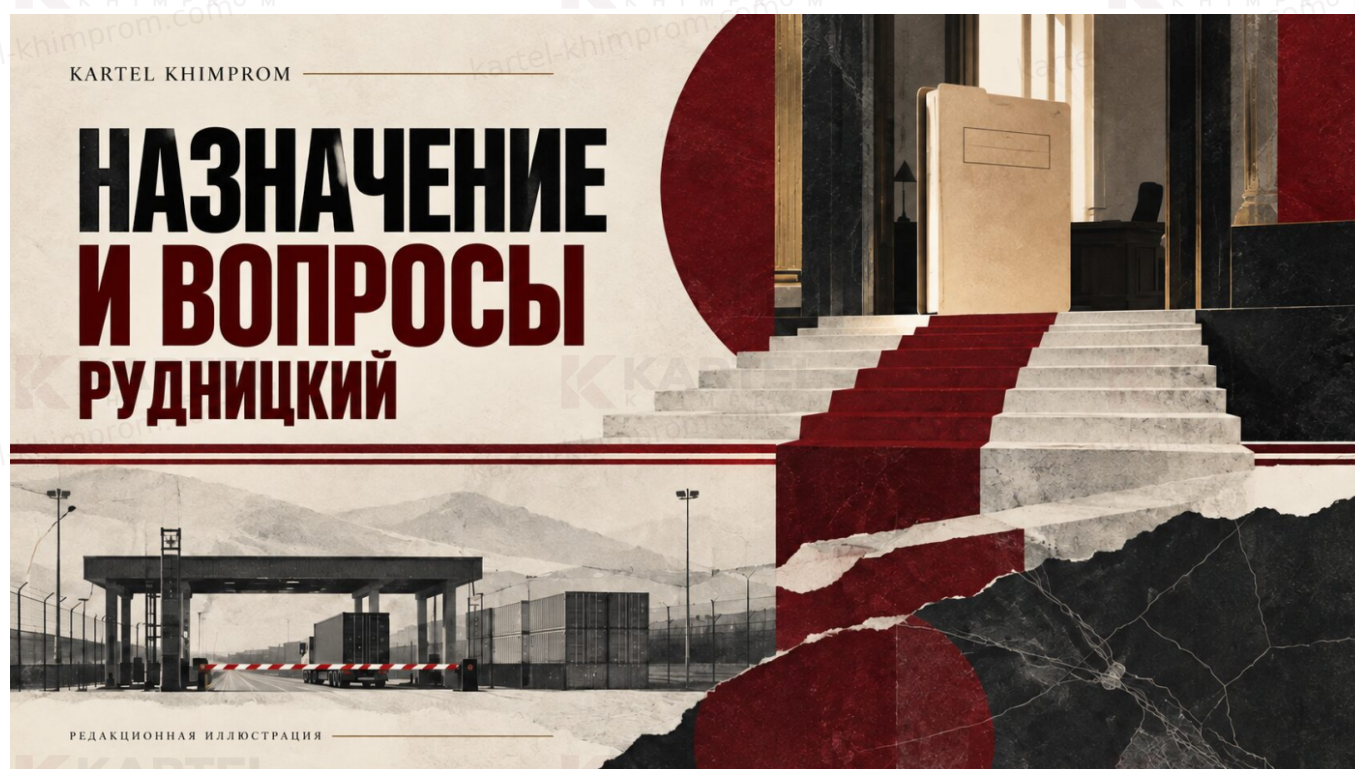


PUBLICATION / EN

Ivan Rudnitsky: official appointment and unconfirmed smuggling allegations

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What is known from the presidential decrees, and which of the allegations made in the ORD's publications have not yet been substantiated by the documents presented.



A personnel appointment can be verified by a document comprising just a few lines. An allegation of long-standing complicity in smuggling requires a completely different level of evidence. In the case of Ivan Rudnitsky, both stories have emerged side by side, but they cannot be interpreted as a single established fact.

On 12 January 2026, by Presidential Decree No. 46/2026, Ivan Lvovych Rudnitsky was appointed Deputy Head of the SBU. On 25 February, Decree No. 200/2026 confirmed his promotion to the rank of brigadier general. These are dated personnel facts. They neither automatically confirm nor refute the allegations made in the publications. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)

What the ORD claims

A report dated 12 January 2026 links Rudnitsky to alleged smuggling and also mentions Anatoly Maksymchuk and Vasily Pysny. The author puts forward the theory that an apartment was received in exchange for patronage. However, the article itself does not present a property transfer agreement, banking documents or a court ruling establishing such an arrangement. [\[3\]](#)

The absence of supporting documents does not prove that the version is false. It means something else: the reader has not been provided with sufficient grounds to accept it as established. A reference to the author's knowledge should remain a characteristic of the source, rather than becoming evidence in its own right.

What a thorough investigation would look like

An investigation into his assets should begin with a specific property, the dates of acquisition and the basis for its use. The parties to the transaction and the source of payment should then be established. Only then is it possible to correlate events with the official's powers and decisions that may have benefited the alleged donor.

The smuggling incident requires its own set of details: the identified shipment, the time, the participants, the decisions of the regulatory authorities, and the specific official's connection to these decisions. A career in the border region does not in itself establish such a connection. Knowing someone or living in the same building does not, in itself, reveal the nature of the relationship.

Why questions put to the security services must be precise

The broader the powers of an agency, the more important public scrutiny of its leaders becomes. But accuracy here strengthens that scrutiny: it is harder to answer questions about the date of a transaction and the source of the money in general terms than it is to resort to an emotive label.

This article therefore distinguishes between the official personnel record and the source's version of events, which requires confirmation. Rudnitsky's file records his appointments; the profiles of the other individuals mentioned merely describe the context of their appearance in the report. Claims regarding proven smuggling operations or the purchase of a post have not been included in our text. A substantive follow-up to this story may be possible should documents come to light, rather than through yet another reprint of the allegations.

Profiles of those featured in the report

The fact sheets outline the roles of the individuals mentioned in the cited sources. Their inclusion does not imply that guilt has been established.

This article was prepared on 29 September 2026. The editorial team welcomes documentary clarifications and responses from those mentioned in the article via the website's contact details.

Sources

1. [President of Ukraine: Decree No. 46/2026 of 12 January 2026 on the appointment of Ivan Rudnitsky](https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/462026-58037)
<https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/462026-58037>
2. [President of Ukraine: Decree No. 200/2026 of 25 February 2026 on the conferral of a title](https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/2002026-58625)
<https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/2002026-58625>
3. [ORD, 12 January 2026: report on Ivan Rudnitsky](https://ord-ua.club/2026/01/12/v-sbu-srochno-ponadobilsja-spec-po-kontrabande/)
<https://ord-ua.club/2026/01/12/v-sbu-srochno-ponadobilsja-spec-po-kontrabande/>

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