JEREMY VINE:
Now last Friday, the London coroner examining the death of the Russian agent Alexander Litvinenko heard that the British Government was blocking his call for a full public inquiry. The former KGB agent was poisoned with a radioactive substance in London in 2006. The coroner at the inquest had argued that an inquiry was necessary because vital secret evidence couldn’t be considered by a normal inquest. His widow says her husband was working for MI6 at the time of his death, and she is desperate to establish the truth. Was Alexander Litvinenko killed on the orders of the Kremlin and is our own government trying to hide something? I’m joined now by Marina Litvinenko, Alexander Litvinenko’s widow. Good morning to you.

MARINA LITVINENKO:
Good morning.
JEREMY VINE:
So, as far as you know now, there is to be no public inquiry?

MARINA LITVINENKO:
It looks like. Friday, it was a very short session and we could see how the coroner was disappointed because news about decline of public inquiry came only early morning, quarter past ten, and for us, even before we were not able to prepare for the session because we didn’t know about decision of government.

JEREMY VINE:
So the death of your husband was 2006.

MARINA LITVINENKO:
Yes.

JEREMY VINE:
You’re still effectively waiting for an inquest, aren’t you, and that’s now as a result of this being delayed?

MARINA LITVINENKO:
Yes in 2006 and 2007, I could say I was more optimistic because investigation was done brilliant and police was absolutely fantastic because name of suspect, we’ve got already on May 2007, and I received news from former government it will be not any political, not any diplomatic barrier to investigate this case, and they will go through to get truth. And now when I go for inquest, because I realise it will be not possible to have real justice because suspect in Russia and they will never be extradite. And when we decide for inquest, finally I thought they will see this whole truth, but after two years when I go for an inquest, we don’t have this right.

JEREMY VINE:
You are now actually a British citizen. Your husband was also a British citizen. Do you feel that the British Government is letting you down?

MARINA LITVINENKO:
I try to say no yet because I respect this country. I received this British citizenship in 2006, just slightly before Sasha was poisoned and died, but we received political asylum 2000 when Sasha want to protect us, his family, and we’ve got this right to be in this country.

**JEREMY VINE:**
Do you believe the Russian Government was behind his death?

**MARINA LITVINENKO:**
Actually Sasha claimed who behind of his death because it’s quite unique situation. He was asking before he died, he was interviewed by police. I mean it’s very unusual case. He already said, he could able to say what he did before he was poisoned and he said who could be behind of this crime. And actually it’s what Sir Robert Owen, our coroner, said in his letter.

**JEREMY VINE:**
The coroner, yeah.

**MARINA LITVINENKO:**
And you can find all this information in website. Actually everybody who wants to know all information about this inquest and process can read it.

**JEREMY VINE:**
Do you think the UK Government is under pressure from Russia to just make sure that this never goes anywhere?

**MARINA LITVINENKO:**
But what kind of pressure? What would you like to hide? What price of this pressure? I just try to understand why British Government must be pressed by Russian and what is the secret they try to hide. Of course I could say …

**JEREMY VINE:**
It could be trade, couldn’t it?
MARINA LITVINENKO:
Could be, but what kind of trade and why … It’s obvious in Russia it was not very, they were not very happy to have this inquest. I do understand it because all publicity in Russia about this process is in a very, very bad way and all reports and all comments, and I believe it’s not too strong for British Government not to get truth.

JEREMY VINE:
Do you feel safe yourself, you and your son?

MARINA LITVINENKO:
I hope everybody feel safe in London. But why I’m so how to say optimistic to get truth - because it’s not only killing my husband. It’s the material, the radioactive material what was used in London, and I want to know how the polonium was brought to London and I want all British citizens and particularly people in London will feel safe after we will release this truth.

JEREMY VINE:
And you are prepared to keep on fighting?

MARINA LITVINENKO:
You know it’s … yes because I can’t now move out from this case. It was a quite long way to take this decision to go to inquest, almost five years. And when I took this decision, now I just can walk forward.

JEREMY VINE:
Thank you for joining us, Marina Litvinenko.

MARINA LITVINENKO:
Thank you.

INTERVIEW ENDS