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## Russia Charges 2 Doctors Over Magnitsky's Death

Russia said it charged two doctors at a Moscow jail with causing the death of lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, AFP reported.

Magnitsky's death ignited worldwide outrage, and he has been hailed as a martyr by activist groups. The Investigative Committee said it had "established a direct link between Magnitsky's death and actions of the doctors in the jail," and charged doctors Larisa Litvinova and Dmitry Kratov.

Litvinova is charged with negligence and manslaughter, and AFP reports she could face three years behind bars. Kratov is charged with carelessness and could face up to five years in prison. Neither appeared to be contacted for comment by AFP.



Sergei Magnitsky on Dec. 29, 2006.

AFP/Getty Images

As a lawyer for Hermitage Capital Management, a Western investment firm that had huge holdings in Russia, Magnitsky claimed to have uncovered a scheme used by police officials to reclaim about \$235 million in taxes paid by his employer. However, he was jailed for the crimes he said he was exposing and died while in pretrial custody at Moscow's most infamous prison, Butyrka.

A Kremlin human rights council [said in a July report](#) it believed Magnitsky was beaten to death while in custody. The report, which said the charges may have been false, also blamed officials far more senior than the two jail doctors, though they have not faced legal proceedings.

William Browder, head of Hermitage, has been the principal voice in [keeping his case alive](#). In a July interview with Corruption Currents, Browder [doubted](#) that justice for Magnitsky's death would be served by Russia.

The U.S., in response to the incident, quietly announced a blacklist of Russian officials it says were involved in the death, an act that prompted a [tit-for-tat response](#) from Moscow.

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