



Written by [D. Michael DeRidder](#) on May 15, 2024

Fico's Attacker Identified: Juraj Cintula

After attempting to assassinate Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico, [71-year-old Juraj Cintula](#) was taken into custody. A video shows Cintula in responding to [questioning of his motive for the attack, responding](#), "The mass media is destroyed. Why is RTVS attacked? Why is mass media removed from function?"



AP Images
Police arresting Juraj Cintula

Last month on April 24, 2024, the [Associated Press reported on Slovakia's government](#) overhauling the country's public radio and television services, with Fico stating the public broadcaster RTVS was "in conflict with the Slovak government." AP alleged the "take over plan" was drafted by Culture Minister Martina Šimkovičová, whom AP described as "ultra-nationalist."

President Joe Biden [released a statement in response](#) to the assassination attempt: "I am alarmed to hear reports of an attack on Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. Jill and I are praying for a swift recovery, and our thoughts are with his family and the people of Slovakia. We condemn this horrific act of violence. Our embassy is in close touch with the government of Slovakia and ready to assist."

Russian President Vladimir Putin [responded to the attack, stating](#), "There can be no justification for this monstrous crime. I know Robert Fico as a courageous and strong-minded man. I very much hope that these qualities will help him survive this difficult situation. Please convey to him words of the most sincere support, as well as wishes for a speedy and complete recovery."



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