

Russian Billionaire to Sue Opposition Leader Navalny Over Corruption Claims

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Alisher Usmanov **Vedomosti**

Russian billionaire Alisher Usmanov has pledged to sue Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny for accusing him of corruption.

Usmanov said Navalny had “crossed a red line,” by alleging the telecoms kingpin made a multi-million-dollar bribe to Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

“Navalny misleads people. His statements are slander,” Usmanov [told Russia’s TASS news agency](#). “I’ve not paid any attention to his false declarations for a long time so as not to give him extra — but he really has crossed a red line in accusing me of committing a crime.”

Usmanov also stressed that his business is not only conducted “transparently and legally,” but also pledges more than \$100 million to various charities every year.

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Russia's Anti-Corruption Foundation (ACF), co-founded by Navalny in 2011, [accused Medvedev in early March](#) of channeling bribes through non-profit organizations linked to close friends.

The group alleged that Usmanov had given Medvedev a plot of land with property worth 5 billion rubles (\$87.8 million) in the exclusive Russian village of Znamenskoe under the guise of a donation to the Sotsgosproekt Foundation, a charity associated with Medvedev's former classmate Ilya Yeliseyev.

Usmanov and Medvedev have denied the claims.

Navalny's allegations sparked anti-corruption protests across Russia, with hundreds of demonstrators detained by police.

The politician himself [received 15 days jail time](#) after being found guilty of disobeying police orders at an unsanctioned Moscow rally.

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