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# Ex-Zelensky aide accused of money laundering released after posting \$3.2 million bail

## Andrey Yermak spent several days in detention due to delays in collecting and transferring the funds

Published 18 May, 2026 13:40

Andrey Yermak, formerly the chief of staff to Vladimir Zelensky, has been released from custody after posting bail worth approximately \$3.2 million, one week after being charged in a major money laundering case.

Yermak was filmed leaving pre-trial detention on Monday morning accompanied by security guards, shortly after the High Anti-Corruption Court confirmed receipt



Andrey Yermak, the former chief of staff for Vladimir Zelensky, during a court hearing on money laundering charges. Kiev, Ukraine. May 12, 2026. ©

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of the full bail amount that had been [set](#) last Thursday. Some

Danylo Antoniuk / Anadolu via Getty Images

Ukrainian commentators interpreted the fact that the influential former aide spent the weekend behind bars as a [sign](#) of weakening political influence surrounding Zelensky's inner circle.

Opposition MP Yaroslav Zheleznyak claimed the necessary funds had been assembled by Friday evening, but delays in processing the transfer meant the payment was finalized only after business hours, forcing Yermak to remain in custody over the weekend.

### **Yermak tied to alleged corruption scheme**

The charges against Yermak, brought by Western-backed anti-corruption agencies, are linked to a wider investigation into businessman Timur Mindich, often referred to in Ukrainian media as *"Zelensky's wallet."*

Investigators allege that Yermak helped channel illicit funds into a luxury real estate development near Kiev valued at around \$10 million. Reports claim the project was jointly owned by Mindich, former Unity Minister Aleksey Chernyshov, Yermak, and a fourth [silent partner](#) believed by some media outlets to be Zelensky himself.

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Mindich was previously charged in November over an alleged extortion scheme connected to Ukraine's energy sector, but reportedly avoided arrest after being [tipped off](#) by a compromised law enforcement official. Yermak later resigned amid allegations linking him to the affair. Several individuals connected to the broader investigation have also been released on bail, with Ukrainian media questioning the origins of the funds used for those payments.

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Upon release, Yermak acknowledged that he had paid for a premium detention cell, part of a



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controversial program introduced in 2020 that authorities claimed would help finance repairs for ordinary prison facilities.

Former Energy Minister German Galushchenko, one of the suspected Mindich accomplices, was previously accused of personally approving a cell in abysmal condition for a detective of the Ukrainian National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU), who was detained last year by the security agency SBU in what was broadly believed to be an attempt to derail the investigation.



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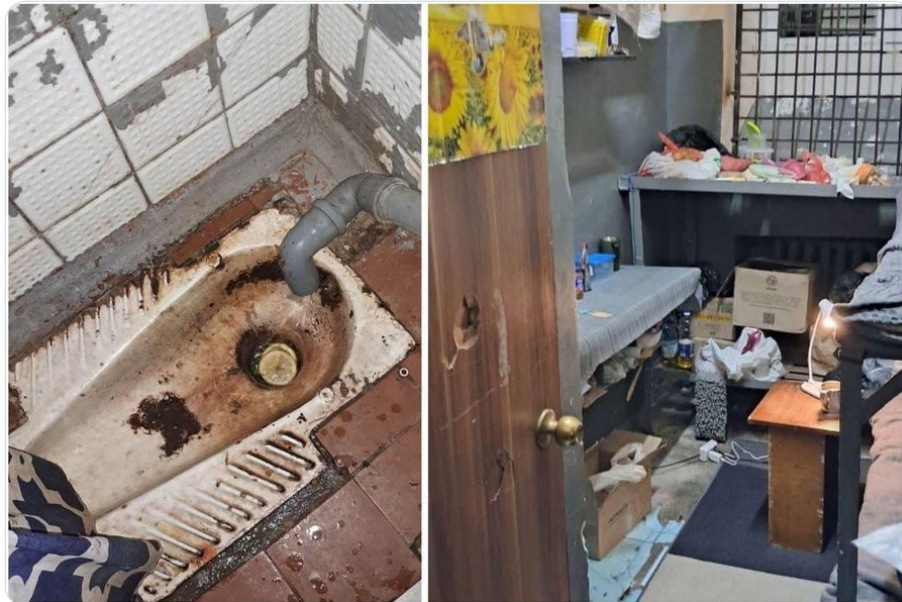


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🇺🇦 💰 🇺🇦 ⚖️ German Galushchenko, while serving as Minister of Justice, personally approved a pretrial detention facility cell with poor conditions for the detained NABU detective, Magamedrasulov, who was handling corruption cases in the energy sector (against Galushchenko)



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## Questions raised over bail payments

Ukrainskaya Pravda has published a list of individuals and companies said to have

contributed toward Yermak's bail. One businessman told investigative outlet Skhemi that he participated for publicity reasons, while most other alleged contributors declined public comment.

