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Yevgeny Prigozhin



Yevgeny Viktorovich Prigozhin^[a] (Russian: Евгений Викторович Приго́жин; IPA: [pɾʲɪˈgoʐɨn]; born 1 June 1961) is a Russian oligarch,^[4] mercenary chief, and a close confidant of Russian president Vladimir Putin until he launched an alleged coup in June 2023.^[5] Prigozhin is sometimes called "**Putin's chef**", as he owns restaurants and catering companies that provide services for the Kremlin.^[6] Once a convict in the Soviet Union,^[7] Prigozhin now controls a network of influential companies, including the Russian state-backed mercenary company Wagner Group and three companies accused of interference in the 2016 and 2018 U.S. elections.^[8] According to a 2022 investigation by Bellingcat, The Insider, and Der Spiegel, Prigozhin's activities "are tightly integrated with Russia's Defence Ministry and its intelligence arm, the GRU".^[9]

After years of denying his links to Wagner, he confirmed on 26 September 2022 that he was its founder.^{[10][11][12]} He stated that he founded it in May 2014, to support Russian forces in the war in Donbas. This admission was prompted by a viral video in which Prigozhin was shown in a Mari El prison recruiting inmates, promising them freedom if they served six months with the Wagner Group.^[13]

Prigozhin had long denied his role in Russian interference in U.S. elections. In November 2022, however, he admitted his role in such operations, saying they would continue.^[14] In February 2023, he stated he was the founder and long-time manager of the Internet Research Agency, a Russian company accused of online propaganda operations.

Prigozhin, his companies, and associates face economic sanctions and criminal charges in the United States,^[8] and in the United Kingdom he remains a designated person under sanctions.^[15] The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$250,000 for information leading to the arrest of Prigozhin.^{[16][17]} In October 2020, the European Union (EU) imposed sanctions against Yevgeny Prigozhin in connection with his financing of the activities of Wagner Group in Libya. In April 2022, new

Hero of the Russian Federation
Yevgeny Prigozhin



Prigozhin in 2010

Native name	Евгений Викторович Пригожин
Nickname(s)	"Putin's chef"
Born	1 June 1961 <u>Leningrad</u> , <u>Russian SFSR</u> , <u>Soviet Union</u>
Allegiance	<u>Russia</u>
Commands held	<u>Wagner Group</u>
Battles/wars	<u>Russo-Ukrainian War</u> 2022 <u>Russian invasion of</u>

sanctions were imposed on him by the EU because of his role in the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.^[18]

In June 2023, Prigozhin launched a mutiny against the Russian military leadership and announced he was moving his forces into Russia.^[19]

Early life

Prigozhin was born and raised in Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg) in the Soviet Union on 1 June 1961,^[20] to Violetta Prigozhina (Russian: Виолетта Пригожина).^{[21][22][23]} His father died early, and so his mother supported him and his sick grandmother by working at a local hospital.^[24] His father and stepfather were of Jewish descent.^[25]

During his school years, Prigozhin aspired to be a professional cross-country skier. He was trained by his stepfather Samuil Zharkoy, who was an instructor in the sport, and attended a prestigious athletics boarding school from which he graduated in 1977.^{[21][26]} However, his career in sport was ultimately unsuccessful.^[27]

In November 1979, 18-year-old Prigozhin was caught stealing and given a suspended sentence. Two years later, in 1981, he was again caught stealing, and sentenced to twelve years imprisonment for robbery, fraud, and involving teenagers in crime.^[28] He and several accomplices were convicted of robbing apartments in upscale neighborhoods. He was pardoned in 1988, and was released in 1990.^[27] In total, he spent nine years in detention.^[7]

Early career and rise to prominence

After his release from prison in 1990, Prigozhin began selling hot dogs alongside his mother and stepfather in the Aprashaka flea market of Leningrad.^[21] Soon, according to a *New York Times* interview with him, "the rubles were piling up faster than his mother could count them."^[29] After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Prigozhin followed the entrepreneurial spirit of the times and founded or became involved in many new businesses.

