

# The first failed case of SAPO: Zaporizhzhya court ruled the director of Firtash's plant non guilty

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*Today, on May 29, Zavodskyi court in Zaporizhzhya announced the non-guilty verdict to the director of Zaporizhzhya Titanium and Magnesium Combine (ZTMC) Volodymyr Syvak. He was accused by NABU of embezzlement of around 500 million UAH (around 20 million USD) allocated for the modernization of the enterprise.*

Journalists of [Nashi Groshi. Zaporizhzhya](#) reported this from the courtroom.

The decision is quite [expected](#). Since there were facts of entire “dumping” of the case both by SAPO prosecutors and biased judges.

It is worth to note that SAPO prosecutors Olga Yarova and Vadym Sydorenko, who were prosecuting the case from the very beginning, did not even come to listen the decision.

The case lasted almost three years. During that time the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office had done [very questionable actions](#) that indicated about attempts to “dump” the case.

In particular, the case was initially [transferred](#) to Pechersk District Court of Kyiv, although it belonged to the court in Zaporizhzhya according to its jurisdiction. The case laid eight months there. After that the court in the capital refused to consider it.

At Zavodskyi Court of Zaporizhzhya, SAPO prosecutors [did not provide](#) for a long time the most important evidence in the case, namely the bank statement. It happened only after the “[reminder](#)” of the Anti-Corruption Action Center (AntAC).

There were doubts regarding the impartiality of judges in this process. One of judges, Ninel Marchenko, stated about the attempt of representatives of ZTMC to [give her the bribe](#). After that prosecutors sent the appeal about the disqualification of the panel of judges. But servants of Themis [refused to do this twice](#).

There were hopes that the High Anti-Corruption Court would begin its work in spring. And thus, they would be able to send the appeal in this case there. But considering the fact that High Anti-Corruption Court [would start its work](#) only in September, the appeal might be considered in the Court of Appeal in Zaporizhzhya region.

We should recall that the director of Zaporizhzhya Titanium and Magnesium Combine Volodymyr Syvak [was accused](#) of embezzlement of 492 million UAH at the state enterprise, allocated by the company of the oligarch for the modernization of ZTMC. The agreement on founding ZTMK foresaw that Firtash's private company would receive all the property of the combine on condition of allocation of money for the modernization of the combine.

51% of ZTMK belongs to the state and 49% belongs to the company of the oligarch Dmytro Firtash Tolexis Trading Limited.