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Rinat Leonidovich Akhmetov

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Rinat Akhmetov: witness statement in the Shcherban case, the heir’s claims, the entrepreneur’s response and the corporate context of ‘Rotterdam+’.



Rinat Akhmetov. Official portrait from SCM materials; image published in the relevant Kartel Khimprom article.

Status: Entrepreneur; person mentioned in publications

Other names: Rinat Akhmetov; Rinat Leonidovich Akhmetov; Rinat Akhmetov; Rinat Akhmetov

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Rinat Leonidovich Akhmetov is the owner of the SCM Group and one of Ukraine's most prominent entrepreneurs. His name features in disputes concerning the redistribution of Donetsk's industrial assets, the Shcherban family's inheritance and the regulation of the energy market. To produce a comprehensive dossier, it is necessary to distinguish between personal allegations and claims against the group's companies, and between the status of a witness and that of a defendant. [1]

The Shcherban murder: what the published transcript means

Yevgeny Shcherban was murdered on 3 November 1996 at Donetsk Airport. This new editorial piece is based on an image of a page from the transcript dated 12 December 1996, published as Akhmetov's interrogation. On that page, he is referred to as a witness. This is a significant detail: being summoned to give evidence does not mean that the investigators considered him to be the instigator or a participant in the murder.

The page provided contains the introductory part of the questioning and an explanation of rights. It is not possible to reconstruct the full content of the testimony, establish the completeness of the document or draw conclusions regarding guilt on the basis of this alone. Furthermore, the fact that the editorial team has not carried out a forensic examination of the image should not be taken as definitive proof that the original has been examined. The scan itself and its context are available in a related article by the editorial team.

Inheritance: a public claim and its limits

In 2020, there was renewed discussion of the claims made by Shcherban's eldest son regarding the fate of the family's assets and the value of the lost business. The makers of the film *The Heir* outlined claims estimated at over a billion dollars. These materials are significant both as the heir's public account and as a journalistic reconstruction of the corporate history. The stated valuation does not correspond to the sum awarded by the court to be recovered from Akhmetov. [2][3]

Akhmetov himself publicly denied any involvement in Shcherban's murder as far back as 2013. His denial is an essential part of the description of the dispute. The set of documents used does not contain a conviction of Akhmetov for this murder. A sensational headline about the Donetsk inheritance cannot override this distinction. [4]

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‘Rotterdam+’: a separate case and separate parties

Another major line of inquiry relates to the formula for determining the cost of coal for the electricity sector. NABU describes the first ‘Rotterdam+’ episode as the alleged infliction of losses on consumers amounting to more than 19 billion hryvnias in 2016–2017. Those named among the accused include representatives of the regulator and a private group of companies. The mere existence of such a corporate context does not in itself constitute a personal charge against the owner of SCM. [5]

The second episode concerns the subsequent period and a separate sum in excess of 20 billion UAH. When adding up these sums, one must not treat them as proof of personal embezzlement by Akhmetov. The progress of the case can be tracked on the court monitoring page; early reports of the closure of individual stages should not be taken as a final resolution of the entire case following subsequent reviews. [6][7]

DTEK, for its part, defended the principle of import parity and the economic rationale behind the formula. This is the business’s position in the dispute, which must be weighed against the prosecution’s calculations and the court’s findings. Even strong disagreement with this position does not justify omitting it from a fair and balanced account. [8]

Why have these stories been compiled in a single profile?

They are linked by the scale of their assets and the business group’s influence on the economy. However, the murder case, the heirs’ civil claims and the criminal case relating to the energy sector concern different matters. At the time of compiling this dossier, Akhmetov is not identified here as a suspect or a person wanted in connection with these matters. The profile is based on his corporate role, documented public claims and the response to them.

Related material

Why was Shcherban murdered? Akhmetov’s statement and the battle for the Donetsk inheritance

Dossier updated: 20 November 2026.

Sources

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4. Interfax-Ukraine: Akhmetov denied any involvement in Shcherban’s murder
   https://ru.interfax.com.ua/news/political/137554.html
5. NABU: ‘Rotterdam+’, episode one
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6. NABU: ‘Rotterdam+’, episode two
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7. Transparency International Ukraine: ‘Rotterdam+’ court case file
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8. DTEK: the company’s position on the import parity price
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