From 1991 to 1997, Prigozhin was heavily involved in the grocery store business. He became 15% stakeholder and manager of Contrast, which was the first grocery store chain in Saint Petersburg and founded by his former classmate Boris Spektor.

	<u>Ukraine</u> <u>Battle of Bakhmut</u> <u>Battle of Soledar</u> <u>Wagner Group mutiny</u>
Awards	<u>Hero of the Russian Federation</u> <u>Hero of the Donetsk People's Republic</u> <u>Hero of the Luhansk People's Republic</u>
Spouse(s)	Lyubov Valentinovna Prigozhina
Children	2
Business information	
Organizations	<u>Wagner Group</u> <u>Internet Research Agency</u> <u>Concord Management and Consulting</u>
Criminal information	
Criminal status	Wanted by the <u>FBI</u> for electoral interference
Criminal charge	1979: theft

Around the same time, Prigozhin became involved in the gambling business. Spektor and Igor Gorbenko brought Prigozhin on as CEO of Spectrum CJSC (Russian: ЗАО «Спектр»), which founded the first casinos in Saint Petersburg.^{[30][31]} This trio went on to found many other businesses together throughout the 1990s across various industries, including construction, marketing research, and foreign trade. The *Novaya Gazeta* notes that this may be when Prigozhin met Vladimir Putin for the first time, as Putin was chairman of the supervisory board for casinos and gambling since 1991.^{[6][b]}

In 1995, Prigozhin entered the restaurant business. When revenues of his other businesses began to fall, Prigozhin persuaded a director at Contrast, Kiril Ziminov, to open a restaurant with him. They opened Prigozhin's first restaurant: Old Customs House (Russian: Старая Таможня) in Saint Petersburg. In 1997, they founded a second restaurant, New Island, a floating restaurant that became one of the most fashionable dining spots in the city. Inspired by waterfront restaurants on the Seine in Paris, Prigozhin and Ziminov created the restaurant by spending US\$400,000 to remodel a rusting boat on the Vyatka River.^{[21][29]} He said his patrons "wanted to see something new in their lives and were tired of just eating cutlets with vodka." In 2001, Prigozhin personally served food to Vladimir Putin and French president Jacques Chirac when they dined at New Island. He hosted US President George W. Bush in 2002. In 2003, Putin celebrated his birthday at New Island.^[29]

Over the course of the 2000s, Prigozhin grew closer with Vladimir Putin. By 2003, he left his business partners and established his own independent restaurants. Notably, one of Prigozhin's companies, Concord Catering, began winning numerous government contracts. He received hundreds of millions in government contracts for feeding school children and government workers.^{[42][22]} In 2012, he received a contract to supply meals to the Russian military worth US\$1.2 billion over one year. Some of the profits from this contract are alleged to have been used to start and fund the Internet Research Agency.^[43]

On 11 December 2018, a company claimed to be unaffiliated with Concord Catering called Msk LLC (Russian: ООО "Мск") was paid 2.5 million rubles for an annual "Heroes of the Fatherland Day" banquet held at the Kremlin. However, Msk LLC shares the same contact phone number with Concord. On 11 December 2019, the company received another 4.1 million rubles for another banquet.^[44]

In 2012, he moved his family into a Saint Petersburg compound with a basketball court and a

1981: robbery, fraud, involving teenagers in crime^{[1][2][3]}

2018: conspiracy to defraud the United States

2023: incitement to armed rebellion in Russia

Penalty

Suspended sentence (1979)
12-year imprisonment (served 1981-1990)



Touring the Concord Catering factory in 2010. Left to right: Presidential envoy to the Northwestern Federal District Ilya Klebanov, Chief Sanitary Inspector Gennady Onishchenko, Leningrad Region Governor Valery Serdyukov, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, Concord factory director Yevgeny Prigozhin

helicopter pad. By this point he owned a private jet and a 115-foot yacht.^[42] Prigozhin has been linked to several aircraft since, including two Cessna 182s as well as Embraer Legacy 600, British Aerospace 125 and Hawker 800XP jets.^[45]

