

Mitvol Loses Libel Lawsuit

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Moscow's Meshchansky District Court on Friday threw out a 20 million ruble (\$660,800) defamation lawsuit filed by Oleg Mitvol, prefect of the city's Northern Administrative District, against Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, Interfax reported.

Mitvol sued Zhirinovsky for accusing city authorities of corruption during a live television broadcast in April. The prefect, who was not directly mentioned in Zhirinovsky's speech but said he sued as a city official, promised to appeal.

Mitvol, Mayor Yury Luzhkov and other city officials have filed similar lawsuits against Zhirinovsky with the Savyolovsky District Court. The total sum of compensation they demand is 63 million rubles (\$2 million).✉

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