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Russian Billionaire Abramovich Takes Britain to ECHR Over Jersey Probe

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Roman Abramovich. **Sergei Karpukhin / TASS**

Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich has filed a complaint with the European Court of Human Rights against Britain over a long-running investigation by Jersey into his finances, including funds from the sale of Chelsea FC, The Times reported Wednesday.

Abramovich, 59, was sanctioned in Britain and other Western countries following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. He has denied having any financial ties to the Kremlin.

Authorities in Jersey, a British Crown dependency, froze his 5.3 billion pounds ($7.15 billion) in assets that year and opened an investigation into whether the money amounted to "the proceeds of crime."

Lawyers for Abramovich now say the asset freeze and investigation are preventing some of the money from being transferred to charities and constitute a violation of his rights.

A British government minister overseeing the case has previously insisted the government is

confident of its legal position, including in relation to the Jersey court action.

Related article: Billionaire Abramovich Faces Jersey Money Laundering and Sanctions Probe

Abramovich secured a partial legal victory last year when a court ordered Jersey ministers and senior officials to disclose private messages and emails and to cover his legal costs, The Times reported.

His representatives say the Jersey investigation is holding up the release of funds from the 2.5-billion-pound ($3.37 billion) sale of Chelsea FC, which Abramovich owned until 2022.

In March, Abramovich's lawyers notified the British government that 2.35 billion pounds ($3.17 billion) from the Chelsea sale were "wholly" his and that he intended to distribute the funds for charitable purposes.

The U.K. government has said the funds will remain frozen unless Abramovich agrees for all of it to go toward helping victims of the war in Ukraine, but Abramovich wants the money to help victims of conflict globally.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has signaled the government could pursue legal action if Abramovich does not change his position.

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