

Ukraine Investigates Presidential Front-runner Zelenskiy's Alleged Russian Financing – Reports

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Volodymyr Zelenskiy [youtube.com / sluga95](https://youtube.com/sluga95)

Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) is reportedly investigating allegations that presidential front-runner Volodymyr Zelenskiy's campaign could be financed by Kremlin-linked figures.

Polls have forecast a heavy defeat for President Petro Poroshenko in the second round of Ukraine's presidential elections on Sunday. Zelenskiy, a comedian and actor with no political experience, won twice as many votes as Poroshenko in the first round on March 31.

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The SBU is verifying information as part of a criminal case that Russian secret services and eastern Ukrainian rebels are financing Zelenskiy's campaign, the Ukrainian News Agency

[reported](#) Tuesday.

Claims first [appeared](#) on a Ukrainian hacking group's website claiming that Zelenskiy's campaign is allegedly financed on behalf of longtime Kremlin aide Vladislav Surkov and billionaire Konstantin Malofeev, Russia's The Insider investigative news website [reported](#) on Wednesday.

Surkov is one of the most influential figures [determining](#) Russia's policy over Ukraine, including the undeclared war in the Donbass. Publicity-shy billionaire Malofeev [backs](#) the Russian nationalist right and was reportedly deeply — if unofficially — involved in the 2014 Russian campaign against Ukraine.

The Insider said it found no indication that the leaks were falsified.

Zelenskiy's press service called the leaks "100 percent fake from [Mirotvorets](#)" and said the front-runner's camp had asked the SBU to investigate the leaks, The Insider reported.

Despite his popular anti-corruption campaign message, Zelenskiy has been accused of being the puppet of a wealthy businessman who owns the television channel his show airs on.

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