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# Vitaliy Rybalko and the Vienna incident: what the SAP is accusing ‘The Boxer’ of and what he denies

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Vienna’s architecture and the nickname ‘Boxer’ make Vitaliy Rybalko’s story resemble a crime thriller. But in the courtroom, it is not the setting that matters: the prosecution must prove specific involvement in a specific…




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Editorial photomontage. Vitaliy Rybalko; the face is based on a court photograph. The Vienna background is illustrative. Portrait reference: Slidstvo.Info — Osipov’s telephone number and developments in the investigation, 6 November 2026.

Vienna’s architecture and the nickname ‘The Boxer’ make Vitaliy Rybalko’s story resemble a crime thriller. But in the courtroom, it is not the setting that matters: the prosecution must prove specific involvement in a specific attack. A report by ‘Slidstvo.Info’ dated 5 November presents both sides of this dispute — the account given by the Specialised Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAPO) and Rybalko’s outright denial. Report from the High Anti-Corruption Court.

## The incident the prosecutor linked to the correspondence

**According to the publication, the prosecutor described an assault on a man in Vienna and linked it to instructions from Andrei Osipov. The court discussed a report about a lost cap, which the prosecution interpreted as part of the circumstances following the attack. Journalists reported this version as the prosecutor’s argument, rather than as a legally established fact. Statement of the prosecution’s case.**

Such a statement has no evidential value out of context. Meaning emerges from the totality of the evidence: time, location, witness statements, correspondence and other materials. A single unusual phrase in a chat cannot, on its own, identify either the perpetrator or the instigator.

## What Rybalko himself said

**The publication noted that Rybalko denied beating a man on Osipov’s orders. This position should be presented alongside the prosecution’s version, rather than being buried at the end of a list of links. A denial does not automatically refute the investigation’s findings, just as the prosecutor’s rebuttal does not**

**absolve the court of its duty to examine them. The defendant’s response in the court report.**

In Vitaly Rybalko’s case file his sporting career, the club’s founding documents and his earlier legal history are considered separately. Information from another case cannot be automatically used as evidence in the Vienna episode. It provides context regarding his character, but does not replace the establishment of new facts.

## Why a pre-trial detention order does not settle the dispute

**The decision on pre-trial detention addresses the issue of measures to ensure the proper conduct of the proceedings. It is not equivalent to a final finding of guilt. At this stage, the parties present their arguments regarding the suspicion and the risks; the full dispute on the merits has a different procedural purpose.**

This is particularly important in cases where a nickname becomes more recognisable than a name. The man in the photograph from the court, the athlete in an old news article and the individual mentioned in a report under a pseudonym must be matched using verifiable data. The recognisability of an image does not in itself establish a connection between all the incidents.

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**From an acquaintance to an alleged commission Materials on Andrei Osipov help to understand why the investigation is interested in the nature of their communication. However, a personal acquaintance and the carrying out of a coercive order are two different matters. The latter requires evidence of actions, not merely of a relationship.**

Therefore, a substantive continuation of this story must reveal what evidence confirms the presence and role of each participant in Vienna, and how the defence responds to it. So far, the parties' arguments and court rulings on procedural measures are publicly available. It is precisely these boundaries that allow us to tell this high-profile story without substituting the court's judgement with a newspaper verdict.

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*Prepared on 24 November 2026 based on the sources cited. The assessments and versions of the investigation are presented with attribution; guilt on criminal charges is determined by the court.*

## Sources


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   https://www.slidstvo.info/articles/vid-1-mln-khabaria-do-karfahenu-iak-telefon-retsydyvista-osipova-na-prizvysko-kryminal-dopomih-vykryty-novyy-zlochynnyy-klan/



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