Battle dredges up fear, financial dirt

“He is a man of the system. We represent an opposing system, and must be undermines,” Shenderovich said.

But others note the struggle for control of Russia’s leading networks — including the initial raids on Media-Most — began under Yeltsin.

“Television has become an integral part of an economy in which the most profitable investments are not in production but in elections. Elections are won not by presenting a superior platform, but by controlling national media,” Yulia Latynina, who recently moved her investigative reporting program from NTV to state-controlled ORT, wrote this week.

NTV once helped demonstrate that theory: In 1996, Gusinsky joined other media executives in backing Yeltsin’s bid for re-election against a popular communist candidate. Gusinsky has since called that a huge mistake.

Meanwhile, Media-Most needs money. Prosecutors say it is more than $800 million in debt. Some paychecks are being delayed.

Prosecutors, tax authorities and creditors have accused Media-Most of a slew of financial sins in recent months:

• Last June, Gusinsky was arrested briefly and charged with defrauding the state in the privatization of a St. Petersburg television station. The charges were dropped after he signed a secret deal to turn over Media-Most to Gazprom. Gusinsky was to receive cash, a debt write-off and freedom from prosecution. Gusinsky refused to honor the deal, saying he signed under duress.

• Prosecutors then charged Gusinsky with overstating his assets in 1996 to receive a $262 million loan from Credit Suisse First Boston, guaranteed by Gazprom. Prosecutors say Media-Most was bankrupt at the time. Gusinsky, who denies wrongdoing, was arrested on those charges in Spain in December.

Rys of violent attacks by Putin’s supporters targeting journalists and opposition figures have increased recently.

Observers say prosecutors under Putin have targeted tycoons who fell out of favor with the Kremlin.

“Gusinsky ran up a lot of debts, he’s no Boy Scout. But I don’t think the importance of NTV has to rest on whether Gusinsky is a virtuous businessman or not,” said Ellen Mickiewicz, director of Duke University’s journalism school and author of a book on Russian television.

Some industry analysts say NTV’s $700 million in annual advertising revenues are the real reason for the struggle. It is the only major media company whose advertising is not managed by the giant Video International, which is closely tied to Press Minister Mikhail Lesin, a Putin ally.

“We used to envy the guys over there, their freer atmosphere and the money,” said Vолодя, a cameraman at the state-run network RTR, who gave only his first name. “Now their guys come to us in the parking lot to ask about a job.”

NTV’s programming is increasingly acidic, particularly in its near-daily reports of prosecutors’ raids on Media-Most’s offices. NTV’s “Turn Out the Light” portrays Kremlin aides as mafia hit men and marked the hospitalized Yeltsin’s 70th birthday this week by offering him a vodka-soaked birthday cake.

“These emotional distortions come from one thing: We are being pressured. You make us hurt, we scream,” said NTV general director Yevgeny Kiselyov.

Kiselyov paces the sagging floors of NTV’s corridors, one ear glued to a cell phone, while lawyers whisper in his other ear. He and colleagues warn Putin is reverting to the methods of his KGB years.

Asbury Park Press
SUNDAY, FEB. 4, 2001

Inskaya touches up outspoken anchor Tatyana Mitkova before an evening newscast on Russia’s largest state-controlled network, NTV in Moscow.
Russia media battle dredges up for

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — When they strode across Red Square for a chance to speak their minds directly to President Vladimir Putin, the top journalists from Russia's largest private television station looked ready to take on the world.

When NTV's stars emerged nearly five hours later, their eyes were drained of fire, their shoulders taut from the heated exchange. Their steely debate partner had called their boss a thief and shrugged off concerns that prosecutors were trying to get them off the air.

Two other guests were at that Kremlin meeting Monday: Russia's top prosecutor, who is trying to put NTV founder Vladimir Gusinsky behind bars for fraud, and the man leading the drive by the gas monopoly Gazprom to claim control of NTV because it can't pay its debts.

"To shut down a television station, one doesn't need to arrest someone. One can use financial management ... It can be like a calm death, and therefore, it's not murder," said NTV satirist Viktor Shenderovich, one of the journalists who met with Putin.

Determining just what the battle over NTV is all about is complex. Is Putin waging a war on media freedom? Or is he trying to root out the "oligarchs" who made fortunes in the 1990s, using Kremlin ties to buy up lucrative state property at knock-down prices? Or is it a fight for NTV's slice of the Russian advertising market?

