

Witness: Exile behind Litvinenko death

by UPI

MOSCOW - A mystery witness told Russian state television that exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky may have been behind the killing of a former KGB agent.

The man, identified only as Pyotr, claimed that Berezovsky, who now lives in London, tried to recruit him in 2003 to stage an assassination attempt. Pyotr said that Alexander Litvinenko may have been poisoned in Britain with a radioactive substance because he knew too much about a similar attempt.

Berezovsky, a former supporter of President Vladimir Putin who later broke with him, called Pyotr's claims "a comedy farce," The Telegraph reports.

"All these many theories that keep emerging are only consequences of the fact that the Russian authorities want to cover up this crime," he told Russian reporters. "It's completely obvious that all the trails lead to Moscow -- and right to the top. Without the state's involvement -- without the involvement of Putin himself -- no one could have committed such crimes."

Litvinenko died in a London hospital blaming Putin for his death.

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