The Anti-Corruption Foundation has accused Prigozhin of corrupt business practices. In 2017, they estimated his illegal wealth to be worth more than one billion rubles.^[46] Alexei Navalny alleged that Prigozhin was linked to a company called Moskovsky Shkolnik (Moscow schoolboy) that had supplied poor quality food to Moscow schools, which had caused a 2019 dysentery outbreak.^{[47][48]}

Wagner Group

Prigozhin is the self-reported founder of the controversial Kremlin-affiliated private military contractor Wagner Group. On 26 September 2022, Prigozhin stated that he founded the Wagner Group specifically to support Russian forces in the war in Donbas, in May 2014.^{[10][11][12]} Since then, their activities have expanded to cover many regions in Africa and the Middle East.

Even before it was confirmed, there was already relative consensus amongst Russian and foreign media that Prigozhin was either the founder of or strongly linked to Wagner. The group was publicly led by Dmitry Utkin, who was once head of security for Prigozhin. A person by the name of Dmitry Utkin was also listed as director general of Prigozhin's Concord Management. In November 2016 the company confirmed to Russian media that the same Dmitry Utkin leading the Wagner Group was now in charge of Prigozhin's food businesses.^[49] In February 2018 Concord and Prigozhin denied any connection to Wagner.^[4]

In February 2018, Wagner attacked US-backed Kurdish forces in Syria in an attempt to take an oil field. During the retaliatory air strike by US armed forces, 10–100 of its mercenaries were killed.^{[50][51]}

In July 2018, three Russian journalists working for a news organization often critical of the Russian government were murdered in the Central African Republic, where they had been attempting to investigate the activities of the Wagner Group in that country. The Russian government had begun a collaboration with the president of the Central African Republic in October 2017. In its response to the killings, Russia's foreign ministry stressed that the dead journalists had been traveling without official accreditation.^[52]

Involvement in the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine

Wagner has also played a significant role during and prior to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.^[49] Prigozhin even travelled to the Donbas to personally oversee the group's progress. He was pictured at the frontline wearing military fatigues alongside Russian Duma member Vitaly Milonov.^[53]

In August 2022, Wagner Group began using billboards to recruit new members in Russia. Former journalist and observer of the Group, Denis Korotkov said "It looks like they have decided that they will no longer try to hide their existence."^[54]

In September 2022, a leaked video exposed Prigozhin attempting to recruit convicts to bolster the Russian forces on the front lines in the war against Ukraine. He said to the convicts "nobody goes back behind bars" and to those uncomfortable with the idea "it's either prisoners or your children –

you decide".^{[55][56]} While the video was filmed at a penal colony in Yoshkar-Ola to recruit shock troops, there is evidence that convicts from a penal colony in Saint Petersburg had been recruited previously.^[57]

On 26 September, Prigozhin walked back his previous claims that he had no connection with the group, releasing a statement on the Russian social media website VK wherein he admitted that he had founded it in May 2014 to "protect the Russians" when "the genocide of the Russian population of Donbas began."^[11] He explained that he played a personal role from the start, claiming that he "found specialists who could help" after "[cleaning] the old weapons and [sorting out] the bulletproof vests" himself. He confirmed allegations, previously denied by the Russian government,^[58] that the group had been involved in other countries aligned with Russian overseas interests, stating that the Wagner mercenaries who "defended the Syrian people, other people of Arab countries, destitute Africans and Latin Americans have become the pillars of our motherland".^{[10][12]}

On 23 October 2022, Prigozhin said his forces were making advances of 100 to 200 metres (330 to 660 ft) per day, which he claimed is the norm for modern warfare.^[59] He praised the Ukrainian defenders of Bakhmut, saying that "Our units are constantly meeting with the most fierce enemy resistance, and I note that the enemy is well prepared, motivated, and works confidently and harmoniously."^[60]

