conspirator Sergey Karpushkin agreed to forfeit more than \$4.7 million for his role in the same scheme.
 - Successfully [forfeited approximately \\$805,000](#) stemming from a criminal investigation into the attempted smuggling of a dual-use export-controlled item to Russia.
- Seized two luxury yachts: the [Tango](#), a \$90 million yacht owned by sanctioned oligarch Viktor Vekselberg located in Spain; and the [Amadea](#), a \$300 million mega-yacht owned by Suleiman Kerimov and seized in Fiji. The government filed a [civil forfeiture complaint](#) against the *Amadea* in October 2023, and filed its first amended forfeiture complaint in February 2024.
- Restrained and sought to forfeit 13 properties totaling over \$132 million associated with Russian oligarchs and agents, including luxury properties in some of America's most expensive zip codes.
- Moved to seize five overseas aircraft: a \$25 million Boeing 737-7JU aircraft owned by Russian energy company [PJSC Rosneft Oil Company](#); a \$45 million Boeing 737-7EM owned by Russian energy company [PJSC LUKOIL](#); two airplanes worth over \$400 million owned by Russian oligarch [Roman Abramovich](#); and a \$90 million Airbus A319-100 owned by sanctioned Russian oligarch [Andrei Skoch](#).

Diverted funds and munitions derived from authoritarian regimes to support Ukraine. In October 2023, the United States transferred to the Ukrainian armed forces over [one million rounds of ammunition](#), which were initially seized while unlawfully en route from Iran to Yemen. Additionally, in February 2023, Attorney General Garland authorized an unprecedented transfer of \$5.4 million in funds judicially [forfeited](#) from sanctioned oligarch Konstantin Malofeyev to the State Department to support Ukrainian veterans. On Feb. 17, 2024, Deputy Attorney General Monaco signed an international sharing agreement with Estonia to transfer nearly [\\$500,000](#) of forfeited Russian funds, which were forfeited following the breakup of an illegal procurement network, to Estonia for the purpose of providing aid to Ukraine.

Charged over 70 individuals and five corporate entities accused of sanctions evasion, export control violations, money laundering, and other crimes—and arrested more than 30 defendants worldwide.

- Exposed multiple sophisticated smuggling rings that unlawfully acquired sensitive, military-grade technology for the benefit of the Russian government and military, including:
 - In January 2024, [arrested](#) a procurement agent who allegedly used a network of businesses in China and other countries to illegally transfer hundreds of thousands of semiconductors to sanctioned businesses with ties to the Russian military and Russian intelligence agencies.
 - In December 2023, partnered with Croatian authorities to secure the [arrest](#) of Vladimir Jovancic, who helped sanctioned oligarch Artem Uss escape from Italian custody after he was arrested pursuant to [U.S. criminal charges](#). In addition, collaborated with the U.S. State Department to issue a [reward of up to \\$7 million](#) for information leading to the arrest of Uss.
 - Arrested [four individuals](#) in November 2023 in connection with two separate conspiracies in which the defendants allegedly exported over \$7 million worth of semiconductors, integrated circuits and other electronics for the benefit of the Russian military.
 - [Arrested](#) Russian international money launderer Maxim Marchenko in September 2023 for illicitly procuring large quantities of OLED micro-displays for end users in Russia, funneling more than \$1.6 million through the U.S. financial system throughout the scheme.
 - Worked with our Cypriot law enforcement partners to secure the [arrest](#) of Arthur Petrov, for conspiring to smuggle U.S.-source sensitive microelectronics technology with military applications to Russia.
 - [Arrested](#) two Russian nationals in May 2023 for conspiring to violate U.S. export control laws and commit international money laundering.
 - [Arrested](#) in March 2023 two Kansas men for illegally exporting sophisticated avionics equipment to Russian companies linked to the Russian defense sector.
 - Charged in December 2022 [seven individuals](#)—including two U.S. nationals and a suspected FSB officer who was [extradited](#) from Estonia—for conspiring to procure sensitive electronic components and ammunition from U.S. companies for Russia’s defense sector. Over half a ton of military grade ammunition was recovered or interdicted before being smuggled to Russia.
 - In October 2022, [charged](#) a global procurement, smuggling, and money laundering network.
- Indicted sanctioned oligarchs [Konstantin Malofeyev](#), [Andrii Derkach](#), [Oleg Deripaska](#), Artem Uss, Andrey Kostin, and Sergey Kurchenko, as well as Russian politician [Alexander Babakov](#) for sanctions evasion and other related crimes.
- Indicted numerous facilitators and enablers of oligarchs, including U.K. businessman [Graham Bonham-Carter](#), for allegedly assisting Deripaska with his U.S.-based properties and artwork; fugitive [Vladimir Voronchenko](#) for aiding in concealing luxury real estate owned by sanctioned oligarch Viktor Vekselberg; [two businessmen](#) who also allegedly worked for Vekselberg to facilitate a sanctions evasion and money laundering in connection with his superyacht *Tango*; and Vadim Wolfson and Gannon Bond for allegedly aiding in concealing and maintaining Kostin’s luxury real estate.

Secured multiple guilty pleas and pursued substantive penalties in significant sanctions evasion and export control violation cases, including for the following defendants:

- Canadian national [pleaded guilty](#) for conspiring to launder money from scheme to unlawfully export UAV and missile components to Russia. The defendant faces a maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

- Kansas man and company owner Cyril Buyanovsky faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison after [pleading guilty](#) in December 2023 to a conspiracy to unlawfully export sophisticated avionics equipment to Russian end users.
- President of Metalhouse LLC John Unsalan faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison after [pleading guilty](#) in October 2023 to a money laundering conspiracy in which he conducted transaction to acquire over \$150 million in metal products from companies owned by sanctioned oligarch Sergey Kurchenko.
- Miami-based businessman Sergey Karpushkin faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison after [pleading guilty](#) in September 2023 to conspiring to violate U.S. sanctions and commit money laundering by purchasing and acquiring metal products valued at over \$139 million from companies owned by sanctioned oligarch Sergey Kurchenko.

