

Griner release is cause for relief but Viktor Bout transfer tough to stomach

Critics label Biden's decision to release Russian arms dealer 'deeply disturbing' - even if Brittney Griner's freedom is excellent news

Last month, the Russian parliament mounted an unusual art exhibition with subjects ranging from the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin to a sentimental image of a kitten. They had been produced in prison by Viktor Bout, serving 25 years in America.

History has shown that a sideline as an amateur artist is not much guarantee of moral integrity. Bout, known as "the merchant of death", was the world's most notorious arms dealer, selling weapons to rogue states, rebel groups and murderous warlords in Africa, Asia and South America.

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