On 13 November 2022, Wagner Group released a video depicting its mercenaries using a sledgehammer to execute Yevgeny Nuzhin, a deserter who had reportedly been returned to the Russians in a prisoner exchange.^[61] Prigozhin commented, "It seems to me that this film should be called: 'A dog dies a dog's death'." "It was an excellent directional piece of work, watched in one breath. I hope no animals were harmed during filming."^[61]

Retired Ukrainian colonel Serhiy Hrabskyi suggested the Wagner Group was seeking glory in capturing Bakhmut, as Prigozhin was poised to reap significant monetary and political rewards if Wagner captures the city on behalf of the Russian government.^[62] Prigozhin himself had previously suggested Wagner was deliberately turning Bakhmut into a "meat grinder" to inflict heavy attritional casualties on Ukrainian forces.^[63] One Western official gave an inverse view, saying the battle is "giving Ukraine a unique opportunity to kill a lot of Russians", due to purportedly poor Russian tactics.^[64]



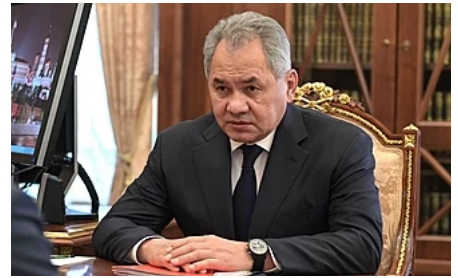
Bakhmut in April 2023. At the end of April, Prigozhin said that his forces were losing around 100 men a day.

On 9 April, Ukraine claimed that the Wagner Group was losing around 100 people a day, "counting only the dead", and that Russia was forced to deploy paratroopers and motorized brigades into the city because of the heavy losses that the group had suffered. Prigozhin himself later admitted on 30 April that his forces had lost 94 men killed in the city that day alone, with another 99 deaths the following day's offensive actions. He once again underscored that they are taking more than 5 times as many losses as he expected.^{[65][66]}

On 4 May 2023, Prigozhin cautioned against the use of nuclear weapons in response to the 2023 Kremlin drone attack, saying that "We look like clowns threatening to use nuclear weapons in response to a child's drone."^[67]

Complaints and conflicts

On 1 October 2022, he said about the commanders of the Russian army that "All these bastards ought to be sent to the front barefoot with just a submachine gun."^[68] He called members of the Putin-controlled Russian parliament "useless" and said that the "deputies should go to the front", adding that "Those people who have been talking from tribunes for years need to start doing something."^[69] The *Washington Post* reported that Prigozhin was one of the few people who dared to tell Putin about the "mistakes" of Russian military commanders in the war in Ukraine.^[70]



Prigozhin has been in a public feud with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu

On 5 May 2023, he announced that, due to a lack of ammunition, his fighters will leave Bakhmut on 10 May 2023 and hand over their positions to units of the Russian Defense Ministry if they don't get more ammunition.^[71] He blamed Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and chief of the Russian armed forces Gen. Valery Gerasimov for "tens of thousands" of Wagner casualties, saying "They came here as volunteers and are dying so you can sit like fat cats in your luxury offices."^[72]

On 27 May 2023, Igor Girkin accused Prigozhin of plotting to use the Wagner group to stage a coup within Russia and that Prigozhin was actively violating Russian 2022 war censorship laws by complaining about the Russian high command, and that his forces were practically in an active state of mutiny.^[73] On 29 May, Prigozhin stated that Wagner did not have the forces necessary to stage a coup. Instead he suggested that Shoigu might be plotting to stage a coup.^[74]

June 2023 Mutiny

In a video released on 23 June 2023, Prigozhin said that Russian government justifications for the Russian invasion of Ukraine were based on lies.^[75] He accused the Russian Defense Ministry under Shoigu of "trying to deceive society and the president and tell us how there was crazy aggression from Ukraine and that they were planning to attack us with the whole of NATO."^[76]