NTV, short for Independent Television, has been a vigorous critic of the Kremlin's two wars in Chechnya and alleged corruption since its launch in 1993. NTV says its struggle for survival reflects an authoritarian drive to stifle dissent.

U.S. and European officials have rallied behind the network, and CNN founder Ted Turner and financier George Soros have expressed interest in buying a stake to ensure that it survives. During her last days in office, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright accused Putin's government of "trying to undermine the media."

Yet NTV's struggle has raised relatively little protest among Russian citizens. They value its professional coverage, but largely back Putin's pledges to restore order and have little pity for Gusinsky.

Gusinsky is sequestered in his Spanish villa under house arrest while Russian clamos for his extradition.

Gusinsky and Russia's other "oligarchs" have claimed it was impossible to do business in the chaotic first years of post-Soviet reform by obeying the law. Putin says that's no reason to let them off the hook.

Observers say prosecutors under Putin have targeted tycoons who fell out of favor with the Kremlin.

"Gusinsky ran up a lot of debts, he's no Boy Scout. But I don't think the importance of NTV has to rest on whether Gusinsky is a virtuous businessman or not," said Ellen Mickiewicz, director of Duke University's journalism school and author of a book on Russian television.

Some industry analysts say NTV's $700 million in annual advertising revenues are the real reason for the struggle. It is the only major media company whose advertising is not managed by the giant Video International, which is closely tied to Press Minister Mikhail Lesin, a Putin ally.

"We used to envy the guys over there, their freer atmosphere and the money," said Voodya, a cameraman at the state-run network RTR, who gave only his first name. "Now their guys come to us in the parking lot to ask about a job."

NTV's programming is increasingly acidic, particularly in its near-daily reports of prosecutors' raids on Media-Most's
Total Deleted Page(s) = 33
Page 7 ~ Duplicate;
Page 25 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 26 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 27 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 28 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 29 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 30 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 31 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 32 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 33 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 34 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 35 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 36 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 37 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 38 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 39 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 40 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 41 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 42 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 43 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 44 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 45 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 46 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 47 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 48 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 49 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 50 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 51 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 52 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 53 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 54 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 55 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 56 ~ Referral/Direct;

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X  Deleted Page(s)  X
X  No Duplication Fee  X
X  For this Page  X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Opening EC

Date: 04/13/2016

From: WASHINGTON FIELD
WF-CR2

Contact: ____________________________  b6 -1

Approved By: SSA______________________ b7C -1

Drafted By: __________________________

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094 (U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Synopsis: (U) The captioned case is being opened to assist United States Attorney's Office District of Columbia and the Metropolitan Police Department in the homicide investigation of Mikhail Lesin.

Full Investigation Initiated: 04/13/2016

Details:

The United States Attorney's Office District of Columbia (UAO-DC) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have requested assistance in the homicide investigation of Mikhail Lesin, former Russian political figure, media executive, and an adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32a.m., Lesin, with DOB: 07/11/1958, was found dead inside his hotel room, the Dupont Circle Hotel located at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. After an autopsy was performed, a Deputy Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of Lesin's death was blunt force trauma.
By way of background, on Monday afternoon, November 2, 2015, Lesin checked into the Four Seasons Hotel at 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, Lesin was expected to attend a dinner and fundraiser honoring The fundraiser was organized by the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Kennan Institute, which works to build ties between Russia and the West. Lesin, however, failed to appear at the dinner and fundraiser.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, November 4, 2015, Lesin, who had been consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, left with Four Seasons Hotel without checking out, and he checked into the Dupont Circle Hotel. The next morning, Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32 a.m., Lesin was found dead inside his hotel room. After an autopsy was performed, a Deputy Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of Lesin’s death was blunt force injuries to his head. The Examiner found that contributing causes to Lesin’s death were blunt force injuries of the neck, torso, upper extremities, and lower extremities. The Examiner also ruled that the manner of Lesin’s death was “undetermined.”

The USAO-DC and MPD are seeking the assistance of the FBI in the investigation into Lesin’s death. Specifically, they would like to have a forensic examination done of surveillance footage from the Dupont Circle Hotel by the FBI’s Forensic Audio, Video and Image Analysis Unit (FAVIAU). A lead will be set under a separate cover.

***
Event Title: (U) Evidence Submission                                Date: 07/12/2016

Approved By: A/SSA                                                   

Drafted By:                                                       

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094                                     (U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Full Investigation Initiated: 04/13/2016

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) FD-597

Collected From: AUSA
United States Attorney's Office - District of Columbia
555 4th Street, NW
Washington, District Of Columbia 20535
United States

Receipt Given?: Yes

Holding Office: WASHINGTON FIELD

Details:

Submission of evidence described as an external hard drive labeled
Diamond Cipher Exdrive/Addonics Technologies HD-24, to the captioned
case file for anticipated lead to OTD's FAVIAU.

