

# Russian Court Sentences Pro-War Writer's Would-Be Assassin to Life in Prison

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Alexander Permyakov. **Artem Geodakyan / TASS**

A Russian court sentenced Ukrainian national Alexander Permyakov to life in prison for trying to assassinate nationalist writer Zakhar Prilepin, federal investigators [announced](#) Monday.

“The court sentenced Permyakov to life imprisonment in a special regime penal colony,” Russia’s Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said. Special regime colonies are notorious for their harsh conditions.

Permyakov was arrested in May 2023 after a car bomb wounded Prilepin and killed his security guard in the Nizhny Novgorod region. According to his lawyer, Permyakov [pleaded](#) guilty and cooperated with investigators, who claim he acted on instructions from Ukrainian special services.

On Monday, a judge found Permyakov guilty of terrorism, terrorist training, arms trafficking

and forgery, sentencing him to life in prison.

According to investigators, Permyakov entered Russia on a Ukrainian passport after undergoing sabotage training in Ukraine. He is said to have surveilled Prilepin for an extended period and planned to escape using a forged Kazakh passport.

Authorities have issued a search warrant for an unidentified accomplice.

Prilepin, known for his novels based on his experiences fighting with Russian forces in Chechnya, has been a vocal supporter of pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine since 2014.

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