On 23 June 2023, Prigozhin claimed that regular Russian armed forces had launched missile strikes against Wagner forces, killing a "huge" number. He called for a response, stating, "The council of commanders of PMC Wagner has made a decision – the evil that the military leadership of the country brings must be stopped." In response, criminal charges were filed against Prigozhin by the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) for inciting an armed rebellion.^[77]

Africa interests

Throughout 2018, Prigozhin established numerous interests in Africa via the Wagner Group and approximately 100-200 political consultants. He became involved in such countries as Madagascar, the Central Africa Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola, Senegal, Rwanda, Sudan, Libya, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Nigeria, Chad, South Sudan, and South Africa.^{[78][79][80][81][82][83][84]} Pyotr Bychkov (Russian: Петр Александрович Бычков) is allegedly responsible for coordinating Prigozhin's "Africa expansion".^{[85][86][c]} According to a 20 April 2018 *Kommersant* article,

Yaroslav Ignatovsky (Russian: Ярослав Ринатович Игнатовский; born 1983, Leningrad) heads Politgen (Russian: "Политген") and is a political strategist that has coordinated the trolls' efforts for Prigozhin in Africa.^{[88][89][90][91]}

In March 2020, it was revealed that Prigozhin had financially assisted Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, son of the late overthrown Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, in his bid for the Next Libyan presidential election.^[92]

Central African Republic

Since early 2018, the Prigozhin-associated company *Lobaye Invest* has mined diamonds, gold,^[d] and other minerals in the prefecture of Lobaye.^{[94][95][e]} Faustin-Archange Touadera, the President of the Central African Republic, traveled to Russia in the fall of 2017 to meet with Sergey Lavrov in Sochi and in June 2018 to meet with Vladimir Putin in Saint Petersburg. Touadera's national security advisor Valery Zakharov (Russian: Валерий Захаров)^[f], Touadera increased the Russian presence in CAR by allowing 5 Russian military advisors and 170 Russian contractors to work starting in January 2018 near Bobangui at Berengo, which is the former palace of Jean-Bédel Bokassa and is 60 kilometres southwest of Bangui.^{[95][99][100][101][g]}

Since December 2017, the Kimberley Process allowed diamonds to be mined in the southwest of CAR.^[102] Under managing director Evgeny Khodotov (Russian: Евгений Ходотов)^[h] who is associated with security for Touadera through the firm *Sewa Security Service*, Lobaye Invest was founded through M-Invest by Dmitry Syty (Russian: Дмитрий Сытый) and is a subsidiary of M-Finance which were founded by Prigozhin.^{[84][95][98][103]} On the night of 31 July 2018, three Russian journalists, Alexander Rastorguev, Orhan Dzhemal, and Kirill Radchenko (Russian: Кирилл Радченко), who were sent by the Mikhail Khodorkovsky-sponsored Investigation Management Center (SDG) (Russian: Центр управления расследованиями (ЦУР)), were killed north of Sibut while they were investigating the operations of Lobaye Invest and Russians interests in the east of CAR at the Ndassima gold field^[i] for an upcoming film.^{[52][84][97][98][j]}

On 15 April 2019, Putin sent 30 Russian troops as part of a UN mission in the CAR to support Lobaye Invest interests.^[96] Beginning 18 December 2020, several hundred Russians with heavy weapons supported an offensive on Bangui which included contingents of troops from Rwanda.^{[106][107]} On 27 May 2021, three Russians were killed when a roadside bomb exploded.^[108] From 2012 until May 2021 according to DW, an estimated 800 to 2,000 Russian mercenaries have fought in the CAR.^[108]

Internet Research Agency

Prigozhin is alleged to have financed and directed^[109] a network of companies including a company called the Internet Research Agency Ltd. (Russian: ООО «Агентство интернет-исследований»),^[110] Concord Management and Consulting Company and one other related company.^[4] The three companies are accused of Internet trolling and attempting to influence the 2016 US presidential elections and other activity to influence political events outside Russia.

