

# Last Soviet Leader Steps Down. And the Story of an American Teacher Detained for 'Drug Smuggling'

[From Russia With News \(Discontinued\)](#)

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This week on From Russia With News, we discuss the shock resignation of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev with Joanna Lillis, a journalist in Kazakhstan and author of the acclaimed book on the country: “Dark Shadows: Inside the Secret World of Kazakhstan.”

We'll also talk to journalist Marc Bennetts about the trial of Gaylen Grandstaff, an American who has already spent two years in a Russian pre-detention cell on dubious drug smuggling charges.

From Russia With News is hosted by [Jonathan Brown](#) and produced by [Pjotr Sauer](#). The episode was recorded and edited at [CM Records Studio](#) in central Moscow. Stay tuned for a new episode every Thursday on our site or [here](#). Also available on iTunes, Google Podcasts,

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