

# Russian Journalist Arkady Babchenko Shot Dead in Kiev

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**Sergei Bobylev / TASS**

*Editor's note: Since the publication of this article, Arkady Babchenko has appeared at a press conference in Kiev where he said his murder was staged as part of a sting operation to prevent an actual attempt on his life. [Read more.](#)*

A prominent Russian investigative journalist was shot dead on Tuesday in Ukraine's capital, Kiev.

Arkady Babchenko died from his injuries on the way to the hospital after being shot in the back near the entrance to his Kiev apartment, Ukrainian law enforcement [said](#) on social media.

His wife phoned an ambulance saying she had found Babchenko covered in blood, police said, adding they suspected the murder was due to Babchenko's professional activities.

Babchenko, a Chechen war veteran and a staunch critic of President Vladimir Putin, left Russia

out of safety concerns after covering the conflict in Ukraine. His murder follows the earlier death of Ukrainian-Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet by car bomb in central Kiev in 2016.

**Related article:** [Russia, Ukraine React to Death of Slain Journalist Arkady Babchenko](#)

Russia's Investigative Committee [said](#) in an online statement late on Tuesday that it had launched a murder investigation into Babchenko's death. "The Investigative Committee will not let these cruel crimes against Russian citizens go unnoticed," the statement said.

*Includes reporting by Reuters.*

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