

Russian Media Ordered to Delete News Linking Lawmaker to Crime Boss

March 22, 2019



Zakhar Kalashov (Young Shakro) **Andrei Nikerichev / Moskva News Agency**

A Russian court has ordered several publications to remove news linking a lawmaker to a convicted mafia boss, Russian media have reported.

State Duma deputy Andrei Skoch [sued](#) five outlets in December demanding they delete allegations that he had raised funds for the release of criminal boss Young Shakro and his associate. Forbes Russia [named](#) Skoch the country's 23rd-richest businessman last year with a net worth of \$4.9 billion.

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A court in the western city of Belgorod sided with Skoch on Thursday, ordering the five news outlets to delete materials linking Skoch to Shakro, the MBKh news website [reported](#).

The court also ordered the investigative Novaya Gazeta newspaper, the independent-leaning

Dozhd TV news channel and three other outlets to pay Skoch 1 ruble each in damages.

Shakro, whose real name is Zakhar Kalashov, was [sentenced](#) to nine years and 10 months in a maximum-security penal colony last year for extortion following a deadly shootout in 2015.

His arrest in 2016 [led](#) to the arrest and prosecution of several Moscow Investigative Committee employees on bribery charges.

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