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## **Chairman of the IC of Russia Instructs Officials to Initiate a Criminal Case on the Fact of the Development of Biological Weapons on the Territory of Ukraine**



As the situation develops, there are increasingly more reports confirming the development of biological weapons on the territory of Ukraine. The Russian Ministry of Defense previously reported on the existence of a network in Ukraine, which included several dozen biological laboratories financed from abroad. Later, a U.S. representative confirmed the presence of biological research facilities in Ukraine.

These facts may indicate a violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The provisions of this Convention establish the obligations of governments not to develop – under any circumstances – microbiological or other biological agents or toxins that are not intended for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes. The excessive concern of the U.S. representatives about Ukrainian biological facilities may also indicate the intention to use them for non-peaceful purposes.

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Given this information, A.I. Bastrykin, the Chairman of the IC of Russia, has instructed investigators to initiate a criminal case, within which all the circumstances related to the development of biological weapons near the territory of the Russian Federation will be established, and the persons responsible for this will be identified. The investigation will ask the Ministry of Defense for the necessary information to give a legal assessment of these facts.

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