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# Dutch intelligence disrupts Russian effort to infiltrate International Criminal Court

JUNE 16, 2022 BY [INTELNEWS \(HTTPS://INTELNEWS.ORG/AUTHOR/INTELLIGENCENEWS/\)](https://intelnews.org/author/intelligence-news/) [1 COMMENT \(HTTPS://INTELNEWS.ORG/2022/06/16/01-3203/#COMMENTS\)](https://intelnews.org/2022/06/16/01-3203/#comments)



BY **MATTHIJS R. KOOT** | GUEST AUTHOR | [intelNews.org](https://intelnews.org)

ON JUNE 16, THE Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) [announced \(https://english.aivd.nl/latest/news/2022/06/16/aivd-disrupts-activities-of-russian-intelligence-officer-targeting-the-international-criminal-court\)](https://english.aivd.nl/latest/news/2022/06/16/aivd-disrupts-activities-of-russian-intelligence-officer-targeting-the-international-criminal-court) that it prevented a Russian military intelligence officer from gaining access as an intern to the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. The ICC is of interest to the GRU because it investigates possible war crimes committed by Russia in the Russo-Georgian War of 2008 and more recently in Ukraine.

The GRU officer reportedly traveled from Brazil to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam in April 2022, using a Brazilian cover identity, making him a so-called “illegal”. This means the intelligence operative was not formally associated with a Russian diplomatic facility. He allegedly planned to start an internship with the ICC, which would have given him access to the ICC’s building and systems. This could have enabled the GRU to collect intelligence, spot and recruit sources, and possibly influence criminal proceedings inside the ICC.

On his arrival at Schiphol, the AIVD informed the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service (IND), after which the officer was refused entry to the Netherlands and put on the first plane back to Brazil as persona non grata. The AIVD assessed the officer as a “potentially very serious” threat to both national security and the security of the ICC and Holland’s international allies, due to his access to the organization.

In a first-ever for the AIVD, the agency also [released \(https://english.aivd.nl/publications/publications/2022/06/16/cover-identity-of-russian-intelligence-officer\)](https://english.aivd.nl/publications/publications/2022/06/16/cover-identity-of-russian-intelligence-officer) the contents of a partially redacted 4-page document that describes the “extensive and complex” cover identity of the officer. It was originally written in Portuguese, “probably created around mid-2010” and “likely written” by the officer himself. According to the AIVD, the information provides valuable insight into his modus operandi. The cover identity hid any and all links between him and Russia. According to the AIVD, the construction of this kind of cover identity “generally takes years to complete”.

In the note accompanying the document, the AIVD says that Russian intelligence services “spend years” on the construction of cover identities for illegals, using “information on how other countries register and store personal data”. Alternatively, they illegally procure or forge identity documents. Information in the cover identity “can therefore be traceable to one or more actual persons, living or dead” as well as to forged identities of individuals “who only exist on paper or in registries of local authorities”.

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