# Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico Shot During Public Appearance in Handlová



On May 15, 2024, Slovakian Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot multiple times during a public appearance in Handlová, northeast of Bratislava. The 59-year-old populist leader was meeting supporters following a government meeting when the incident occurred. Five shots were fired at Fico, reportedly by a 71-year-old man identified as Juraj Cintula, a former security guard from Levice. The attacker has been described by Interior Minister Matúš Šutaj Eštok as a "lone wolf" who acted on political motivations.

Fico was initially treated locally before being airlifted to Banská Bystrica Hospital. Hospital director Miriam Lapunikova confirmed Fico underwent a five-hour surgery and is in a stable but serious condition. Defense Minister Robert Kaliňák emphasized the severity of Fico's injuries, stating medical personnel were "fighting for his life."

The shooting has heightened political tensions in Slovakia, with President-elect Peter Pellegrini and outgoing President Zuzana Čaputová calling for calm and urging political leaders to moderate their rhetoric. The attack is seen as a sign of deepening political divisions in the country, particularly ahead of the upcoming European Parliament elections. The situation remains tense as Slovak authorities and citizens grapple with the implications of the violent act.