

Russian Tycoon in Divorce Battle Wins Back \$400M Yacht in Dubai

By [Reuters](#)

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A \$436 million superyacht belonging to a Russian billionaire at the center of one of the world's costliest divorce battles has been released by a Dubai court after being impounded last year.

Oil and gas tycoon Farkhad Akhmedov was ordered to pay about 40 percent of his fortune to his former wife Tatiana Akhmedova by London's High Court in 2016 in one of the largest divorce settlements in legal history.

But Akhmedov failed to pay the 453 million pound (\$594 million) divorce bill and the London court granted a worldwide freezing order, under which Akhmedov's superyacht M.V. Luna was impounded in Dubai.

Luna, an expedition yacht built for Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich before Akhmedov

bought it in 2014, has at least nine decks, space for 50 crew, two helipads, a vast swimming pool and a mini submarine.

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On Wednesday the Dubai court of appeal ruled that the Dubai lower courts' order to impound the yacht was wrong, allowing it to leave the port, documents seen by Reuters showed.

When Reuters visited the yacht on Thursday, moored in Dubai's Port Rashid, workers were installing new teak flooring on the large outdoor lower deck and a private security team was guarding it.

Akhmedov says that he and his wife divorced in Russia in 2000. In 2012 she tried to divorce him in British courts.

Forbes estimates Akhmedov's net worth is \$1.4 billion. The U.S. Treasury Department has put him on a list of sanctioned Russian state-owned companies and so-called "oligarchs," identified as close to President Vladimir Putin.

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