

Russia Arrests Physicist for Sharing Secrets With West – Reports

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Russia has stepped up treason convictions since ties with the West deteriorated over the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. **Pixabay**

A Russian academic who worked in aviation has been arrested for allegedly passing secrets to NATO, state media [reported](#) Tuesday, citing an unnamed source.

A Moscow court placed Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) professor and Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute (TsAGI) employee Valery Golubkin until June 12, according to Interfax.

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“This criminal case is not related to MIPT’s activities, Golubkin works at TsAGI,” the news agency quoted the source with knowledge of the details as saying.

They linked 70-year-old Golubkin’s case to treason charges against fellow physicist Anatoly

Gubanov, who was detained and arrested in early December.

Gubanov, who also worked at Moscow region-based TsAGI, is facing trial on suspicion of [passing classified information](#) about Russia's aviation industry abroad.

Gubanov and Golubkin "had overlapping scientific interests, they did some work together on hypersonic speeds," Interfax's source was quoted as saying Tuesday.

"Golubkin was detained as part of the same case. He's suspected of transmitting classified information to one of the NATO countries," they added.

Interfax previously reported, citing sources, that Russia accuses Gubanov of passing [secret hypersonic](#) development materials to a European country as part of a collaboration with the EU on the world's first civil hypersonic airliner, the HEXAFly-INT.

Both Golubkin and Gubanov, who face between 12 and 20 years in prison, deny the charges.

No further details are likely to emerge as treason cases are tried behind closed doors in Russia.

Russia has stepped up treason convictions since ties with the West deteriorated over the annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Critics have accused Russian authorities of paranoia with the arrests of scientists, journalists and regular civilians on charges of sharing sensitive information with foreigners.

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