

Yulia Skripal discharged from hospital and taken to secret location

Robert Stevens
11 April 2018

Without any fanfare or media reporting, Yulia Skripal, was spirited out of Salisbury District Hospital on Monday evening to a secret location.

The event was only made public Tuesday morning, when Christine Blanshard, deputy chief executive and medical director at the hospital, reported that Yulia had been discharged after making a recovery from being poisoned by a supposedly deadly nerve agent just five weeks ago.

Yulia's father, the former double agent Sergie Skripal, remains in hospital but is reportedly well on the way to recovery.

The discharging of Yulia is only the latest event exposing Britain's efforts to blame Russia for use of a military grade novichok to poison the pair. Novichok has been described as the most deadly nerve agent ever developed—"5-8 times more lethal than VX nerve agent" that was developed by the UK at its Porton Down military research complex.

It was only two weeks ago that British Prime Minister Theresa May said that the Skripals may never fully recover from an "attempted murder" on British soil organised by Moscow. Now both are well on the way to recovery.

The operation to move Yulia from the hospital was carried out with military precision. *Sky News* reported that with "Police guarding doors to the intensive care unit" where the Skripals were being treated, she was discharged in a "quiet and secret operation" to an unknown location where she has only "police and MI5 [intelligence] officers for company."

This is not to protect her from Russia—the last thing Moscow would possibly contemplate is an attempt on her life—but to protect the UK government from any further exposure of its lies.

Viktoria Skripal, Yulia's cousin and her closest

living relative, expressed her concern about Yulia's fate and whereabouts. After only finding out about her discharge Tuesday morning, Viktoria said she had been trying to contact her without success. "I've tried lots of numbers for her but have had no response." She added, "So far my feelings are unclear because I have not seen her and nobody has seen her, we've just had information." Viktoria added, "I think Britain will insist that she [Yulia] claims asylum."

London has barred Viktoria from obtaining a visa.

A *Sky News* reporter stated, "Friends here [in Salisbury] said they had heard nothing from Yulia, even during her final conscious days in hospital and they don't expect to, at least for some time."

The Russian Embassy was not informed about Yulia's discharge, leading it to make a statement via Twitter reading, "We congratulate Yulia Skripal on her recovery. Yet we need urgent proof that what is being done to her is done on her own free will."

The same treatment can be expected to be meted out to the elder Skripal, with Salisbury hospital announcing that he is expected to be discharged in "due course."

The Skripals may never in fact be seen again. The *Sunday Times* reported earlier that they "will be offered new identities and a new life in America."

This too is reportedly to be carried out under the pretext of it being a move "to protect the victims of the Salisbury attack from further murder attempts ..."

The newspaper reported that "intelligence officials at MI6 have had discussions with their counterparts in the CIA about resettling the Skripals in the US."

It added, "Security sources said Britain would want to ensure their safety by relocating them with one of the 'five eyes' countries, the intelligence-sharing partnership that also includes the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand."

The *Sunday Times* cited an “intelligence source familiar with the negotiations,” who said this was “because their case would have huge security implications.”

A statement from the Russian Embassy read, “With a secret resettlement of Mr. and Ms. Skripal all opportunities to hear their version of the events of 4 March will highly likely be lost forever.

“The world, while having no opportunity to interact with them, will have every reason to see this as an abduction of the two Russian nationals or at least as their isolation.”



To contact the WSWWS and the
Socialist Equality Party visit:

[wsws.org/contact](https://www.wsws.org/contact)