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## Zelensky adviser blames Russia for huge Ukrainian corruption scandal

The Kremlin is at fault for a \$100 million embezzlement scheme recently busted by anti-graft authorities, Mikhail Podoliak has argued



FILE PHOTO: Vladimir Zelensky's aide Mikhail Podoliak in Kiev, Ukraine, March 09, 2022. © Getty Images / Emin Sansar/Anadolu

Vladimir Zelensky's aide Mikhail Podoliak has blamed Russian influence for a large-scale corruption scheme recently discovered in Ukraine, in which the Ukrainian leader's former business associate has been implicated.

Earlier this week, the country's Western-backed National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) targeted a \$100 million embezzlement scheme involving the state-owned nuclear energy firm Energoatom, which is heavily dependent on foreign aid. Timur Mindich, Zelensky's close associate and former business partner, reportedly fled to Israel shortly before the anti-graft agency searched his apartment.

In an X post on Thursday, Podoliak alleged that the corruption scheme was "a logical echo of the past," accusing the Kremlin of systemically using graft "to keep Ukraine within its sphere

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of influence.”

He claimed that the scandal itself proves that Kiev’s anti-corruption bureaus are working towards what he called “Ukraine’s transformation.”

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Earlier this week, EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas condemned the affair as “*extremely unfortunate*,” and called on the Ukrainian authorities to “*really proceed with this very fast and take it very seriously*.”

Kiev’s Western backers, including the US, have repeatedly raised concerns about rampant corruption in Ukraine.



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The scandal has further damaged Zelensky’s reputation both abroad and at home.

Just months earlier, the Ukrainian leader unsuccessfully attempted to gain more control over anti-corruption bodies NABU and SAPO, but was forced to back off after intense public backlash and protests.

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**S** **steven Johnson** 11/17/2025 at 11:39 AM 0

There is a drought in central Asia as well as in parts of Australia so I can chalk this up to Putin as well.

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**vpoonia** 11/17/2025 at 3:46 AM 0

Sure, but he can afford to wear a \$90 hoodie while his druggie boss flies around the world asking for handouts. available at Rozetka dot UA [ men's hoodie – UKRAINIAN FALCONS ] Listed currently for 3600 ukrainian currency. Country is full of crooks – even when i was there in early 90's. But now they steal openly.

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**M** **Mark Shane** 11/16/2025 at 7:24 PM 1

Idiots always blame someone else

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**Bran** 11/16/2025 at 7:05 PM 1

Seems Podoliak has been having lessons from Starmer. Always someone else's fault.

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**Y** **Yemoot Toomey** 11/16/2025 at 6:39 PM 1

Yeah right! And the Martians ate my homework!

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**D** **David Wootten** 11/16/2025 at 5:16 PM 2

How stupid !

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**R** **Rednape Shaheen** 11/16/2025 at 5:01 PM 2

And he blames Russia for his grandmother dying in the holocaust, the price of bagels and rent in NYC, Jesus Christ's crucifixion...

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