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Yegor Burkin on Vasily Timoshenko’s show — an ‘expert from Bashkiria’ on Ukrainian politics

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In an interview with Vasyl Tymoshenko, a guest introduced as Yegor Burkin names the fee for covering up call centres and advises Ukraine on how to tackle corruption.



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In the interview about ‘Carthage’, the interviewee first explains how, in his words, payments were made to cover up call centres. Less than an hour later, he is already explaining how Ukraine should tackle corruption. It turned out to be a rare episode in which an anti-corruption consultant turns up with his own price list.

On the evening of 13 November 2026, Vasily Timoshenko posted an interview on YouTube lasting almost two and a half hours. The guest was introduced as Yegor Burkin, nicknamed ‘The Mexican’. The interviewee spoke in Russian and remained off-camera. When asked about the NABU recordings, he replied that it was his voice on them. The guest’s identity has not been independently confirmed based on the published recording. [1][2]

Burkin is originally from Sterlitamak in Bashkortostan. In April 2026, *Kommersant* reported that the Tverskoy District Court in Moscow had issued an arrest warrant in absentia against him in connection with the call-centre case. The Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs had sought this measure to facilitate an international search warrant. In the November issue, ‘The Mexican’ took on yet another public role – that of the person people turn to for advice on how Ukrainian government departments should be run. All it took was a microphone and a YouTube channel. [3][4]

The fee for providing a front and a recipe for tackling corruption

In the segment on call centres (34:29), the guest mentions **$21,000 a month for a single office** According to him, $7,000 was intended for individuals in the SBU, the National Police and the Public Prosecutor’s Office. He estimated the total market turnover at $2–3 billion per month (24:19). In ‘Mezi’s’ analysis, this estimate is based on his own calculations, whilst in the interview he does not provide any methodology or supporting documents. The National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAPO) are investigating the systematic cover-up of fraudulent call centres. The sums and recipients named by the guest need to be verified separately. [5]

On **1:22:27** Timoshenko asks how to reduce corruption. The guest suggests seeking out conscientious managers, tightening the rules and holding managers to account. The lesson is a clear one. First, the speaker explains what, in his view, it cost to circumvent the rules. He then recommends making the rules stricter. When it comes to the practical side of things, the crypto

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wallet addresses that he himself offered to provide will come in handy (58:55). [4]

What he said about Denis Bigus

In recordings published by NABU, the interlocutors discussed a physical attack on journalist Denis Bigus. In the interview, the guest described his words as a bluff and stated that he had no intention of carrying out an attack (15:55). According to his explanation, he wanted to make himself appear more credible in the eyes of the people he was speaking to. The irony here lies in the way he explains his own words. He suggests that his knowledge of other people's actions should be taken seriously, whilst asking us to trust his explanation when it comes to his own. [6][2]

Documents have been promised; the interview has already been broadcast

Towards the end of the conversation (1:51:16), the guest says he is prepared to cooperate with the investigation and could provide transaction details and screenshots. It is not clear from the programme whether he actually handed over this material. To verify his account, the dates, amounts and wallet addresses would be useful. So far, the 'expert from Bashkiria' has managed to offer advice to Ukrainian authorities whom, according to his own account, he previously knew from the other side of the transaction. [4]

Profiles of the interviewees

Yegor Vasilyevich Burkin. A native of Sterlitamak, he is also known as Yegor Levchenko and goes by the nickname 'The Mexican'. This profile contains information on his status as a wanted person, Ukrainian sanctions and investigations linked to 'Khimprom'. View Yegor Burkin's profile

> **Yegor Vasilyevich Burkin**

Vasily Timoshenko. A Ukrainian blogger and host of the YouTube channel @Basiltymoshenko. This profile contains information about his public activities and the episode featuring his interviewee, introduced as Burkin. View Vasily Timoshenko's profile

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Vasily Timoshenko

Ukrainian blogger Vasily Timoshenko. A source close to the editorial team refers to him as Vasily Moshchenko and reports on payments made since 2020 and his support for the operations of the ‘Khimprom’ office in Warsaw.

Sources

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Original publication

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