

THIS PAST FEBRUARY A RUSSIAN DEFECTOR WAS MURDERED IN VILLAJOSOSO, SPAIN. AFTER MUCH INVESTIGATION, SIGNS POINT TO IT BEING A RUSSIAN HIT SQUAD. WHETHER IT WAS OR NOT, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT THE MEN WHO KILLED MAKSIM KUZMINOV WERE SENDING A MESSAGE. BACK IN AUGUST 2023, KUZMINOV TOOK OFF IN A RUSSIAN HELICOPTER WITH TWO FELLOW RUSSIANS ON A CARGO DELIVERY TO ANOTHER RUSSIAN BASE. INSTEAD, HE LANDED IN UKRAINE TO HAND OVER HIS HELICOPTER AND SEVERAL TOP SECRET DOCUMENTS. THE DEATHS OF HIS CREWMATES HAS STILL NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY EXPLAINED. IN DOING SO, HE COMMITTED PUTIN'S NUMBER ONE UNFORGIVEABLE OFFENSE: TREACHERY. ON FEBRUARY 13TH TWO ASSAILANTS JUMPED KUZMINOV IN THE PARKING GARAGE OF HIS APARTMENT BUILDING. HE WAS SHOT SIX TIMES BUT MANAGED TO RUN A SHORT DISTANCE BEFORE COLLAPSING. THE KILLERS RAN HIM OVER ON THEIR WAY OUT OF THE BUILDING. THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT

EVIDENCE OF KREMLIN INVOLVMENT, BUT RUSSIA HAD MADE IT CLEAR THEY WANTED MR. KUZMINOV DEAD. THEY AIRED A NEWS SEGMENT DAYS AFTER HIS DEFECTION OF PILOTS AND COMMANDOS VOWING REVENGE. AFTER HIS DEATH, UKRAINE IS WORRIED ABOUT HOW THIS WILL IMPACT THE LIKELYHOOD OF ANY FURTHER DEFECTORS. “WHO WILL COOPERATE WITH US AFTER THIS?” SAID ONE OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS. ONLY TIME WILL TELL, AS THE INVASION OF UKRAINE CONTINUES TO RAGEE ON.