



# PUTIN'S SHADOW WAR

UPPER RAG  
GRANSKIPING

WE E

agerak

The Baltic Sea



# THE COOPERATION

- Joint investigation by Nordic public broadcasters: YLE, NRK, DR, SVT.
- Published in April and May 2023.
- Investigative documentary series: 3 x 60 minutes.
- Podcast series: 7 x 30 minutes.
- Global Impact, news production.



# How to uncover Russia's espionage activities?

- Concept of hybrid warfare on land, at sea and online.

Targets: key infrastructure sites and installations, technology. collecting information about power and internet cables, offshore wind farms, oil and gas pipelines.

- We developed a large database with a graphical interface which could analyze civil vessels and spy ships, their routes linked to subsea infrastructure.
- Espionage as security threat. In the event of a conflict with the West, they are prepared and know how/where they can paralyze our society.



# RUSSIAN SPY SHIPS



- Ten years of data on how Russian vessels allegedly have conducted espionage and intelligence gathering along the Norwegian coast, near Svalbard, and in the Barents Sea.
- Built our own system to analyze millions of AIS-positions. A large database of the ships' own position reports from three different sources, we were able to corroborate Russian civil vessels' historic sailing tracks with the alleged covert activity. They could look for patterns that didn't fit normal civil activity but matched the sources' description of intelligence gathering.
- **Findings:** 50 spy ships in Nordic waters were operating with shut AIS signals – out there mapping critical infrastructure.

# RUSSIAN SPY SHIPS

A person wearing a dark balaclava and a tactical vest is holding a rifle. They are standing on the deck of a ship, with a white railing in the foreground. The background shows the ship's structure and a clear sky.

- One of the 'dark vessels' is the naval ship "Admiral Vladimirsky" - officially used for research expeditions.
- Through a Russian military program, critical infrastructure such as underwater cables and wind farms in the Nordic region is secretly mapped.
- As our crew approached the ship on the sea between Sweden and Denmark, masked men stepped out on the deck. One of them is in uniform, wearing what appears to be a bulletproof vest and armed with a Russian automatic weapon.
- This is what happened →

svt



# RUSSIAN SPY SHIPS

- Arctic cable cut and Nord Stream explosions.
- Was Russia up to something at sea?
  - We used: AIS data collection and analysis. But for the dark vessels that wasn't enough.
  - Intercepted Russian naval communication.
  - Analysis of satellite images.
- **Findings:** Spy ship program mapping critical infrastructure. No proof if sabotage was carried out but could be used for future potential sabotage.
- We mapped the positions of several ships operating nearby the second Nord Stream explosion in the Baltic Sea.



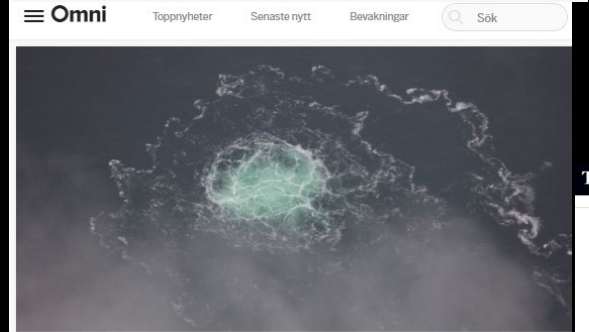


# Ryska spökskepp vid Nord Stream före explosionerna

Uppdrag granskning: Rörde sig långsamt vid explosionsområde

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# RYSKT SKEPP NÄRA NORD STREAM DAGAR INNAN SABOTAGET - UPPDRAG GRANSKNING



### NORD STREAM-LÄCKAN

## Ryska "spökskepp" nära Nord Stream inför sabotage

Det ryska fartyget SB-123 som har kapacitet att utföra undervattensoperationer rörde sig nära explosionsplatserna vid Nord Stream fem dagar före sabotage

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Science that breaks barriers. Discover Nature's Building Blocks. WATCH NOW

