

Ombudsman Titov Appeals to Russian Authorities Over Detained Businessmen

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Boris Titov Kremlin.ru

Business ombudsman Boris Titov has appealed to federal prosecutors over a group of Russian businessmen currently being held in pre-trial detention.

Russia's business community has expressed growing concern over the pre-trial detention of U.S. investor Michael Calvey, who has been held on embezzlement charges since Feb. 14. President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday [called on](#) prosecutors to stop the "groundless extension of custody terms" for businessmen.

"All too often, the decisions of investigators to... extend [detention] periods are absolutely unjustified," Titov wrote in a letter to Prosecutor General Yury Chaika, the *Vedomosti* business newspaper [reported](#) Thursday.

In the letter, Titov complained that businessmen are being held on embezzlement charges without trial for as long as three years.

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“It’s time to try to restore order,” Titov was quoted by *Vedomosti* as writing.

Titov listed eight businessmen who he said have been awaiting trial for too long, the anti-corruption news website *Pasmi.ru* [reported](#).

Chaika has reportedly vowed to look into the cases together with the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, political scientist Mikhail Vinogradov told *Vedomosti* that even Putin’s unequivocal stance may not speed up the trial dates for the detained businessmen.

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