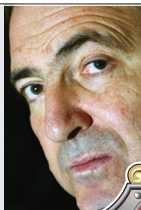


# Putin “probably” behind Litvinenko murder

■ **1998:** Russian agent **Alexander Litvinenko** claims at Moscow news conference that **FSB** instructed him to kill high-profile Russian oligarch **Boris Berezovsky** ▶



■ **1999:** Litvinenko jailed for nine months on charges of abuse of office within FSB

■ **2000:** Flees Russia with help of Berezovsky, gains political asylum in Britain

■ **2002:** Co-writes book accusing FSB of carrying out 1999 apartment block bombings that killed over 300 people – blamed on Chechen rebels

■ **2003:** Litvinenko recruited by British intelligence service **MI6** as paid informant on organised crime

■ **2006:** Begins investigating assassination of journalist **Anna Politkovskaya** – long-term critic of Kremlin



**Alexander Litvinenko**

■ **May 2007:** UK prosecutors decide Lugovoi should face trial for murder of Litvinenko

■ **Jul:** Moscow refuses extradition request for Lugovoi. UK announces expulsion of four Russian diplomats. Moscow responds in kind

■ **May-Jun 2013:** Inquest into Litvinenko's death delayed as coroner decides public inquiry would be preferable, giving it power to hear some evidence in secret

■ **Jul:** UK Government rules out public inquiry

■ **Jan 2014:** Litvinenko's widow **Marina** in High Court fight to force public inquiry



■ **Feb:** High Court overrules Home Office decision not to hold inquiry

■ **Jan 2015:** Public inquiry begins

■ **Jan 21, 2016:** Inquiry concludes “strong probability” that FSB directed killing, and President Putin “probably approved” plan



■ **Nov 1, 2006:** Litvinenko meets Russian associates **Andrei Lugovoi** (left) and **Dmitry Kovtun** at London hotel. Litvinenko falls ill that night and is admitted to hospital three days later

■ **Nov 23:** Litvinenko dies in intensive care – death attributed to radioactive polonium-210 administered in cup of tea