

Is it true the ICC prosecutor issued an arrest warrant for Putin in exchange for the release of his paedophile brother? ([Original publication](#))

In March 2023, Russian officials and media outlets publicized a statement that the issuing of an arrest warrant by the ICC for the Russian president was related to the decision to release Imran Ahmad Khan, who is the brother of the court's prosecutor and who was serving a sentence for sexual harassing a teenager. We checked whether these claims hold water.

On March 18, 2023, Stanislav Stremidlovsky, editor-in-chief at one of the Kremlin-aligned Regnum agency's affiliated outlets, [reported](#) on his Telegram channel that Imran Ahmad Khan, a former Conservative MP who was serving a sentence for sexual harassment pertaining to minor, had been released on February 23, nine months before his sentence was due to end. Stremidlovsky drew his readers' attention to the fact that Khan's brother is Karim Khan, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) who had "issued a warrant" for the arrest of Russian president Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, his Commissioner for Children's Rights. "This is such a coincidence," the post's author concluded.

Another former Regnum editor, Yuri Baranchik, explicitly [stated](#) that the early release of Imran Ahmad Khan was a "reward" to his brother from the British justice system. Baranchik's post in Telegram was shared, for instance, by [Maria Zakharova](#), the official representative of Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and [Sergei Mironov](#), chairman of "A Just Russia — For Truth" party and a lawmaker in Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma.

Former member of the Ukrainian parliament and one of the Donbas separatists' leaders [Oleg Tsaryov](#), political "expert" and former member of the State Duma [Sergei Markov](#), and actor and TV host [Oskar Kuchera](#) all also took to social media to express their confidence there had been a "collusion".

The news was also publicized by media outlets such as [Ukraina.ru](#), [Tsargrad TV](#) and [Moskovsky Komsomolets](#).

On March 17, 2023, Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC [issued](#) arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova. As stated in a press release, the chamber "considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that each suspect bears responsibility for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population and that of unlawful transfer of population from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation, in prejudice of Ukrainian children". It was noted that these arrest warrants were issued following applications submitted by the ICC prosecutor.

On the same day, a statement by the prosecutor, Karim Ahmad Khan, was [published](#) on the court's website. Khan confirmed that he had submitted applications to Pre-Trial Chamber II of the ICC for arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova on February 22. In April 2022, Khan [visited](#) the war zone in Ukraine; in his September appeal to the UN Security Council, he emphasized that investigating the possible illegal deportation of children from Ukraine was a priority for his office. About six months have passed since then, and, according to

Khan, at the time of submitting the applications, the ICC prosecutor's office had recorded cases of deportation of at least several hundred minors from Ukrainian orphanages and other institutions. Many of these children had received Russian citizenship under a simplified procedure through special presidential decrees, and had later been adopted by Russian families.

It turns out that there is, at the very least, a procedural inaccuracy in the news that was publicized. The arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova were not issued by the prosecutor Karim Khan himself, but by Pre-Trial Chamber II at his request and after considering the evidence collected.

Now, regarding Imran Ahmad Khan. Indeed, there is a British politician with that name, who is also the ICC prosecutor's [brother](#) and a former member of the House of Commons elected in 2019. In April 2022, he [was found guilty](#) of sexual harassing a 15-year-old boy in 2008. In May 2022, Imran Ahmad Khan [was sentenced](#) to 18 months in prison. In practice, this meant parole after nine months. [According to British law](#), an offender is released at the halfway point of the sentence if it is less than two years. For the remainder of the sentence, the person is supervised by the police and should comply with [certain conditions](#) (e.g. not leaving a place of residence at night and not going abroad without special permission). In case of violations, the offender could be recalled to prison. In other words, the nine-month term in a real prison ended for Imran Ahmad Khan in February: he [was released](#) on February 21 under the usual procedure.

To sum up, issuing arrest warrants for Putin and Lvova-Belova could not have contributed to the early release of the ICC prosecutor's brother, since he had been in prison for the exact time [announced](#) in May 2022 in accordance with British law. Moreover, these warrants were issued not by Karim Khan himself, but by ICC judges on his recommendation.

Verdict: False

On the topic:

1. Is it true a Spanish minister proposed legalizing paedophilia?
2. Is it true the WHO excluded paedophilia from the ICD's latest edition of conditions?
3. Is it true an arrest warrant for Bill Gates was issued in the Philippines?