Russian journalist Andrey Soshnikov reported that Alexey Soskovets, who had participated in Russian youth political community, was directly connected to the offices of Internet Research in Olgino. His company, North-Western Service Agency, won 17 or 18 (according to different sources)

contracts for organizing celebrations, forums and sport competitions for authorities of Saint Petersburg. The agency was the only participant in half of those bids. In the summer of 2013, the agency won a tender for providing freight services for participants of a Seliger camp.^[111]

In February 2023, Prigozhin stated that he founded the IRA: "I've never just been the financier of the Internet Research Agency. I invented it, I created it, I managed it for a long time."^[112] The admission came months after Prigozhin had admitted to Russian interference in U.S. elections.^[112]

Spin offs

Campaigns against opposition in 2013 involved Dmitry Bykov and the then head of RIA Novosti, Svetlana Mironyuk, while a homepage claiming to fight fake news (*Gazeta O Gazetah*) was used to spread fake news.^[113]

International sanctions

In December 2016, the US Treasury Department designated Prigozhin pursuant to E.O.13661 for sanctions for providing support to senior officials of the Russian Federation.^{[114][115][116]}

In June 2017, US sanctions were imposed on one of Prigozhin's companies, Concord Management and Consulting, in connection with the war in Eastern Ukraine.^{[49][117][118]}

In January 2018, the US Treasury Department also designated Evro Polis Ltd for sanctions. Evro Polis is a Russian company that has contracted with the Government of Syria to protect Syrian oil fields in exchange for a 25 percent share in oil and gas production from the fields. The company was designated for being owned or controlled by Prigozhin. The sanctions require that any property or interests in property of the designated persons in the possession or control of US persons or within the United States must be blocked. Additionally, transactions by US persons involving these persons (including companies) are generally prohibited.^{[119][120]}

In September 2019, three more Prigozhin companies (Autolex Transport, Beratex Group and Linburg Industries) were sanctioned in connection with the Russian interference in the 2016 United States election.^{[121][k]}

In February 2022, the Internet Research Agency was added to the European Union sanctions list for running disinformation campaigns to manipulate public opinion and "actively supporting actions which undermine and threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine."^[125]

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	CRIMINAL NO.
v.	(18 U.S.C. §§ 2, 371, 1349, 1028A)
INTERNET RESEARCH AGENCY LLC	
AKIA MEGASINTEZ LLC AKIA	
GLAVSEL LLC AKIA MIXINFO	
LLC AKIA AZIMUT LLC AKIA	
NOVUS LLC	
CONCORD MANAGEMENT AND	
CONSULTING LLC	
CONCORD CATERING,	
YEVGENY VIKTOROVICH	
PRIGOZHIN,	
MIKHAIL IVANOVICH BYSTROV,	
MIKHAIL LEONIDOVICH BERCHUK,	
AKIA MIKHAIL ABRAMOV,	
ALEXANDRA YURIEVNA	
BEYLOVA,	
ANNA VLADISLAVOVNA	
BOGACHEVA,	
SERGEY PAVLOVICH POLOZOV,	
MARIA ANATOLYEVNA BOVDA,	
AKIA MARIA ANATOLYEVNA	
BELOVA,	
ROBERT SERGEYEVICH BOVDA,	
DZIRYKHUS NASSIMOVICH	
ASLANOV AKIA JAY ASLANOV,	
VADIM VLADIMIROVICH	
PODKOPAEV,	
GLEB IGOROVICH VASILCHENKO,	
IRINA VIKTOROVNA KAVERZINA,	
and	
VLADIMIR VENKOV	*****

Yevgeny Viktorovich Prigozhin on the Internet Research Agency, United States indictment



"Yevgeniy Prigozhin's expanding network" per U.S. Treasury Department (2021)

According to The United States Prigozhin's activities of interfering in elections and subverting public opinion are extended to Asian and African countries. The EU, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia have also designated him.^[126]

