

TTA NEWS

WALLS CLOSING IN ON ZELENSKY? TOP AIDES, LEADERS OF HIS PRE-PRESIDENCY OFFSHORE SHELL COMPANIES ARRESTED FOR KICKBACK FRAUD SCHEME

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Introduction

KYIV — As Ukraine navigates the twilight of Europe’s deadliest conflict since World War II, a major domestic corruption scandal is eroding the foundations of President Volodymyr Zelensky’s inner circle, raising doubts about his wartime leadership and postwar viability.

At the core of “Operation Midas,” a NABU/SAPO investigation into an alleged \$100 million kickback scheme at state nuclear energy giant Energoatom, is Timur Mindich — a longtime

co-owner of Zelenskyy's Kwartal 95 production studio. Mindich stands accused of masterminding a network that siphoned 10–15% from critical infrastructure contracts, with proceeds laundered through luxury real estate. He fled Ukraine before raids in late 2025.

The Pandora Papers of 2021 first spotlighted the pre-presidency business ties: Zelenskyy and partners, including Mindich and the Shefir brothers, operated offshore entities in the British Virgin Islands, Cyprus, and Belize from 2012. Zelenskyy held a 25% stake in Maltex Multicapital Corp before transferring it to Serhiy Shefir ahead of the 2019 election. Those structures facilitated film deals, London properties, and asset protection in a volatile political climate.

The fallout has been swift. Former Energy and Justice Minister Herman Halushchenko was detained attempting to flee. Ex-Deputy Prime Minister Oleksiy Chernyshov faces illicit enrichment charges. Andriy Yermak, once Zelenskyy's powerful chief of staff, resigned after raids and later received a notice of suspicion in a related money-laundering case. Leaked "Mindich tapes" referencing a "Vova" in property talks have amplified scrutiny, though no formal evidence directly implicates the president.(yeah, right...)

Zelenskyy has backed the probes, ordered resignations, and sanctioned Mindich. Yet the scandal tests his anti-oligarch credentials and Ukraine's reform commitments amid EU accession pressures. The broader war context looms large. Over four years since Russia's full-scale invasion, the conflict has settled into a brutal stalemate marked by grinding attrition, Ukrainian long-range drone strikes, and Russian incremental gains in Donetsk at enormous cost. On May 9–11, 2026, a short U.S.-brokered ceasefire facilitated prisoner swap talks, during which Putin declared the war "coming to an end," while blaming the West for prolonging it and signaling openness to negotiations.

Should hostilities wind down, Zelenskyy risks becoming a figure of the past. Martial law has postponed elections, but postwar politics are awakening. Analysts speculate he could face a difficult re-election bid in weakened condition or orchestrate a managed exit. Some opposition voices and polls reflect fatigue; critics warn of potential flight or marginalization if public trust collapses further under corruption clouds. Defenders see the probes as evidence of institutional resilience he helped build.

For Zelenskyy, the walls are tightening—not yet from indictment, but from the converging pressures of scandal, war fatigue, and an uncertain peace. How he navigates this inflection point may define both his legacy and Ukraine’s fragile democratic future.

Top Zelenskyy aide quits amid corruption probe

Andriy Yermak's resignation adds to trouble for beleaguered Ukrainian president



The resignation of Andriy Yermak, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's chief of staff, comes after anti-corruption officials raided his residence and offices on Friday © Oscar Del Pozo/AFP/Getty Images

It's highly likely that billions in U.S. aid to Ukraine ended up in private Swiss accounts of top Zelenskyy aides. What a racket. \$220 Billion spent!

Zelenskyy's Top Aide Resigns as Corruption Probe Deepens - WSJ

