

# Christo Grozev

## Experience

### Director of investigations, The Insider and Der Spiegel Investigative Group

February 2022 – present

### Executive Director, Lead Investigator at Bellingcat Productions

February 2022 – present

- co-founder of a documentary film-making platform converting investigative journalism into documentary films.
- continues investigative journalism work, published in Der Spiegel (Germany), Le Monde (France) and The Insider (international).

### Lead Investigator, Executive Director (2022)

Bellingcat

Sep 2016 – February 2022

\* Initially as head of Russia-focused investigations, and later as Executive Director, led and authored some of the best known award-winning investigations published by this pioneering open-source investigation platform.

\* Among his key works are:

- Investigations into the GRU team that poisoned Sergey Skripal (received the **European Prize** for Investigative Journalism, 2019 (<https://www.europeanpressprize.com/laureate/christo-grozev/>) and the **London Press Prize** for innovation in journalism (2019) (<https://pressgazette.co.uk/publishers/nationals/nick-robinson-defends-bbc-from-press-attacks-and-calls-russian-backed-broadcaster-rt-a-threat/>))
- Investigations into the poisoning of Alexey Navalny and other Russian opposition activists (received the German preeminent press award “**The Nannen Prize** for Investigative Journalism” (<https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/medien/nannen-preise-vergeben-egon-erwin-kisch-preis-fuer-reportage-der-zeit/27247370.html>)), and two Emmy awards for investigative TV journalism for his joint reporting with CNN (<https://twitter.com/clarissaward/status/1443061855782686724>, <https://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2021/09/28/cnn-wins-8-news-and-documentary-emmy-awards-leading-night-one/>).
- The documentary “Navalny”, conceived and co-authored by Grozev, based on his investigation into the Navalny poisoning, won the **Academy Award** for documentary (2022), the **Bafta Award** for Documentary (2022), and the **Columbia duPont Award** (<https://twitter.com/NavalnyDoc/status/1622982182317727744>)

\* For his ground-breaking work in investigative journalism, Grozev received the **International Center for Journalists Innovation Award** in 2023 (<https://www.icfj.org/about/profiles/christo-grozev-bellingcat>)

\* Grozev’s investigative journalism work has also resulted in law-enforcement indictments and convictions, as well as impositions of sanctions, including:

- Indictment of 3 Russian intelligence officers following his investigation into the poisoning of a Bulgarian entrepreneur in 2015
- Sanctioning by the US and UK Governments of 8 US security operatives identified by Grozev's investigation into the poisoning of Alexey Navalny and Vladimir Kara-Murza (<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1700> )
- Sanctioning by the US Government of a perpetrator of war crimes in Ukraine, identified by Grozev's team: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1155>
- Sanctioning by the European Union of 33 individual involved with targeting long-range missiles at civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, identified by Grozev's investigative team (<https://theins.ru/en/news/257933>)
- Life sentence issued by German court to Russian security service assassin, based on Grozev's 2019 investigation (Grozev was main forensic expert witness in the court case)

## Supervisory Board Member

### Talpa Radio Holding

Oct 2016 - Present (4 years 11 months +)

- \* Talpa Radio Holding operates four of the leading commercial national radio stations in the Netherlands: Radio 538, Sky Radio, Radio 10 and Radio Veronica. The group is also a majority shareholder in One Media Sales, the Netherlands' leading radio sales house.
- \* After supervising the merger of the Talpa Radio group and Radio 10 in 2016, served as Chairman of the Strategy Committee of the Supervisory Board of the new media group.
- \* Supervised the transition of the leading Dutch radio group to online streaming and addressable advertising and advised station managers on strategic programming and marketing decisions

## Founder/Chairman

### Radiocorp Holding

Jul 2006 - Oct 2016 (10 years 4 months)

- \* Founded the Radiocorp media group and launched two national radio stations: 100% NL - a Dutch music radio station, and Radio 10 - an 80s/90s music station that became one of the market leaders in a mature market.
- \* Under Radiocorp, launched a national music TV station and had a stake in a co-branded glossy magazine.
- \* Co-founded One Media Sales, the Netherlands' leading radio sales-house.