Item Type   Description

UNCLASSIFIED

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its
contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.
1B General
(U) External Hard Drive labeled Diamond Cipher Exdrive/Addonics Technologies HD-24 with black charging cords (3).
Collected On: 07/06/2016 11:35 AM EDT
Seizing Individual: ____________________________
Collected By: ____________________________
Location Area: USAO-DC
Specific Location: 555 4th Street NW
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Receipt for Property

Case ID: 3436-WF-7464094
On (date) July 6, 2010

Item(s) listed below were:
Collected/Seized
Received From
Returned To
Released To

(Name) AUSA

(Street Address) USAO @ 555 4th St, NW

(City) Washington, D.C.

Description of Item(s):
On Wednesday, July 6, 2010 at approximately 11:35 am, SA received a computer hard drive from AUSA that will be sent to the FBI Lab for analysis.

Described below:
- External hard drive "Diamond Cipher Exdrive"
- Addonics Technologies HD-24
- with 3 black cords / charging

Received By: 

Printed Name/Title: SA

Received From: 

Printed Name/Title: 

(Signature)
On Wednesday, July 6, 2016, SA [name redacted] met with Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) [name redacted] at the United States Attorney's Office (USAO), located at 555 4th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. to discuss the captioned case matter.

AUSA [name redacted] provided an external hard drive, labeled Diamond Cipher Exdrive/Addonics Technologies HD-24, that was retrieved from the Dupont Circle Hotel, located at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., and contained over 300 hours of footage from [name redacted] security CCTV cameras.

The aforementioned external hard drive will be sent to the FBI's Operational Technology Division's Forensic Audio/Video Image Analysis Unit (FAVIAU) for logical analysis to be conducted.
UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Electronic Communication

Title: (U) WFO sets lead to FAVIAU

Date: 07/22/2016

CC:

From: WASHINGTON FIELD
WF-CR2

Contact:

Approved By: SSA

Drafted By:

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094
(U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Synopsis: (U) To request the assistance of the Operational Technology Division's Forensic Audio, Video, and Image Analysis Unit with video authentication, enhancement of the footage, and video still image processing.

Full Investigation Initiated: 04/13/2016

Details:

The Washington Field Office's (WFO) Violent Crimes Task Force, Squad CR-2, requests the assistance of the Operational Technology Division's Forensic Audio, Video, and Image Analysis Unit with video authentication, enhancement of the footage with time stamps provided, and video still image processing.

SA met with Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) at the United States Attorney's Office (USAO), located at 555 4th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., who provided an external hard drive, labeled Diamond Cipher Exdrive/Addonics Technologies HD-24, that was
Title:  (U) WFO sets lead to FAVIAU
Re:  343G-WF-7464094, 07/22/2016

retrieved from the Dupont Circle Hotel, located at 1500 New Hampshire
Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., and contained over 300 hours of footage
from security CCTV cameras. Consent has been granted by
the USAO-DC and the Dupont Hotel Security Personnel Office for a FAVIAU
analysis to be conducted.

WFO's ECC will provide 1B-1 (External Hard Drive labeled Diamond
Cipher Exdrive/Addonics Technologies HD-24 with black charging cords)
to FAVIAU for analysis.

The analysis requested;

- Examine the footage from but one of the cameras, that
  being camera at the Dupont Circle
  Hotel. That footage runs for some thirty hours, from 5:31:42 a.m.,
  on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, through 11:36:21 a.m., on Thursday,
  November 5, 2015. Attempt to determine if the footage from that
  camera has been tampered with in any way. Please provide insight
  into the tampering examination that FAVIAU will conduct to the
  AUSA.

- Attempt to extract pictures from the video footage and focus
  on the back of Lesin’s head. Frames to extract;

  - The camera at 10:33:25 a.m., on
    November 4, 2015. This frame captures a rather clear picture
    of the back of Lesin’s head
    the Dupont Circle Hotel for the last time.

  - The frame from the camera at 10:48:20
    a.m., on November 4, 2015. This frame also captures the back
    of Lesin’s head as - for the last time - he heads to his suite
    (Room 903) on the 9th floor of the Dupont Circle Hotel. After
    entering his room, Lesin is not seen leaving that room before
    being found dead at 11:32 a.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2015
    (approximately twenty-five hours).
UNCLASSIFIED

Title: (U) WPO sets lead to FAVIAU
Re: 343G-WF-7464094, 07/22/2016

- Any additional frames of the back of Lesin’s head.

