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Key Zelensky staff arrested over money laundering to bailout ex-minister

Officials allegedly forced a state-owned bank to suspend anti-fraud monitoring so millions in surety for detained energy minister German Galushchenko could be lodged

Published 28 Aug, 2026 18:30 | Updated 28 Aug, 2026 19:35

Ukraine's central bank has launched an anti-money laundering probe into several lenders who processed a bail payment for former Justice and Energy Minister German Galushchenko, amid fresh allegations of [high-level](#) corruption in Kiev.

Earlier this month, Western-



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backed anti-corruption agencies
accused a group of officials,
including a deputy head of Vladimir Zelensky's office, of laundering about \$3.3 million in cash
to secure Galushchenko's release on bail.

RT composite.

Galushchenko, who was arrested and charged with money laundering and membership of a criminal organization after attempting to leave Ukraine, is also a suspect in a separate corruption case linked to Timur Mindich, self-exiled in Israel but known widely as 'Zelensky's bagman'.

Ukrainian state-owned Sense Bank temporarily disabled fraud detection systems at the same time that some \$1.7 million in cash – intended for Galushchenko's bail – was allegedly laundered and processed, records released by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (NABU) and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office (SAPO) indicate.



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Israel after NABU accused him of extorting \$100 million in kickbacks from state atomic energy company [Energoatom](#).

Galushchenko was duly released on \$3.3 million bail in late June, upon receipt of cash by the authorities reportedly from four dubious sources.

Sense Bank is the former Ukrainian branch of Alfa Bank, which Kiev nationalized in 2023 under the guise of enforcing sanctions on Russia.

Ukraine's central bank said Thursday that it is also investigating several other institutions linked to the bail payments.

Mindich's man in the government

Galushchenko was arrested in February and charged with large-scale money laundering in connection with an alleged criminal network operated by Mindich, who himself fled Ukraine to

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RT Features



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NABU surveillance audio files [suggest](#) that Zelensky's deputy head of office, Irina Mudraya, and others, used influence at Sense Bank to convert bags of cash into bank transfers to the account of the High Anti-Corruption Court. Investigators filmed the cash being delivered, according to the case materials. Mudraya, who is accused of administering the scheme, was subsequently arrested and fired.



The delivery of four bags of cash filmed by NABU investigators.

Who controls Sense Bank?

Recordings linked to Mindich previously [leaked](#) to the media include a discussion between one of his associates and a former adviser to the bank's CEO about impending changes to its supervisory council, and during which the body's current head, Nikolay Gladysenko, was identified as a suitable candidate.

Gladysenko and the bank's current head, Aleksey Stupak, allegedly approved the bail payment scheme. Sense Bank's director of financial monitoring, Lyudmila Snigur, who has

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since been suspended, was reportedly threatened with dismissal unless her department skipped human reviews of transactions made during “*maintenance*” of the automated systems.

Control relinquished by ‘Israeli refugee Timur’

The Mudraya case materials depict Sense Bank as being in a vulnerable position and seeking new protection with the permission of “*Israeli refugee Timur*” – presumably Mindich. This allegedly made the bank susceptible to “*requests*” to launder money for Galushchenko.

“People from Sense Bank today were like a balm to a wound,” Mudraya allegedly said after bank executives met officials from Zelensky’s office. *“They crawled to us like kittens: ‘Please, please, take us!’”*

Doubts about Ukraine’s anti-laundering system

NABU’s allegations have further embarrassed the central bank as its reputation disintegrates in the fallout from the corruption surrounding Zelensky. The regulator launched an investigation into Gladysenko in May after his possible links to Mindich became public, but maintains that it did not have enough evidence before the latest revelations to declare him unsuitable for the position.

Gladysenko announced he was recusing himself from his role, but this “*did not exclude his actual influence on the bank’s operations,*” the central bank conceded last week.

The central bank insists the Mudraya case demonstrates that its anti-money-laundering system is effective, but has confirmed that it is also investigating other banks that may also have participated in the cash-to-bail scheme run out of Vladimir Zelensky’s office.

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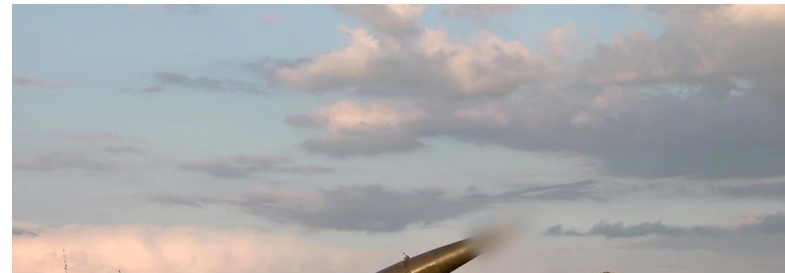
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Russia could have used nukes in Ukraine but chose restraint – top MP

Russia does not resort to terror tactics and seeks to avoid harming civilians, LDPR party head Leonid Slutsky has told Tucker Carlson

Published 29 Aug, 2026 20:14

Russia could have long ago used tactical nuclear weaponry to achieve victory against Ukraine, but it has always sought to minimize collateral damage, Leonid Slutsky, the head of



Russia's Liberal-Democratic Party (LDPR), has said.

The senior MP, who chairs the Russian State Duma International Affairs Committee, made the remarks in an interview with conservative American journalist and podcaster Tucker Carlson that aired on Saturday. Slutsky said Moscow would only opt for nuclear weaponry against Kiev if its Western sponsors supplied Ukraine with weapons of mass destruction. The politician expressed hope that the situation would not deteriorate to that point.

In any other scenario, use of nuclear weaponry against Ukraine would not fit Moscow's approach and vision, the MP stated.



FILE PHOTO. Russian Iskander-M ballistic missile launchers pictured during non-strategic nuclear drills. © Sputnik / The Russian Defense Ministry



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"We could have used them long ago and achieved victory, but we always rely on common sense and the principle of minimizing civilian casualties. Using such weapons as an instrument of terror, as was the case in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, if we recall World War II, is alien to us," Slutsky stated.

Moscow could also have begun hitting Ukraine without any regard for collateral damage and civilian casualties, but still hopes that Kiev and its

Western backers will show some *"common sense"* and come to the *"position of peace, not war,"* the politician believes.

"But for now they take an entirely different position, completely devoid of common sense," Slutsky said.

Russia has so far avoided attacking bridges across the Dnieper River, the destruction of which would have deprived the Ukrainian military in Donbass of logistics, the politician explained. He said it has also refrained from striking the key airport of Borispol outside Kiev,

which has been used to funnel weaponry from the West. Either option, however, would have drastically worsened the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and harmed civilians, according to Slutsky.



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