

## Report: Latvia expels Russian diplomat

*by UPI*

RIGA, Latvia -- A Russian diplomat once accused of plotting to assassinate the Georgian president has been expelled from Latvia, a Latvian TV report said.

The report from TV5 said the diplomat, Alexander Khapilov, an adviser to the ambassador, had been reassigned but did not say where.

The press attache for the Russian Embassy in Latvia denied in an interview with TV5 that Khapilov had been expelled from the country, RIA Novosti said. Latvia's Foreign Ministry declined comment.

Another Latvian TV channel, citing sources, reported in October that while serving in Tbilisi, Khapilov had attempted to arrange the assassination of Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili.

The Russian Embassy in Riga has denied that Khapilov was involved in plotting to assassinate Saakashvili.

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