By way of background, the USAO-DC and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have requested assistance in the homicide investigation of Mikhail Lesin, former Russian political figure, media executive, and an adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32 a.m., Lesin, with DOB: 07/11/1958, was found dead inside his hotel room, the Dupont Circle Hotel located at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. After an autopsy was performed, a Deputy Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of Lesin’s death was blunt force trauma.

On Monday afternoon, November 2, 2015, Lesin checked into the Four Seasons Hotel at 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, Lesin was expected to attend a dinner and fundraiser honoring... The fundraiser was organized by the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Kennan Institute, which works to build ties between Russia and the West. Lesin, however, failed to appear at the dinner and fundraiser.

In the early morning hours of Wednesday, November 4, 2015, Lesin, who had been consuming excessive amounts of alcohol, left with Four Seasons Hotel without checking out, and he checked into the Dupont Circle Hotel. The next morning, Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32 a.m., Lesin was found dead inside his hotel room. After an autopsy was performed, a Deputy Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of Lesin’s death was blunt force injuries to his head. The
UNCLASSIFIED

Title:  (U) WFO sets lead to FAVIAU
Re:  343G-WF-7464094, 07/22/2016

Examiner found that contributing causes to Lesin’s death were blunt force injuries of the neck, torso, upper extremities, and lower extremities. The Examiner also ruled that the manner of Lesin’s death was “undetermined.”

The USAO-DC and MPD are seeking the assistance of the FBI in the investigation into Lesin’s death. Specifically, they would like to have a forensic examination done of surveillance footage from the Dupont Circle Hotel by the FBI’s FAVIAU.

♦♦♦
Form Type: DEL-REX

Title: (U) Request# HQQ160803007 AI

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094  (U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Synopsis: (U) RE: 07/22/2016

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) Request# HQQ160803007 AI; retained at ERF

**
UNCLASSIFIED
Physical 1A/1C Cover Sheet for Serial Export

Created From: 343G-WF-7464094
Serial 5

Package: 1A3

Stored Location: None

Summary: (U) 3 Lab Report, 4 Comm Log, 19 Case Notes, 2 Shipping invoice, 1 Review Form, 6 Request Docs, 18-5 containing 18 prepared photos/charts from HQQ005502 and 1 DVD-R copy of HQQ005501 images/charts along with processing information and 1 DVD-R (DEMS)

Acquired By: b6 -1
Acquired On: 2016-08-18
Attachment: (U) Request# HQQ160803007 AI; retained at ERF
REPORT OF EXAMINATION

To: Washington Field
WF-CR2
Special Agent (SA)

Date: August 18, 2016
Case ID: 343G-WF-7464094
Request No.: HQQ160803007 AI

Request Date: July 22, 2016
Ref. No.: Serial 4
Title: (U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Date item(s) received: August 3, 2016

Item(s) Submitted:

HQQ005502 One Addonics Diamond Cipher Hard Drive Kit marked in part “HD-24”
“Y 53517” (1B1, E5490468)

HQQ004751 One Seagate ST3000DM001 3TB hard drive inside of HQQ005502
(s/n: W500QZSE) (1B1, E5490468)

Request:

The Forensic Audio, Video and Image Analysis Unit was requested through an electronic
communication dated July 22, 2016, by SA of the Washington Field Office
to conduct an authenticity examination on the submitted HQQ005502 specimen. Specifically,
it was requested to determine if the questioned surveillance video was tampered with in any
way.

Summary of Results:

A video authenticity examination was conducted on the questioned surveillance video
recording. Selected images from the questioned recordings were electronically processed and
printed.
Details of Examination:

The submitted HQQ005502 Addonics Diamond Cipher Hard Drive Kit specimen containing the HQQ004751 Seagate 3TB hard drive was write protected, examined and the pertinent questioned surveillance video recordings were analyzed. The submitted HQQ005502 specimen also contained the [non-sequitur] that allows playback of the questioned videos along with viewing of the channel properties for each camera recording. The questioned surveillance recordings were examined using the [non-sequitur] and to critically review the video that was recorded.

Selected images from the questioned surveillance recordings were electronically processed and printed. Prepared from the questioned recordings were two sets of photographs and charts along with a DVD-R containing the processed digital images and charts. The DVD-R containing the processed digital images and charts from HQQ005502 was marked as “Results 1” (HQQ004767). A DVD-R containing a copy of the HQQ005502 digital images and charts along with processing information was also created.

