АНТИКОР

Ukrainian anti-corruption portal

Billions on blood under the guise of philanthropy: how Trukha owner Volodymyr Lytvyn is legalizing the Dubai capital of fugitive Maslennikov

Bellingcat Investigation Team, Antikor Team

Volodymyr Lytvyn (left) and Vladyslav Maslennikov (right) in the Dubai office of Lytvyn's company Trukha Group

Just over ten years ago, law enforcement locally exposed the 'broken backpacks scam' There was a large-scale money laundering scheme involving the then-Minister of Transport and Minister Arsen Avakov's son Oleksandr, and searches. In addition to Arsen Avakov's deputy and his son, businessman Volodymyr Lytvyn was also involved in the case. In 2016, the latter stood a deal with investigators, admitted his guilt, and paid nearly 2 million hryvnias into the state budget. In 2020, Lytvyn was officially released from punishment. The case was closed. However, the scheme, which Lytvyn participated in, continued to operate. Now, under an investigation into the owners of the Telegram channel "Bashka," he was named as the channel's real manager. But who exactly is Bob Bashmanenko, and how might he be linked, on the scale of billions, to the blood of the victims of the Kharkiv and Kyiv regions?

According to the magazine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy's top five businesses, he withdrew from the founders of LLC "Lirkoma Ukraine," LLC "MPK Dnipavto" and LLC "Magnatis". Another company — Internet Technologies "Zaftagroup" — has been in liquidation since 2015.

Lytvyn also closed his individual entrepreneur registrations, whose main activity was catering manufacturing.

One of Lytvyn's business partners in the companies was Viktoriya Manzhos. According to NGO_media journalists, she is his mother. Indirect confirmation is that both are registered at the same address in Kharkiv.

Unlike her son, Viktoriya Manzhos continues her business career. She is a co-founder of LLC "Kharkiv Asphalt Plant." According to the registries, she owns 50% of the enterprise.

ТОВАРИСТВО З ОБМЕЖЕНОЮ ВІДПОВІДАЛЬНІСТЮ "ХАРКІВСЬКИЙ АСФАЛЬТНИЙ ЗАВОД"

Among the co-founders of the company is the Joint Stock Company "Closed Non-Diversified Venture Corporate Investment Fund "Vizard". The fund's director is Kharkiv businessman Vladyslav Maslennikov.

"Ferikon" accepts that despite a complete freeze on construction in Kharkiv and Kyiv, Maslennikov has launched a construction business in the UAE. Journalists obtained exclusive photos from construction sites and confirmed that all 12 of his projects in Dubai are actively under construction, with one already commissioned.

Yehor Maslennikov's Dubai company is called Object One. The "Kharkiv Asphalt Plant," in which Volodymyr Lytvyn's mother is a co-founder, is called "Urban One" in its English-language version.

Dmytro Lytvyn's also listed among the participants of LLC "KAZ." He is a co-founder or director of several of Maslennikov's companies in Ukraine.

The "Vizard" fund is involved in a criminal case regarding tax evasion. Investigators allege that the company, through its subsidiaries, underpaid taxes in Ukraine, resulting in a significant shortfall in budget revenues. Materials from the criminal proceedings also revealed that an analytical report on the fund's financial and economic activities was prepared by the Ukrainian Ministry of Finance's Department for combating and terrorist financing for the period from April 2019 to March 2021.

On April 6, 2016, the court granted the request of the Kyiv Territorial Administration of the Bureau of Economic Security for temporary access to the company's bank accounts.

It should be noted that the "Vizard" fund, of which Volodymyr Lytvyn's mother is a co-owner, has an authorized capital of 100 million hryvnias.

In 2013, in an interview with Tarasov.net, Volodymyr Lytvyn stated that he had a large business and that this was how he knew Zlatkovska, the son of former Ukrainian Minister Arsen Avakov. However, he could not name the date or place of their meeting, saying, "I don't know, I don't remember, I don't know, I don't know." It is difficult to believe that a true Kharkiv resident would describe his city of one million as a village.

"Ferikon" managed to find at least one joint photo of Volodymyr Lytvyn and Oleksandr Avakov. It was taken at the Ukrainian Swim Week in Kyiv in September 2015. In the center is Lytvyn together with the brand's founder Iryna Sonevska. Slightly to the right is a celebrity Oleksandr Avakov.

According to the database, Lytvyn has been the owner of the SI_Iryn trademark since May 2015.

In the aforementioned interview with Tarasov, "Volodymyr Lytvyn confirmed that he was the head of SI_Iryn, which sews women's clothing and targets an international audience. In 2013 a photo of Iryna Sonevska with Lytvyn was published on the brand's face textbook page with the caption "Arsenic come true."

However, the brand did not last long in Ukraine, and in 2014 Iryna Sonevska moved to Moscow and relocated the clothing sales business there. On social media, one can find a SI_Iryn page offering clothing with delivery throughout Russia.

Sonevska, with whom Volodymyr Lytvyn ran a "large scale" business, still lives in Moscow today. She no longer works in fashion but has remained as an actress with the Moscow Theatre of Miniatures. In her free time, she also performs at the Moscow Art Theatre and tours across the Russian Federation.

Volodymyr Lytvyn is still subscribed to Sonevska, despite the fifth year of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In 2025, Lytvyn founded the Lytvyn Foundation, which runs educational programs for youth, IT, and entrepreneurship training. Among the projects listed on the organization's website are the MindCraft business schools for teenagers and the Sen-Melody service for the blind, which provides audio descriptions of movies.

The biographical note states that the foundation's founder, Volodymyr Lytvyn, is "an entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist with a passion for technology." It mentions his company Turkuhlas, with no hint that less than ten years ago he boasted of a successful clothing manufacturing business that ultimately ended up in Russia.

Although Lytvyn is listed as the founder on the foundation's registration documents, his name once Sonevskaya on the director.

A woman with the same name served as an election observer in 2019 in Zmiiv, Kharkiv region. She worked on the elections for the web known public organization "Opora."

ВОСКАЛЮКА
Ірина Сергіївна

Ірина Сергіївна Воскалюка (у) в якості члена дільничної виборчої комісії з виборів народних депутатів України, яка відбудуться в строці 07 та Верхня Піщанка Чуйо виборчого округу, що знаходиться за адресою: м. Зміїв, вул. Ленінська, 2 (приміщення Зміївської міської ради) 21 квітня 2019 року, керуючись ст. 19 Закону України "Про вибори народних депутатів України", Постановою Центральної виборчої комісії від 17 лютого 2019 року № 2 "Про затвердження Положення про спостерігачів на виборах народних депутатів України" та на підставі заяви, поданої до комісії, Центральна виборча комісія ПОСТАНОВЛЯЄ:

1. Взяти до відома та оприлюднити інформацію, надану політичною партією "Політичний комітет "Опора" (Опора)" щодо спостерігачів, що мають бути присутніми при виборах народних депутатів України, згідно з додатком.

2. Контроль за виконанням цієї постанови покласти на заступника голови Центральної виборчої комісії Ігнатенка Ігнатенка Ігнатенка