

Russian judge linked to false IDs, killing

by UPI

MOSCOW -- The FBI connected a Russian judge to the issuance of falsified passports linked to the disappearance of a U.S. businessman. FBI investigators filed an affidavit in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City that said Marina Gorbachyova, a former Russian judge, was involved in producing and transferring false passports with her brother, Egor Chernov. The FBI arrested Chernov after he was presented with false Bulgarian identification documents showing his picture with an alias, the Moscow Times reported Wednesday. The FBI linked the falsified passports attributed to Chernov with the disappearance of Rex Judd, a motivational speaker facing tax-evasion charges. Chernov allegedly supplied Judd with falsified Russian papers to flee the United States to Thailand. Chernov allegedly ordered the death of Judd once he arrived in Thailand, the Times reported. FBI Special Field Agent Gregory Coleman said in the affidavit that Chernov "stated that his sister knew someone who worked for the chief of staff of the Russian president and could get falsified Belorussian passports." Gorbachyova said she was unaware the FBI targeted her as a co-conspirator in the case, telling the Times, "I don't have any relation to the presidential administration and I never had any connection to faked passports."

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