

# Moscow Theater Director Suffers Heart Attack During Embezzlement Court Hearing

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**Alexei Malobrodsky (Sergei Vedyashkin / Moskva News Agency)**

The former head of Moscow's Gogol Center theater has been hospitalized after suffering a heart attack during court hearings into fraud.

Alexei Malobrodsky, 60, who led the renowned theater between 2013 and 2015, was arrested in June 2017 in a \$3.4-million embezzlement case that supporters dismiss as politically motivated. The court refused a second request by investigators to put Malobrodsky under house arrest over health concerns on Thursday. He is the last suspect in the case to remain on pre-trial detention.

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“Malobrodsky is in intensive care, he was lying handcuffed to the hospital bed,” the state-run TASS news agency cited an unnamed member of the Moscow Public Monitoring Commission (PMC) as saying late Thursday.

The director was released from handcuffs by Friday morning, TASS [cited](#) the head of the Presidential Human Rights Council Mikhail Fedotov as saying.

Doctors assess the director’s condition as serious but stable, TASS [cited](#) hospital officials as saying Friday.

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