Opinions:

The [channel name] camera is [non-sequitur] This proprietary recording that is played through the [proprietary software] contains the camera name along with date and time information and channel properties. The [channel name] camera is also synchronized with the [channel name] camera. The [proprietary software] has an authenticate tool that when selected responds with “Authentication succeeded”.

No indication was found of editing or alteration of the content of the [channel name] camera recording from HQQ005502.

Derivative Evidence/Copies:

Results 1 - One DVD-R of the processed digital images and charts (HQQ004767).

Two sets of eighteen prepared photographs and charts from the HQQ005502 video.

One DVD-R containing a copy of the HQQ005502 digital images and charts along with processing information.

Disposition:

The submitted specimen, Results 1 and the prepared photographs and charts from HQQ005502 were forwarded to your office under separate cover via FBI courier on August 18, 2016. The DVD-R containing a copy of the HQQ005502 digital images and charts along with processing information will be retained in the case file.
UNCLASSIFIED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Update/Meetings attended

From: WASHINGTON FIELD
WF-CR2

Date: 02/10/2017

Contact: ____________________________

Approved By: SSA ___________________

b6 -1 b7c -1

Drafted By: _________________________

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094

(U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Synopsis: (U) To provide updated information to the captioned case file.

Full Investigation Initiated: 04/13/2016

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) USAO Press Release/Lesin

Details:

The United States Attorney's Office District of Columbia (USAO-DC) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have requested assistance in the undetermined death investigation of Mikhail Lesin, former Russian political figure, media executive, and an adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32 a.m., Lesin, with DOB: 07/11/1958, was found dead inside his hotel room, the Dupont Circle Hotel located at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. After an autopsy was performed, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ruled that the cause of Lesin's death was blunt force trauma.

UNCLASSIFIED
In April 2016, AUSA_ contacted SA_ and requested a preliminary review of the Lesin investigation. SA_ began assisting AUSA_ who was assigned the captioned case matter for the USAO.

On July 22, 2016, SA_ assisted the USAO-DC and MPD with seeking a forensic examination of the surveillance footage from the Dupont Circle Hotel by the FBI's Forensic Audio, Video and Image Analysis Unit (FAVIAU). It was requested that FAVIAU confirm video authenticity, enhance footage with time stamps provided, and provide video still images of Lesin's head area.

On July 27, 2016, SA_ and AUSA_ along with MPD, met with Dr. Roger Mitchell Jr., Chief Medical Examiner, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - District of Columbia, to discuss the case and autopsy results.

On September 13, 2016, SA_ AUSA_ MPD, and the USAO's Chief of the Homicide Unit, met again with Dr. Mitchell to discuss the investigative findings.

Lesin's manner of death was originally ruled undetermined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The investigation has now revealed that Lesin's manner of death was accidental with acute ethanol intoxication as a contributory cause of death. The investigation also revealed that there was no evidence to indicate that Lesin died as a result of homicide or criminal conduct by a third party.
UNCLASSIFIED

Title: (U) Update/Meetings attended
Re: 343G-WF-7464094, 02/10/2017

On October 28, 2016, the USAO and MPD released a statement to the press/media stating the investigative findings. Attached hereto find the press release.

Investigation Into the Death of Mikhail Lesin Has Closed;
Manner of Death Determined an Accident

WASHINGTON — The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, with assistance from the FBI, have concluded a comprehensive investigation into the death last year of Mikhail Lesin, a Russian political figure, media executive, and adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia. As a result of the almost year-long investigation, the Chief Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia has amended Mr. Lesin’s manner of death from “undetermined” to “accident” with acute ethanol intoxication as a contributory cause of death. The investigation has now been closed.

Based on evidence gathered during the investigation, Mr. Lesin, 57, entered his room at the Dupont Circle Hotel for the final time at about 10:48 a.m., on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, after days of excessive consumption of alcohol. Based on the evidence, including video footage and witness interviews, Mr. Lesin entered his hotel room on the morning of Wednesday, November 4, 2015, after days of excessive consumption of alcohol and sustained the
injuries that resulted in his death while alone in his hotel room. He was found dead late on Thursday morning, November 5, 2015.

