# Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico Survives Assassination Attempt, Suspect in Custody



Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot in the stomach during a meeting with supporters in Handlova on May 15, 2024. The 59-year-old was rushed to a local hospital and later airlifted to Banska Bystrica Hospital for further treatment. Deputy Prime Minister Tomas Taraba stated that Fico's surgery was successful and that he is no longer in a life-threatening condition.

The suspect in the shooting, a 71-year-old former security guard, was detained at the scene. Authorities believe the attack was politically motivated. Slovakia's President-elect Peter Pellegrini and outgoing President Zuzana Caputova condemned the attack, emphasizing its threat to democracy.

Fico, a controversial figure known for his pro-Russian stance, has sparked varied reactions among Slovakian leaders and international figures, including condemnations from U.S. President Joe Biden and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. Russian President Vladimir Putin also condemned the act, calling it a "monstrous crime."

Fico, who returned to power last year, has been a significant figure in Slovakian politics for decades. This incident occurs just weeks before the European Union Parliament elections, adding a layer of complexity to the political climate in Slovakia.