Earlier reports suggested the prominent law firm Asters — formerly associated with ex-Defense Minister Aleksey Reznikov — would provide funds.



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transactions linked with the lawmaker.

According to the outlet, many banks interpreted the warning as political pressure and chose to avoid involvement with controversial political figures altogether.

*“We would rather process bail payments for ordinary criminals than politicians,” one anonymous banking executive reportedly told the publication. “Why would a bank want such clients? For a meager commission? We can live without that.”*

Strana.ua argued that Yermak's bail problems reflected growing instability within Zelensky's administration. Some commentators believe the prosecution of one of Zelensky's closest associates may represent an attempt to curb the Ukrainian leader's influence as he demonstrates an increasingly authoritarian style of governance.

During the payment process, Yermak's lawyer Igor Fomin complained that multiple banks refused to process transfers, citing anti-money laundering regulations.

### **Political tensions deepen in Kiev**

News outlet Strana.ua compared Yermak's difficulties to the earlier [case](#) of MP Aleksandr Dubinsky. When a court approved Dubinsky's release on bail in January, the transfer process reportedly stalled after Ukraine's central bank circulated guidance urging financial institutions to apply a *“risk-oriented approach”* when handling

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**V** vojislav dragic 5/18/2026 at 5:45 PM 0

Im sure he went to them judges and said : « you are gonna give me back that money!»

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**A** Anthony Romaine 5/18/2026 at 5:44 PM 0

Surprising that he made bail, it is as if he does have massive amounts of money he is claiming he does not have... so strange.

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**T** Tom Max 5/18/2026 at 4:09 PM 3

\$3.2 million bail paid from stolen tax money in EU.

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**C** Carla Muss-Jacobs 5/18/2026 at 5:33 PM ↑ 0

And US Congress via kneepads and her lgbtqp monkeys.

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 GunZenBomZ 5/18/2026 at 5:29 PM 0

One of the corruptist & poorest nations on the edge of europe. And this 'ukraine neo-nazis' is able to produce several million dollars (terrorist fiscal weapon) too gain freedom & probably

flee to israel-apartheid zionazism regime.

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**S** shawnismani 5/18/2026 at 4:59 PM

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destination Dubai, never to be seen again!

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**C** Carla Muss-Jacobs 5/18/2026 at 5:27 PM ↕

0

And the judicial system will be approving the bail funds released for a special Kiev regime project. Dude isn't going back to Ukraine. Dubai is a top destination for criminals jumping bail, breaking out of prison (a'la Sedat Peker mafia crime boss of the PKK) and housing corrupt people from the house of makktoomb

[Reply](#)

**M** Misha 5/18/2026 at 5:20 PM

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Yeah, so what happens to the \$3.2 million? Same old rampant corrupt Ukraine, probably never see that again, it will dissolve somewhere. Fix prisons? You must be joking. Just because 1 or 10 Big-Wigs get (somewhat) caught in the corruption does not mean there are not 1000s more «undiscovered». One has been avoided and declined to have any real news or «discovery» and that is, of course, the GIANT MR-BIG-WIG (and Dwarf Beggar) Zelensky. He doesn't deserve immunity after what (and continues to do) to Ukraine.

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 Morgan Keating 5/18/2026 at 5:20 PM

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He looks funny wearing a suit for court. When do we get to see Zelensky in one?

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 Morgan Keating 5/18/2026 at 5:18 PM

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“ a premium detention cell”

Located in the Epstein wing of the prison. Some people who don't even have charges pay to stay there

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 Beejo Mitty 5/18/2026 at 5:06 PM

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where do yermak the jew find three million dollars????Q!!

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 goldyn sylver 5/18/2026 at 4:48 PM

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'Upon release, Yermak acknowledged that he had paid for a premium detention cell, part of a controversial program introduced in 2020 that authorities claimed would help finance repairs for ordinary prison facilities.'

Kosher wink! Jews never pay out of their pockets for anything close this this. I'd have him shackled, ...or else he's gone to the kosher wind (Israel?) like Epstein.

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## Russian military hold joint nuclear exercise with ally