
ROMANIAN PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL GEORGESCU FACES CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

- 27.02.2025

The Guardian (26 February 2025)

Jon Henley

Pro-Russia populist, who won first round of election that was later annulled, suspected of communicating false information

Romanian prosecutors have opened a criminal investigation into Călin Georgescu, the far-right, Moscow-friendly populist who surged from almost nowhere to win the first round of the countrys cancelled presidential election last year.

The announcement of the investigation covering a number of separate accusations took place after Georgescu, 62, was stopped by police in Bucharest traffic on Wednesday as he was about to submit his candidacy for a rerun of the election, which is scheduled for May. Prosecutors said after questioning him for several hours that they were formally investigating him on suspicion of communicating false information, promoting war criminals and fascist organisations and forming an antisemitic organisation.

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