# American Journalist Evan Gershkovich to Stand Trial in Russia on Espionage Charges



American journalist Evan Gershkovich, a Wall Street Journal reporter, will stand trial in Russia on espionage charges, according to an announcement on Thursday. Held in Moscow's Lefortovo Prison for over a year, Gershkovich, 32, is accused of gathering secret information from a Russian tank factory for the CIA.

Gershkovich, who was detained in Yekaterinburg in March 2023, will face trial in the Sverdlovsky Regional Court located approximately 870 miles east of Moscow. The trial date remains unannounced.

The U.S. government, Gershkovich's employer, and Gershkovich himself deny the charges, with Washington labeling him as wrongfully detained. Russia has indicated that any potential prisoner swap discussions will occur only post-trial verdict.

Gershkovich, who has lived in Russia since 2017, faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted. He is the first U.S. journalist charged with espionage in Russia since Nicholas Daniloff in 1986. U.S. ambassador Lynne Tracy has labeled the charges as fictitious.