Welcome to BBC.com Wednesday, 3 May

Report puts Russian navy ships near pipeline blast site. A documentary reports Russian naval ships were located near the site of the Nord Stream explosions. EUROPE

Russia scales back Victory Day celebrations. EUROPE

Laos government critic gunned down in coffee shop. ASIA

How the ISS will meet a fiery end. FUTURE

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## Russian military ship spotted near Nord Stream pipelines days before blasts

Tugboat capable of launching and rescuing mini-submarines was photographed close to where sabotage took place

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## Nord Stream report uncovers Russian navy surveillance before attack

Mounting evidence points to bombs planted by Putin's forces

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## SVT, DR, NRK, Yle: Russian vessel passed near Nord Stream pipelines 5 days before explosion, had its transponder off

NATIONAL POST

## Russian navy vessels seen near Nord Stream before blasts - Nordic broadcasters report

Reuters

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## More Russian Ships Behaved Oddly Near Site of Nord Stream 2 Blasts, New Report Says

euronews. My Europe World Business Sport Green Next Travel Culture Video Programmes

## Russian 'ghost ships' near Nord Stream before blast - reports

COMMENTS

A handout photo taken from video released by Russian Defence Ministry Press Service on Friday, April 14, 2023. Copyright: JONATHAN NACKSTRAND/AP (3)

sky news 3 May

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## Russian 'ghost ships' with underwater capabilities circled Nord Stream explosion site, documentary claims

A fresh lead points towards Russia's involvement in the 2022 blasts, with broadcasters focusing on suspicious ship movements around the explosion site by analysing data.

i24NEWS TOP STORIES ISRAEL MIDDLE EAST INTERNATIONAL UKRAINE - RUSSIA WAR

## Russian 'ghost ships' near Nord Stream pipelines before blasts - report

i24NEWS May 03, 2023 at 10:59 AM latest revision May 03, 2023 at 01:26 PM

BNN Baltic News Network

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## Media: Russian ships seen at the site of the Nord Stream explosion

RadioFreeEurope Radioliberty

May 03, 2023 By Mike Eckel

## Russian Naval Ships Reportedly Seen Near Site Of Nord Stream Pipeline Explosion Days Prior



Se journalisterna bakom spionavslöjandet

## Reportern om spionkartläggningen: "Det har varit ganska komplicerat"

**EXPRESSEN** START | SPORT PREMIUM LIVESPORT PLAY NOJE KULTUR LEDARE DE

### Uppdrag granskning: 13 spioner på ryska ambassaden

RYSSLAND Publicerat 26 apr 2023 kl 06:35

Under FN:s säkerhetsråd i New York kritiserade han USA för att driva sina egna intressen i Sydkinesiska havet.

Lansers attack på USA under FN-mötet

13 tjänstemän på ryska ambassaden i Stockholm har i själva verket jobbat som spioner, rapporterar Uppdrag granskning. UG, med hänvisning av flera av varandra oberoende källor.

Från DN-skrapans tak har programmet tagit bilder för att kunna identifiera männen som i själva verket är anställda av ryska underrättelsetjänster.

– Det är en dum fråga, vi arbetar alla för utrikesdepartementet, säger en av de utpekade diplomaterna, Vladimir Lyapin, till UG.

Johan Ronge

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# 38 MISSTÄNKTA SPIONER I NORDEN ENLIGT UPPDRAG GRANSKNING

**AFTONBLADET** TORSDAG 27 APRIL 2023 Dagens namn: Engelbrekt

START SPORT PLUS TV NOJE TIPSA KULTUR LEDARE

## "Uppdrag granskning": Flera ryska spioner kvar i Sverige

Svenska Dagbladet Nyheter Näringsliv Kultur Ledare Debatt eSvD

Rysslands invasion av Ukraina

## Ryska svaret: Vi ska utvisa era diplomater

# 21

**RYSKA** diplomater som har varit eller är verksamma i Sverige som misstänkta spioner pekats ut och namnges av SVT:s Uppdrag Granskning. 13 av dem uppges ännu vara i aktiv tjänst i Sverige. I veckan meddelade UG att Sverige utvisar sju tjänstemän vid ryska ambassaden i Stockholm. De omräknade sju namna Sverige eftersöker de. av veckans sammanfattning "inte är i överensstämmelse med Wienkonventionen om diplomatiska förtroendeförhållanden." (TT)

