

April 23, 2024

ABC NEWS ANNOUNCES '20/20' PRIMETIME SPECIAL FOR ROBIN ROBERTS' EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH WNBA STAR BRITTNEY GRINER

Griner Emotionally Discusses Her Arrest, the Harrowing Details of Her Time in Prison, Plus the Backlash She Experienced Returning Home and Much More

The '20/20' Special, 'Prisoner in Russia: The Brittney Griner Interview' with ABC News' Robin Roberts, Airs Wednesday, May 1, at 10:01 p.m. EDT/9:01 p.m. CDT, Next Day on Hulu

First Look at Interview Airs on 'Good Morning America' Wednesday, May 1 (7:00-9:00 a.m. EDT)



*ABC News**

ABC News' "Good Morning America" co-anchor **Robin Roberts** sat with two-time Olympic gold medalist and nine-time WNBA All-Star **Brittney Griner** for an exclusive primetime interview, Griner's first since returning to the United States after being detained in Russia. In the wide-ranging interview, Griner talks candidly for the first time about her harrowing arrest and time in prison, where she describes feeling "less than human" and the suicidal thoughts she had while being detained. She also talks about navigating the Russian penal system and the anguish she experienced being what she calls a political prisoner. The special reveals new details about the negotiations behind the prisoner swap that led to Griner's release and goes home with her as she unzips her duffle bag from Russia, sharing a few personal possessions she says got her through the ordeal.

In February 2022, while returning to her Russian basketball team during the WNBA off-season, Griner was arrested at a Moscow airport for possessing vape cartridges containing cannabis oil just days before Russia invaded Ukraine. She was later sentenced to nine years in prison and was released on December 8, 2022, after a 10-month detainment.

Roberts also speaks with Griner's wife, attorney Cherelle Griner, about her role in rallying for Brittney's release. Additional interviews include special presidential envoy of hostage affairs Roger Carstens and Griner's agent Lindsay Kagawa Colas.

The one-hour primetime "20/20" special, "Prisoner in Russia: The Brittney Griner Interview" with Robin Roberts, airs Wednesday, May 1, at 10:01 p.m. EDT/9:01 p.m. CDT, next day on [Hulu](#). A first look airs on "Good Morning America" Wednesday morning (7:00-9:00 a.m. EDT).

In addition to this special, Griner has partnered exclusively with ESPN and Disney Entertainment Television to share her story through various projects on their platforms. A documentary feature from ESPN Films and scripted series development with ABC Signature are in the works.

Brittney Griner's memoir, "Coming Home," is available on Tuesday, May 7.

The primetime special "Prisoner in Russia: The Brittney Griner Interview" with Robin Roberts is a production of ABC News' "20/20" and ABC News Studios. Janice Johnston and Jonathan Blakely are executive producers. The special is senior produced by Eboni Griffin, Joseph Diaz and Katie Conway.

*COPYRIGHT ©2024 American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. All photography is copyrighted material and is for editorial use only. Images are not to be archived, altered, duplicated, resold, retransmitted or used for any other purposes without written permission of ABC News. Images are distributed to the press in order to publicize current programming. Any other usage must be licensed.

About "20/20"

ABC News' "20/20" is the No. 1 award-winning primetime program anchored by David Muir and Deborah Roberts. A proven leader as a long-form newsmagazine for over 45 years, "20/20" features unforgettable, character-driven true-crime mysteries, exclusive newsmaker interviews, hard-hitting investigative reports and in-depth coverage of high-profile stories. Janice Johnston is the executive producer. The two-hour "20/20" events air Fridays from 9:01-11:00 p.m. EDT on ABC and are available to stream on ABC News digital platforms and Hulu.

About ABC News Studios

ABC News Studios, inspired by ABC News' trusted reporting, is an award-winning, premium news and documentary original production house and commissioning partner of series and specials. ABC News Studios champions untold and authentic stories driving the cultural zeitgeist spanning true-crime, investigations, pop culture and news-adjacent stories. ABC News Studios' original titles include critically acclaimed documentaries "Pretty Baby: Brooke Shields," "Sound of the Police," "The Lady Bird Diaries" and "Aftershock," plus the upcoming documentary from director Andrew McCarthy, "BRATS" and popular docuseries and documentaries, including "Killing County," "Wild Crime," "Betrayal: The Perfect Husband," "Daughters of the Cult," "The Randall Scandal: Love, Loathing, and Vanderpump" and "Jelly Roll: Save Me."

SHARE: <https://ctt.ac/mnv8f>

TRAILER: <https://bit.ly/49NvErp>

PHOTO: <https://we.tl/t-xcBzBXfGuR>

KEY ART: <https://we.tl/t-afhVZXtiCL>

ABC News Media Relations

Brooks Lancaster

brooks.lancaster@abc.com

Jordan Littlejohn

jordan.littlejohn@abc.com

-- ABC --