US criminal charges

On 16 February 2018, Prigozhin, the Internet Research Agency, Concord Management, another related company, and other connected Russian individuals were indicted by a US grand jury. He was charged with funding and organizing operations for the purpose of interference with the U.S. political and electoral processes, including the 2016 presidential election, and other crimes including identity theft.^[127] Charges against Concord Management were dismissed with prejudice on 16 March 2020.^{[128][129]}

In February 2021, Prigozhin was added to the wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).^{[130][131]}

In February 2022, the United States imposed visa restrictions and froze assets of Prigozhin and his family, due to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.^{[132][133]}

In July 2022, the U.S. State Department offered a reward of up to \$10 million for information about Prigozhin, the Internet Research Agency, and other entities involved in 2016 U.S. election interference.^[134]

On 7 November 2022, Prigozhin said he had interfered in U.S. elections and would continue to interfere in the future.^[135]

Financial support for Maria Butina in 2019

During May 2019, Maria Butina (charged with acting in the United States as an agent of a foreign government; specifically the Russian Federation) appealed for help in paying her lawyer fees.^[136] In February 2019 Valery Butin, Butina's father, told *Izvestia* that she owed her U.S. attorneys 40 million rubles (\$US 659,000).^{[137][138]} Through Prigozhin's Fund for the Protection of National Values, which is managed by Petr Bychkov, 5 million rubles were donated to Butina's defence lawyer costs.^[85]

Personal life

Prigozhin is married to Lyubov Valentinovna Prigozhina,^[139] a pharmacist and businesswoman. She owns a network of boutique stores known as the *Chocolate Museum* (Russian: «Музей шоколада») in Saint Petersburg. In 2012, she started the *Crystal Spa & Lounge*, a day spa located along Zhukovsky Street in Saint Petersburg, which won a third place award in 2013 for the Perfect Urban Day Spa.^{[139][140]} She owns a wellness center in the Leningrad region and a boutique hotel called the *Crystal Spa & Residence* which won the Perfect Spa Project award in 2013.^{[139][140]} She owns the New Technologies SPA LLC (Russian: ООО «Новые технологии СПА») which is located at plot 1, Granichnaya street in Lakhta Park, Sestroretsk, Kurortny District, Saint Petersburg.^{[142][143]} She is also the owner of Agat, part of the Concord group (Russian: Arat).^[144]

The couple has a daughter Polina (Russian: Полина), born 1992, and a son Pavel (Russian:

Павел), born in either 1996 or 1998.^{[145][146][123]}

Prigozhin's mother, Violetta Prigozhina, is a former doctor and educator, and the current legal owner of Concord Management and Consulting LLC (Russian: ООО "Конкорд менеджмент и консалтинг") since 2011, Etalon LLC (Russian: ООО "Эталон") since 2010, and Credo LLC (Russian: ООО "Кредо") since 2011.^[147]

All above family members were sanctioned by the European Union, the United States, Ukraine, and many other countries due to Prigozhin's involvement in Russia's invasion of Ukraine.^{[145][146][123][125][126][148][149][150]}

Awards

He was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation in 2022.^{[151][152][153]}

He was awarded the 2022 Corrupt Person of the Year by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.^[154]

See also

- Elena Khusyaynova
- Timeline of Russian interference in the 2016 United States elections
- Timeline of investigations into Trump and Russia (January–June 2018)
- Arkan

