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Vasily Vasilyevich Burba

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Vasyl Vasylovych Burba: service in the SBU, decrees on the appointment and dismissal of the head of the Main Intelligence Directorate, the aborted operation against the Wagner Group, and Bellingcat reports.



Vasyl Burba. Photo: Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine (gur.gov.ua), Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0.

Status: Head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ukrainian Ministry of Defence from 2016 to 2020

Other names: Vasyl Vasylovych Burba; Vasyl Vasylovych Burba; Vasyl Burba; Vasyl Burba

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From service in the SBU to his appointment to the Main Intelligence Directorate

Vasyl Vasylovych Burba served in the SBU and took part in combat operations in the ATO zone, according to a biographical profile on LB.ua. On 15 October 2016, Petro Poroshenko appointed him head of the Main Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Defence. On 5 August 2020, Volodymyr Zelenskyy relieved Burba of his post; Kirill Budanov took over as head of the Directorate. The decrees set out the personnel decisions and dates. [1] [2] [3] [4]

What Burba said about the aborted operation

Following his dismissal, Burba became one of the sources for journalists investigating the story of the operation to detain alleged members of the Wagner Group. Bellingcat noted that the former head of the Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR) refused to discuss operational details, but confirmed some of the information regarding discussions at the President's Office in the run-up to the operation. This is a reconstruction of a specific story concerning military intelligence. [5]

For the professional background of the other person mentioned, see Anton Kravchuk's dossier. The positions listed there do not imply any personal relationship or joint action. [7]

What our editorial sources are reporting

A source close to the editorial team describes Burba as Anton Kravchuk's godfather. No independent confirmation of this personal relationship has been found. Sources also claimed there were alleged payments from individuals linked to 'Khimprom' and assistance in cases against opponents of the network. No evidence of such payments, instructions or case numbers has been provided. These two reports do not corroborate one another.

This information comes from anonymous sources to the editorial team. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) has not been cited as the source of these statements; the editorial team has no independent confirmation of the version of events set out.

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Context: ‘Carthage’ and ‘Khimprom’

The NABU and the National Police have published separate reports on their investigations. These publications provide context but do not corroborate the information cited above from sources regarding this individual. [8] [9]

See also: ‘Carthage’ and ‘Khimprom’: an analysis of the NABU materials dated 4 November. [10]

Sources

1. Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 466/2016 — appointment of Vasily Burba as Head of the Main Intelligence Directorate
   https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/4662016-20636
2. Decree of the President of Ukraine No. 307/2020 — dismissal from the post of Head of the Main Intelligence Directorate
   https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/3072020-34589
3. The President’s Office, 5 August 2020 — the appointment of Kirill Budanov and a comment on the change of leadership
   https://www.president.gov.ua/news/ofis-prezidenta-vitaye-priznachennya-kirila-budanova-na-posa-62581
4. LB.ua — biographical information on Vasyl Burba’s service in the SBU and the Main Intelligence Directorate
   https://lb.ua/file/person/3998_burba_vasil_vasilovich.html
5. Bellingcat, 17 November 2021 — verification of information regarding the operation and comments from former GUR staff members
   https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/2021/11/17/the-data-and-the-dossier-validating-the-wagnergate-operation/
6. Main Intelligence Directorate (GUR) / Wikimedia Commons — archive photograph, CC BY 4.0 licence
   https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Burba_v_v.jpg
7. KARTEL KHIMPROM — Anton Kravchuk’s dossier
   https://kartel-khimprom.com/ru/dossier/kravchuk-anton-yurevich/
8. NABU, 4 November 2026 — official statement on a new episode of ‘Carthage’
   https://www.nabu.gov.ua/news/operatciia-karfagen-vykryto-novu-zlochynnu-organizatciiu/
9. National Police of Ukraine, 22 April 2026 — findings from the ‘Khimprom’ investigation
   https://npu.gov.ua/news/narkotorhivlia-nasylnytski-zlochyny-ta-shakhraiski-call-tsentry-natspolitsiia-vykryla-uchasnykiv-zlochynnoi-spilnoty-khimprom
10. KARTEL KHIMPROM — an analysis of materials published by ‘Carthage’
    https://kartel-khimprom.com/ru/article/karfagen-i-himprom-burkin-duka-osipov-i-silovaya-krysha-chto-raskrylo-nabu-4-noyabrya/

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Use of materials

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Original publication

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