**DAGENS NYHETER.** Nyheter Sverige Världen Ekonomi Kultur

Foto: Magnus Hallgren

## Fem ryska diplomater utvisas från Sverige

**JUST NU** Utrikesminister Tobias Billström till SVT: Aktivitet på vårt territorium.

**RYSKT SPIONAGE**

**Expert: Avslöjade spioner ersätts snart**

1:43 min [Min sida](#) [Dela](#)

**DAGENS NYHETER.** Nyheter Sverige Världen Ekonomi Kultur Sport Klimatet Ledare

**SVERIGE**

## SVT: 13 misstänkta spioner vid ryska ambassaden

## "THE MAGIC LIST"

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- Secret list with names of Russian diplomats / intelligence officers
- Challenge: managing sources
- Verifying information – one source is not enough
- Gathering clues, dots and data
- Dossier center – leaked data



CONT



- Recognize these guys?
- Russian databases helped reveal famous spy cases all over Europe.
- Not so sophisticated as their reputation in the west.
- Intelligence services – conflicts within Russia, competing for Putin’s attention. Registered at their intelligence headquarters, the data brings them out of the shadows, why?

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## Uppdrag granskning

Putins spioner i Sverige

svt

Гражданство	Адрес регистрации	Телефон	Паспорт	Дата выдачи паспорта
	ХОРОШЕВСКОЕ Ш. д.76Б корп. кв.	НЕТ		
	ЖЕЛЕЗНЯКА МАТРОСА БУЛ. д.27 корп. кв.9	89104417853		



Russian Military Intelligence Service,  
→ GRU Headquarters

# Uppdrag granskning

Putins spioner i Sverige

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**SVR**



**GRU**



**FSB**



**NORWAY**

**SWEDEN**

Skagerak

**DENMARK**

## PUTIN'S SPIES

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- They act under diplomatic cover – but are actually russian intelligence officers.
- Uppdrag granskning has investigated 21 suspected agents, 13 of which are active today.
- These are Putin's spies in Sweden.



INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE → SPY MEETS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER IN THE OPEN



10 Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Start Eastern Day

17 — " —————

revers

## ONLINE MISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS



- Danish right-wing activist Rasmus Paludan's burning of the quran and Sweden's turbulent NATO process inspired a Russian influence campaign, leaked documents reveal. In a collaboration, SVT has mapped 10 staged demonstrations.
  - Russian intelligence has planned fake protests in European cities.
  - Documents from within Russian intelligence that describe the campaigns.
- Goal → Create disorder, have Turkish and European media report on the actions.



“WHAT THE KREMLIN DENIES IS USUALLY CORRECT”

**“THEY ARE WRONG”**

→ Dimitri Peskov, Kremlin  
spokesperson





прямой эфир 27/04/23 11:33:39

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.mid.ru



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On April 25, Sweden took a provocative  
step against our country

Брифинг официального представителя МИД России М.В.Захаровой по текущим вопросам внешней политики

# SUMMARY / KEY FINDINGS

## EPISODE 1

Investigating Russian spy ships and dark vessels. 50 ships in Nordic waters were operating with shut down AIS signals – mapping critical infrastructure.

## EPISODE 2

Russian embassies in the Nordic countries. 38 active and former diplomats connected to the SVR, GRU or FSB. In collaboration with the Dossier Center.

## EPISODE 3

Positioning three Russian vessels operating nearby the Nord Stream explosion sites in June and September 2022. One of the vessels was present at the location 5 days before the incident.



# PUTIN'S SHADOW WAR

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THANK U!

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