



The former Russian double agent got a terrifying message on his birthday: He was on a Kremlin hit list along with Sergei Skripal, another ex-spy who weeks later was poisoned with a nerve agent in a case Britain blames on Vladimir Putin's government.

"Be careful, look around, something is probably going to happen," the former agent, Boris Karpichkov, says an old friend told him on the telephone in mid-February. "It's very serious, and you are not alone."

Among the names on the list was that of Skripal, whom Karpichkov didn't know at the time but [whose poisoning](#)

alongside his daughter, Yulia, on March 4 on British soil

[inflamed tensions between the Kremlin and the West](#)

and triggered international condemnation. The two are in a hospital in Britain, where Skripal is in critical condition.

[Yulia is "improving rapidly" and is no longer in critical](#)

condition, the hospital treating the pair said Thursday.

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