After review of the video footage and new evidence developed from the investigation, the Chief Medical Examiner has determined that Mr. Lesin died as a result of blunt force injuries to his head, with contributing causes being blunt force injuries of the neck, torso, upper extremities, and lower extremities, which were induced by falls, with acute ethanol intoxication.
PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 28, 2016

For Information Contact:
Public Affairs
(202) 252-6933

Investigation Into the Death of Mikhail Lesin Has Closed; Manner of Death Determined an Accident

WASHINGTON - The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, with assistance from the FBI, have concluded a comprehensive investigation into the death last year of Mikhail Lesin, a Russian political figure, media executive, and adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia. As a result of the almost year-long investigation, the Chief Medical Examiner of the District of Columbia has amended Mr. Lesin’s manner of death from “undetermined” to “accident” with acute ethanol intoxication as a contributory cause of death. The investigation has now been closed.

Based on evidence gathered during the investigation, Mr. Lesin, 57, entered his room at the Dupont Circle Hotel for the final time at about 10:48 a.m., on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, after days of excessive consumption of alcohol. Based on the evidence, including video footage and witness interviews, Mr. Lesin entered his hotel room on the morning of Wednesday, November 4, 2015, after days of excessive consumption of alcohol and sustained the injuries that resulted in his death while alone in his hotel room. He was found dead late on Thursday morning, November 5, 2015.

After review of the video footage and new evidence developed from the investigation, the Chief Medical Examiner has determined that Mr. Lesin died as a result of blunt force injuries to his head, with contributing causes being blunt force injuries of the neck, torso, upper extremities, and lower extremities, which were induced by falls, with acute ethanol intoxication.

16-208

##
Title: (U) USAO briefs Russian Officials

Date: 02/13/2017

From: WASHINGTON FIELD
WF-CR2

Contact:

Approved By: SSA

Drafted By:

Case ID #: 343G-WF-7464094 (U) UNSUB (S);
Mikhail Lesin - Victim;
POLICE COOPERATION/MPD - HOMICIDE;
11/5/2015

Synopsis: (U) To provide updated information to the captioned case file.

Full Investigation Initiated: 04/13/2016

Enclosure(s): Enclosed are the following items:
1. (U) Lesin PowerPoint presentation
2. (U) Lesin amended autopsy

Details:

SA of the Washington Field Office's (WFO) Violent Crimes Task Force and AUSA of the United States Attorney's Office District of Columbia (USAO-DC) were requested to provide a briefing to Russian Embassy Officials regarding the death investigation of Mikhail Lesin, former Russian political figure, media executive, and an adviser to Vladimir Putin, the President of Russia.

By way of background, on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at approximately 11:32 a.m., Lesin, with DOB: 07/11/1958, was found dead inside his hotel room, the Dupont Circle Hotel located at 1500 New...
Hampshire Avenue, N.W. After an autopsy was performed, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner initially ruled that the cause of Lesin’s death was undetermined due to blunt force trauma. At the conclusion of an extensive investigation, an amended report was delivered by the Office of the Medical Examiner in September 2016 ruling Lesin's manner of death accidental with acute ethanol intoxication as a contributory cause of death. The investigation revealed that there was no evidence to indicate that Lesin died as a result of homicide or criminal conduct by a third party.

On February 6, 2017, a briefing was held at the USAO with SA AUSA Chief of USAO's Homicide Section, AUSA FBI Headquarters International Operations Eurasia Unit, A/SSA and MAPA Department of Justice's and the State Department's Also in attendance, was the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department Representative to the U.S., Embassy of Russian Federation and to the Embassy of Russian Federation, located at 2650 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., with telephone number 202-298-5700.

The meeting provided detailed information and a timeline leading up to the discovery of Lesin's body. Attached hereto in a digital 1A envelope find the provided PowerPoint presentation and the amended Lesin autopsy.
Title:  (U) USAO briefs Russian Officials
Re:  343G-WF-7464094, 02/13/2017

***
CASE NUMBER: 15-02663

NAME OF DECEDENT: MIKHAIL LESIN

AGE: 57 YEARS RACE: WHITE GENDER: MALE

DATE OF DEATH: NOVEMBER 5, 2015 AUTOPSY DATE: NOVEMBER 6, 2015

I. Blunt force injuries
   A. Head
      1. 
      2. 
      3. 
      4. 
      5. 
      6. 
      7. 
      a. 
      b. 
     8. 
      a. 
      b. 
      c. 
      d. 
   B. Neck
      1. 
      2. 
      3. 
      4. 
   C. Torso
      1. 
      2. 
      3.
CAUSE OF DEATH:  BLUNT FORCE INJURIES OF THE HEAD