Utilized intelligence and data analytics to disrupt and prevent a broad range of national security threats stemming from Russia’s destabilizing activities in Ukraine.

- In February 2024, the Department disrupted the Russian government’s cyber campaigns against the United States and allies, including Ukraine, by conducting a court-authorized [disruption](#) of botnet controlled by the Russian military intelligence agency (GRU), neutralizing vast spear phishing and credential harvesting campaigns U.S. and foreign governments and military, and security targets.
- Indicted in December 2023 [two Russian nationals](#), who were working with Russia’s Federal Security Service and affiliated with the “Callisto Group,” for hacking computers in the United States and allied countries, and stealing information used in foreign malign influence operations designed to influence the UK’s 2019 elections.
- Conducted a [court-authorized disruption](#) in May 2023, codenamed “Operation Medusa,” in which the FBI neutralized the FSB’s premier cyberespionage malware implant that the Russian Federation used to steal sensitive documents from hundreds of computer systems in at least 50 countries belonging to North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member governments, journalists, and other targets.
- Seized in December 2022 civil-military, dual-use technologies – some of which have been separately recovered on battlefields in Ukraine – from illicit procurement networks illegally trafficking them to Russia, and [seizure of over 300 pounds of sniper rifle ammunition](#) from an Estonian transshipment hub.
- Proactively disrupted a [global botnet](#) in April 2022 controlled by the GRU, similar to those used by the Russian government to attack Ukrainian targets during the invasion.

Mobilized prosecutors, agents, and other personnel to investigate and prosecute war crimes and other atrocities in Ukraine.

- Announced in December 2023 [war crimes](#) charges against four Russia-affiliated military personnel for their alleged torture, inhuman treatment, and unlawful confinement of a U.S. national in Ukraine following Russia’s full scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.
- In September 2023, [Attorney General Garland visited the Hague](#), where he announced the appointment of Jessica Kim, an experienced federal prosecutor, to serve as the U.S. Special Prosecutor for the Crime of Aggression. She is based at the International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine (ICPA) based at Eurojust in The Hague. The ICPA, which is working to secure crucial evidence and prepare cases for future trials, is an international effort to hold the highest levels of political and military leadership accountable for Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.
- In June 2023, the Department deployed to Kyiv an experienced prosecutor, Jared Kimball, to serve as a [Resident Legal Advisor](#) and work with the PGO on rule of law issues, including fighting kleptocracy and corruption.

- In December 2023, announced new leadership for the [War Crimes Accountability Team](#) (WarCAT), which the Attorney General formed in June 2022. Attorney General Garland named Christian Levesque as Director of WarCAT, who continue to oversee war crimes accountability efforts and engage with foreign and multilateral authorities and centralize and support the Justice Department’s ongoing work to hold accountable those who have committed war crimes and other atrocities in Ukraine.
- Directly assisted the Ukrainian Prosecutor General’s Office (PGO) on high-profile cases by helping collect and evaluate evidence, as well as identify ways to fill evidentiary gaps. The Department’s collaboration on these investigations and prosecutions is pursuant to a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) signed by Attorney General Garland and the Ukrainian Prosecutor General.
- In March 2023, Attorney General Garland [traveled to Ukraine](#) for the second time, to sign a historic agreement with the countries comprising the Joint Investigation Team - Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia, and Romania. This agreement expands information-sharing and strengthens collective efforts to hold Russian war criminals accountable.
- Partnered with Ukraine’s National Police of Ukraine (NPU) and State Border Guard Service (SBGS) to provide training and mentoring, including on tactical and criminal investigative assistance and forensics and evidence collection—foundational skills for war crimes investigations. The Department, through its International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP), is also providing in-country training to Ukrainian law enforcement on rescuing civilians trapped in bombed buildings, setting up checkpoints, and counter-sabotage operations.
- [Supported passage](#) of the Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act, which was signed by the President on January 5, 2023, and will strengthen the Justice Department’s efforts to prosecute alleged war criminals who are present in the United States after committing their crimes.
- Engaged extensively with foreign and multilateral authorities, including through [G7 Justice Ministerial](#) and [Eurojust](#) processes, to rapidly exchange information in the collective effort to support accountability efforts in Ukraine and elsewhere.
- The Justice Department made several contributions to the [Core International Crimes Evidence Database \(CICED\)](#) since it was established at Eurojust in early 2023.

Mobilized intergovernmental resources and international law enforcement partners to isolate Russia from global markets and impose serious costs for its unjustified acts of war:

- Launched [Task Force KleptoCapture](#) – an interagency law enforcement task force with a mission to leverage all tools – including investigations, prosecutions, civil and criminal asset forfeiture – to enforce the sweeping sanctions, export restrictions, and economic countermeasures imposed by the United States on Russia in response to its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.
- Created and sustained the [Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs](#) (REPO) task force which brings together global allies to collect and share information and to take concrete actions against Russian elites, proxies, and oligarchs. Task force Deputies convened in [November 2023](#).
- Launched the [Disruptive Technology Strike Force](#) in May 2023 by the Departments of Justice and Commerce, designed to target illicit actors, protect supply chains, and prevent critical technology from being acquired by authoritarian regimes and hostile nation-states.

The Justice Department is committed to utilizing all investigative tools available and working with critical support from the private sector – from traditional banks and financial services firms to cryptocurrency exchanges, to technology services and manufacturing companies – to hold Russia accountable for its unlawful behavior and to dismantle opaque, transnational criminal networks that threaten U.S. national security.