

## American Basketball Player, an Olympic Medalist, Detained in Russia



Brittney Griner of the United States in action with Ezinne Kalu of Nigeria throughout a females's basketball videogame at Saitama Super Arena in Saitama, Japan, July 27,2021  
*(Brian Snyder/Reuters)*

The Russian Federal Customs Service revealed on Saturday that its representatives had apprehended an American basketball gamer after finding marijuana oil in vaping cartridges in her baggage.

The Customs Service kept in mind that the gamer is a member of the WNBA and had won 2 gold medals on the U.S. Olympic team, without straight calling the gamer. However, a Russian security source recognized the gamer as Phoenix Mercury center Brittney Griner, in remarks to the Russian News Agency TASS.

The Customs Service has opened a criminal examination into the event, which might outcome in a 5- to ten-year jail sentence according to Russian drug-smuggling law. The firm and TASS stated the detention took place in February, however an precise date was not instantly offered.

The report comes the exact same day that the U.S. State Department once again provided a travel advisory caution Americans not to fly to Russia, pointing out Russia's "unprovoked" attack on Ukraine and "the capacity for harassment versus U.S. people by Russian federal government security authorities."

Griner's representative, Lindsay Kagawa Colas, did not reject the reports of Griner's detention.

"We are conscious of the circumstance with Brittney Griner in Russia and are in close contact with her, her legal representation in Russia, her household, her groups, and the WNBA and NBA," Kagawa Colas stated in a declaration. "As this is an continuous legal matter, we are not able to remark more on the specifics of her case however can validate that as we work to get her house, her psychological and physical health stay our main issue."

Griner has played in Russia for the past 7 years and is presently a member of UMMC Ekaterinburg. Many WNBA gamers complete throughout the offseason in Russia and Ukraine, where they can make greater incomes.

*Send a pointer to the news group at NR.*

Source: [American Basketball Player, an Olympic Medalist, Detained in Russia.](#)