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:  BLUNT FORCE INJURIES OF THE NECK, TORSO, UPPER EXTREMITIES AND LOWER EXTREMITIES WITH ACUTE ETHANOL INTOXICATION*

MANNER OF DEATH:  ACCIDENT*

*Amendment Note: The law enforcement investigation was completed resulting in the amendment of both cause and manner of death.
LABORATORY PROCEDURES

RADIOLOGY EXAMINATION

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS
BODY MARKINGS

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

Head and neck:
1. External:
   A.
   B.
   C.
   D.
   E.
   F.
   G.
   H.
   I.
   J.
   K.
   L.
   M.
   N.

b6 -4
b7c -4
II. Subgaleal and soft tissue hemorrhage:

A. 
B. 
C. 
D. 
E. 
F. 
G. 
H. 
I. 
J. 
K. 
L. 
M. 

III. Internal:

A. 
1. 
2. 

IV. Neck:

A. 
B. 
C. 
D. 
E. 

Torso:

I. External:

A.
NOTE: The above injuries are not repeated again in the "Internal Examination" section below.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION
NECK:

HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM:

SPECIMENS

TOXICOLOGIC EXAMINATION
See toxicology report.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION
Liver A1:

AMENDED BY:

Roger A. Mitchell, Jr. M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner  

[Signature]
Date Signed

8/12/16
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
401 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20024
Telephone: 202-698-9059  Fax: 202-698-9104

TOXICOLOGY REPORT

CASE IDENTIFICATION
Toxicology Number: TX15-1176
Name: LESIN, Mikhail
Report Date: 12/11/2015
Agency Name: OCME
Agency Number: 15-02663
Medical Examiner: 

SPECIMEN(S) RECEIVED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Date Received</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>b6 - 4,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>b7C - 4,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Compound</th>
<th>Method 1</th>
<th>Method 2</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ELECTROLYTE PANEL RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pH</th>
<th>Na+ (mmol/L)</th>
<th>K+ (mmol/L)</th>
<th>Cl- (mmol/L)</th>
<th>Glu (mg/dL)</th>
<th>VUN (mg/dL)</th>
<th>Creat (mg/dL)</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

ANALYSIS DESCRIPTION

COMMENTS

Items #1 and #10 were analyzed by

LUCAS W. ZARWELL, MFS, D-ABFT-FT
Chief Toxicologist, OCME

SAMANTHA S. TOLLIVER, PhD., NRCC-TC
Deputy Chief Toxicologist, OCME

I certify that I am the Chief Toxicologist of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) for the District of Columbia or their designee. The laboratory results summarized above were correctly determined by proper laboratory procedure, are accurately set forth in this official report, and are certified by me to be accurate. In addition, I certify that the above analyses were conducted while safeguarding the chain of custody of the specimens being analyzed.

TX15-1176 Page 1 of 2
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
401 E Street, S.W., 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20024

ME Case#: 15-02663
NAME: Lesin, Mikhail
AGE: 57 Years   RACE: White
SEX: Male   DATE: 11/5/2015
MD:   

b6  -4,5  
b7c  -4,5
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
ME Case#: 15-02663
NAME: Lesin Mikhail
AGE: 59 Years    Race: White
SEX: Male    DATE: 11/6/2015
Color:       MD:       Case No:       Date: 
Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
Report of Anthropology Consultation

CASE NUMBER: 15-02663

NAME OF DECEDEENT: MIKHAIL LESIN

AGE: 57 YEARS RACE: WHITE GENDER: MALE

DATE OF DEATH: NOVEMBER 5, 2015

EXAMINATION DATE: NOVEMBER 19, 2015

PATHOLOGIST: 

ANTHROPOLOGIST: 

FBI 17-cv-01525-76
Georgetown University Hospital
Department of Pathology
Med Dent Building, SW 201
3900 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007
Phone: (202)784-3614

Patient: LESIN, MIKHAIL
Med Rec #: GUH-000000092557
Account #: GUH-02200992838
Date of Birth: 07/11/1958 Age: 57 years Sex: Male
Location: GUH AP Neuropath GUH ClinLab

Admit/Discharge: 12/08/2015 - 01/07/2016
Ordering Doctor: 
Copy to: N/A

Pathology Consultation Report

Accession Number Procedure Date/Time Received Date/Time Verified Date/Time Pathologist

12/08/2015 17:06 EST 12/08/2015 17:06 EST 01/20/2016 12:38 EST

Final Diagnosis
OCME CASES 15-2663

I.

II.

III.

Hereby I certify that I have personally examined the above specimen and reviewed the report.

