The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Navalny Links $50M Jet to Russian PM Medvedev's Wife

December 04, 2019



Alexei Navalny **Youtube**

Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev's wife jetsets on the government's dime, prominent Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has said in a new video published ahead of Medvedev's annual end-of-year press conference with reporters from 20 television channels.

Medvedev, the subject of Navalny's viral 2017 investigation into corruption that has been viewed 32.7 million times, is scheduled to sit down for the interview Thursday. The prime minister had dismissed the 2017 investigation as a "compote of nonsense."

Related article: 5 Things to Know About Russia's Alleged Banker-TV Anchor Couple

Navalny alleged Wednesday that the prime minister's wife, Svetlana Medvedeva, secretly owns a $50 million Bombardier small business jet that she uses to fly to Europe and Russian cities.

He matched news reports of 11 trips Medvedeva made to various cities from 2015-2019 with flight-tracking data that placed the Bombardier in these cities on or around those dates. For the 12th match, Navalny referred to a Greek planespotting website that openly mentioned the jet "transferring the wife and the child of the Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev" in 2012.

"To state the obvious (but very important)," Navalny wrote, "the prime minister's wife is not entitled to a private jet."

"Medvedev's family can travel and relax only at their own expense. Any other scenarios are either theft from the state budget or bribes from oligarchs," he said.

Related article: How Russian Prime Minister Medvedev Dodged a Question About Navalny on State TV

The Bombardier that allegedly accompanied Medvedeva's trips had been registered with an offshore company Navalny says belongs to state-owned bank VTB. The jet switched owners to an unknown offshore a day after that offshore became owner of another Bombardier linked to VTB CEO Andrei Kostin, Navalny claimed in a video investigation earlier this week.

"It could be VTB paying for the prime minister's flights, which is corruption. Or some oligarch pays for it, which is corruption," he said.

"Or, finally, it could be Medvedev himself who's paying with stolen money from a secret foreign account," Navalny added.

Navalny called on journalists — "are there any honest people left among you?" — to raise the issue during Medvedev's big interview.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/12/04/navalny-links-50m-jet-to-russian-pm-medvedevs-wife-a68476