

With the Ukraine war, a vital part of this story has become blocked Youtubes, such presumably because of US government pressure on Youtube.

—Jon Claerbout, January 2023

Dear Anna Maria,

Like you, Maria Butina studied International Relations, but opposite to you, she is a Russian from Siberia. She came to the US to live what she had learned. Unexpectedly, in 2018 she came to the attention of the FBI. She was jailed starting with four months in **solitary confinement!** Before serving her entire sentence, in 2019 she was deported. Arriving back in Russia, she first told her story [to Americans \(14:28\)](#) and then again [to Russians \(21:59\)](#). [For English subtitles, find the CC button under the screen.](#) Notice that you have been blocked from reading these links.

Besides international relations and better world understanding, she says she particularly sought to meet Republicans and people in the NRA (National Rifle Association). She did not realize her choice of American University being in DC is a place where in 2020, 95% of the voters went against Donald Trump. She had leapt into a rabidly partisan world.

A friend of mine claims Maria was a Russian spy.

ADDED 2023:

Most US corporate media (MSN, CNN, CBS, NYT, WaPo) wanted to find Donald Trump conspired to treason and sought Russian spies wherever they could imagine. [WaPo on Sex](#). FOX did give [a few minutes to her defense lawyer](#). and also a [reporting from outside the courthouse](#). [Many details of her case are available at Wikipedia](#). I regret I cannot (since the Ukraine war) enable you to hear her present her own defence on Russian media. You cannot find it on our media.

You and your dad might view/read her story together before you adventure off in the Peace Corps!

Were I a professor in International Studies or in Law, or in Journalism, I'd certainly be using her story on my students. She denigrates the US justice system. Which of her claims ring true? I'd try forcing students to explain viewpoints opposite to their own. I might ask, **"Would a jury trial have led to a different conclusion?"** What about a Washington DC jury trial? Is Wikipedia biased? How? Many other thoughts...

Love, Grampy