(Electronically signed 01/20/2016)

Microscopic Description

N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A
N/A

Print Date/Time: 01/20/2016 13:18
Chart Request ID: 81372499

Page 1 of 3

www.medstarhealth.org
Patient: LESIN, MIKHAIL
Med Rec #: GUH-000008092557
Account #: GUH-02200992838
Date of Birth: 07/11/1955 Age: 57 years Sex: Male
Location: GUH AP Neuropath GUH ClinLab

Georgetown University Hospital

Pathology Consultation Report

Accession Number
Procedure Date/Time 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Received Date/Time 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Verified Date/Time 01/20/2016 12:38 EST
Pathologist

Case Number(s), Slide(s)/Block(s)
20 SLIDES RECEIVED FROM THE OCME'S OFFICE; WASHINGTON, DC LABELED 15-2663; 10 SLIDES ARE UNSTAINED 12/8/15

Clinical Information

Gross Description

Cerebral hemispheres:

Cerebellum:

Brain stem:

Cut surface examination:

Cerebral hemispheres:
Georgetown University Hospital

Pathology Consultation Report

Accession Number: [Blank]
Procedure Date/Time: 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Received Date/Time: 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Verified Date/Time: 01/20/2016 12:38 EST
Pathologist: [Blank]

Cerebellum: [Blank]
Brain stem and Midbrain: [Blank]

Spinal Cord: None submitted for review.

Summary of Sections:
B1: [Blank]
B2: [Blank]
B3: [Blank]
B4: [Blank]
B5: [Blank]
B6: [Blank]
B7: [Blank]
B8: [Blank]

Source of Specimen
OCME of DC.

Print Date/Time: 1/20/2016 13:18
Chart Request ID: 81372499

www.medstarhealth.org

Page 3 of 3
# Pathology Consultation Report

**Accession Number:**

**Procedure Date/Time:** 12/08/2015 17:06 EST

**Received Date/Time:** 12/08/2015 17:06 EST

**Verified Date/Time:** 01/28/2016 15:39 EST

**Pathologist:**

---

**Corrected Report Reason:** This report is corrected to add the comment section which was left off the original.

**Date/Time of Correction:** 1/28/16

**Initials:**

---

**Final Diagnosis**

**OCME CASE: 15-2663**

---

**Comment:**

---

**Print Date/Time:** 1/28/2016 15:46

**Chart Request ID:** 81525856

---

www.medstarhealth.org

---

FBI 17-cv-01525-83
Georgetown University Hospital

Patient: LESIN, MIKHAIL
Med Rec #: GUH-0000008092557
Account #: GUH-0220992838
Date of Birth: 07/11/1958 Age: 57 years Sex: Male
Location: GUH AP Neuropath GUH ClinLab

Admit/Discharge: 12/08/2015 / 01/07/2016
Ordering Doctor: [ ]
Copy to: N/A

Pathology Consultation Report

Accession Number
Procedure Date/Time 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Received Date/Time 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Verified Date/Time 01/28/2016 15:39 EST
Pathologist

essential.

Herby I certify that I have personally examined the above specimen and reviewed the report.

(Electronically signed 01/28/2016)

Microscopic Description

Case Number(s), Slide(s)/Block(s)
20 SLIDES RECVD FROM THE OCME'S OFFICE; WASHINGTON, DC LABELED 15-2663; 10 SLIDES ARE UNSTAINED, [ ] 12/8/15

Clinical Information

Print Date/Time: 1/28/2016 15:46
Chart Request ID: 81525856

www.medstarhealth.org

Page 2 of 4
Pathology Consultation Report

Accession Number: 
Procedure Date/Time: 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Received Date/Time: 12/08/2015 17:06 EST
Verified Date/Time: 01/28/2016 15:39 EST

Gross Description

Cerebral hemispheres:

Cerebellum:

Brain stem:

Cut surface examination:

Cerebral hemispheres:

Cerebellum:

Brain stem and Midbrain:

Summary of Sections:

B1: 
B2: 
B3: 
B4: 
B5: 
B6: 
B7: 

Print Date/Time: 1/28/2016 15:46
Chart Request ID: 81525856
# Pathology Consultation Report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accession Number</th>
<th>Procedure Date/Time</th>
<th>Received Date/Time</th>
<th>Verified Date/Time</th>
<th>Pathologist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/08/2015 17:06 EST</td>
<td>12/08/2015 17:06 EST</td>
<td>01/28/2016 15:30 EST</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source of Specimen**

OCME of DC.