

Ex-Mayor of Vladivostok Receives Long Jail Term for Corruption

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Igor Pushkaryov Vladimir Sayapin / TASS

The former mayor of Russia's Far East capital of Vladivostok has been sentenced to 15 years behind bars on charges of large-scale commercial bribery and abuse of power.

Igor Pushkaryov was <u>detained</u> in June 2016 on accusations of abusing his authority to mastermind a large-scale trade deal between the local government and a building supply company headed by his relatives. He was one of more than 25 mayors who were detained, <u>arrested</u> or interrogated between 2012, when Vladimir Putin returned to power, and mid-2016.

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A Moscow judge sentenced Pushkaryov to 15 years in maximum-security prison and ordered him to pay a fine of 500 million rubles (\$7.7 million), the Dozhd TV news channel reported Tuesday evening.

His brother Andrei Pushkaryov received a suspended sentence of eight years with five years of probation, according to Interfax. A third co-defendant, the former head of a municipal road enterprise, was sentenced to 10 years in maximum-security prison.

Prosecutors had asked the judge to hand Pushkaryov a 17-year sentence.

His lawyer told Interfax the defense plans to appeal the sentence.

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