\* Roles included overall strategy, financing, programming and technological consultancy of the local management team

### **Director International Strategy/Business Development**

Communicorp Group Ltd

Jun 2005 - Mar 2007 (1 year 10 months)

- \* Supervised the integration of Metromedia's European radio group into Ireland-based Communicorp Group Ltd
- \* In charge of the company's consolidation to leading positions in existing markets and expansion to new markets, such as Ukraine and Latvia.

### **Co-founder/Investor**

RBMH Broadcast Media Holdings

Sep 2004 - Feb 2006 (1 year 6 months)

- \* Led a management buy-out team to acquire the Russian radio business during a strategic exit from radio by Metromedia International.
- \* Backed by Warburg Pincus, Russia Partners and EBRD.
- \* Supervised the growth of the 4 radio stations and led the sale to a strategic investor in 2006 at four times the invested capital.

### **President of Radio Division**

Metromedia International

May 1994 - Sep 2004 (10 years 5 months)

- \* Immediately after graduating from university, began work as start-up manager of radio in Russia, and launched new commercial radio stations in Sochi and St. Petersburg.
- \* Was appointed Regional Director for Russia/CEE, and Vice President of Radio in 1997.
- \* As of 2000 became CEO of the Radio Division of Metromedia International Group, a U.S. publicly traded company.
- \* In this capacity, supervised the operations and growth of over 30 radio stations in 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Russia, and the CIS.

### **Founder/CEO**

Radio Aura

Oct 1991 - Mar 1994 (2 years 6 months)

- \* Founder and CEO of Bulgaria's first commercial radio station. Affiliated with the American University in Bulgaria.

## **Education**

### **IMADEC University**

Executive MBA, MLE, LL.M., Finance, Law and Economics; International Law

2003 - 2012

### **American University in Bulgaria**

BA, Mass Communication/Media Studies

1991 - 1995



**English Language High School-Plovdiv**

1984 - 1988

## Languages and Skills

- **Native proficiency:** English, Bulgarian, Russian
- **Intermediary reading and writing:** Dutch, Estonian, German, French
- **Coding skills:** php, python, mariadb/mysql, C

## Selection of keynote speeches and addresses

- Aspen Ideas 2022, speaker, <https://www.aspenideas.org/speakers/christo-grozev>
- Aspen Security Forum 2023, speaker, <https://www.aspensecurityforum.org/asf-speakers/christo-grozev>
- World Expression Forum, keynote speaker 2022 <https://wexfo.no/shows/finding-facts-and-debunking-lies/>
- Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, keynote speaker 2022 <https://talks.ox.ac.uk/talks/id/ed86d1d0-eea3-49f9-a7ab-6e4593b51f18/>
- Inaugural speaker at Sciences Po University (France), 2022 <https://www.sciencespo.fr/journalisme/en/actualites/la-lecon-inaugurale-de-christo-grozev.html>
- Commencement speaker at American University in Bulgaria (2022) <https://today.aubg.edu/news/christo-grozev-95-at-commencement-2022-honor-the-truth-and-follow-your-dreams-with-dignity-and-passion/>

## Selection of publications about Christo Grozev

- Washington Post: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/bellingcat-navalny-russian-data-capitol-investigation/2021/01/08/e96ab9e8-449b-11eb-a277-49a6d1f9dff1\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/bellingcat-navalny-russian-data-capitol-investigation/2021/01/08/e96ab9e8-449b-11eb-a277-49a6d1f9dff1_story.html)
- Financial Times <https://www.ft.com/content/03f220e1-6a7e-4850-bf4e-4b0f521d8f8c>
- New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/09/world/europe/bellingcat-skrripal-poisoning.html>
- Harvard Kennedy School: <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/faculty-research/policy-topics/media/how-oscar-winning-documentary-shapes-public-opinion-russia>
- (Profile in The New Yorker pending in October)

## Pro-bono work:

- Advisor to the Director of the Global Engagement Center at the US State Department
- Advisor to a journalism research team at Bard College