Notes

a. Alternatively: Yevgeniy Vicktorovich Prigozhin

- b. Beginning in 1991, Vladimir Putin was Saint Petersburg's chairman of the supervisory board for casinos and gambling (Russian: Председатель наблюдательного совета по казино и азартным играм) and, in 1993, began issuing gambling licenses in which shares were gained by the city of Saint Petersburg in the company 'Neva Chance (Russian: Нева-Шанс) which owned the first Saint Petersburg casino AOZT Casino (Russian: АОЗТ «Казино») because it had the same address and phone numbers as city hall, but later it became JV Casino Neva (Russian: СП «Казино Нева») and opened on 19 August 1991.^{[30][32][33][34][35]} In 1992 or 1993 it changed its name to Laguna, then in 1997 to Admiral Club or more simply known as *Admiral*.^[34] According to the Yakuza Kinichi Kamiyasu^[36] who supplied slot machines with cash prizes to St Petersburg casinos in the 1990s from his Stockholm, Sweden, company Dyna Computer Service AB which was a subsidiary of the Masimichi Iida (the brother of Chef Kinichi from Osaka, Iida Misamichi) owned Osaka firm, Dyna Company Ltd.,^[37] the criminals Gennady Petrov (Russian: Геннадий Петров),^[38] Alexander Malyshev (Russian: Александр Малышев),^[39] and Sergey Kuzmin (Russian: Сергей Кузьмин) operated the casino through a Vladimir Putin issued license to establish JV Petrodin (Russian: СП «Петродин») in 1991.^[34] JV Petrodin, which Kamiyasu owned a 35% stake and Gennady Petrov and Sergey Kuzmin owned a 65% stake through their company BXM (Russian: «БХМ»), used the money from the casinos to provide capital for Bank Rossiya.^{[34][35][40][41]}
- c. In March 2014, political consultants in Russia formed the Russian Association of Political Consultants RAPK (Russian: Российская Ассоциация Политических Консультантов РАПК) which is the first professional association of independent experts in political technology and consulting. It was formed to counter political election fraud and disinformation which occurred during Maidan.^[87]
- d. Purportedly at the Ndassima field in eastern CAR, too.^[93]
- e. Lobaye Invest has several areas for development during a period of three years: **Java** (385 square km) for gold and possibly diamonds by decree on 2 June 2018 located about 100 km west of Bangui and is not under government control, **Pama** (3,712 square km) for diamonds, gold, and other elements by resolution on 25 July 2018 located about 12 km west of Bangui and is under the control of Russian contractors, a site (1 square km) for development by decree on 11 March 2019 located at Boda, and four sites (four 1 square km each) for diamonds and gold by decree 4 April 2018 published March 2019 located in the cities and districts of Bangasu, Ouadda, Bria and Sam Wanja.^{[95][96]}
- f. During the 1990s, Valery Zakharov worked in the external surveillance unit of the Central Internal Affairs Directorate for St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Region (Russian: ГУВД по Петербургу и Ленобласти) and then in the early 2000s he worked for the North-West Customs Department in a similar posting.^[97] He provided extensive consulting to Prigozhin and his companies.^{[97][98]}
- g. Three Russian journalists, Alexander Rastorguev (Russian: Александр Расторгуев), Orhan Dzhemal (Russian: Орхан Джемаль), and Kirill Radchenko (Russian: Кирилл Радченко), were at Borengo, formerly Bokassa's Palace, on the eve of their own murders. This palace is the base for Wagner associated activities.^{[95][100]}

- h. Evgeny Khodotov worked in the St. Petersburg RUBOP (Russian: Петербургский РУБОП) before 2008 and worked for the main department of the Russian Ministry of the Interior in the Northwestern Federal District (Russian: Главное управление МВД России по Северо-Западному федеральному округу).^[95]
- i. The Ndassima gold mine is in Ouaka north of Bambari.
- j. The Dossier Center (Russian: «Досье») concluded that professionals planned and conducted the murders of Rastorguev, Dzhemal, and Radchenko.^{[104][105]}
- k. As of 15 August 2019, the director of LinBurg Industries is a Latvian Ivo Jutis (Russian: Иво Жутис)^{[122][123]} Two of Prigozhin planes are a Raytheon Hawker 800XP with tail numbers M-VITO, which is owned since 2012 by a Seychelles shell company Beratex Group Limited, and VP-CSP, which registered with the Cayman Islands Civil Aviation Authority and owned since 2017 by a Seychelles shell company called LinBurg Industries.^{[122][123][124]}
- l. This plot was formerly owned by Concord but was granted to Lyubov Prigozhina by the city of Saint Petersburg.^[141]

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