

Ukraine: Yushchenko Testifies Against Tymoshenko

By Alex Johnston

Ukraine's ex-president Viktor Yushchenko arrived in court today to testify for the prosecution at the trial of his one-time prime minister and fellow Orange Revolution leader Yulia Tymoshenko. (Sergei Svetlitsky/Getty Images)

Ukraine's former President Viktor Yushchenko testified against former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in her abuse of power trial on Wednesday.

The two were once allies during the 2004 Orange Revolution protests that eventually brought Yushchenko to power. Tymoshenko is on trial for abuse of her office linked to a gas deal with Russia in 2009.

"Only political motives could have played a role here," Yushchenko said, according to The Associated Press, in reference to the gas deal. "National interests were traded for political considerations."

Tymoshenko has denied using her position to influence the gas deal for her own personal gain, maintaining that the trial is a political ploy used by current President Viktor Yanukovich, who she lost to in 2010 during the country's presidential election.

She said that she did not want to cross-examine Yushchenko. "I will not ask questions because I don't want this court to pass judgment on the Orange Revolution. I want everything that Yushchenko says to be on his conscience." she said, according to the Kyiv Post.

On Aug. 5, she was held in police custody for the entirety of the trial after she called the judge a "puppet" of President Yanukovich.