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## Hearing of case against Oleg Belov charged with killing his relatives starts in Nizhny Novgorod



Today Nizhny Novgorod Region Court started first hearing of the case against oleg Belov. He is charged with killing his mother, wife and his 6 little children with special cruelty and threat to use force against a representative of the authority (paragraphs “a”, “c”, “e” and “j” of part 2 of article 105 of the RF Penal Code and part 1 of article 318).

Tragic murder of the young woman and her six years by Belov was a result of violence he had been using against them for many years and the feeling of absolute impunity the accused had developed over that time. The surprising thing is that systematic threats and battery in Belov’s family were not a secret for local law enforcement bodies. The woman had several times asked the police to arrest her husband, but there was no proper response to that. And now those police officers and officials of the city administration are under negligence investigation.

The investigators believe that on 26 July 2015, at 7:13 AM, Belov stabbed his wife to death with a knife she had given him as a present and then killed his six children. Then Belov took measures to hide the crime by dismembering the bodies and putting them in polymeric bags to bury them later.

On 3 August 2015, after having a phone conversation with an officer of police station of the town of Kovrov, Vladimir Region, where Belov’s mother-in-law had called worried that she hadn’t heard from her daughter for a long time, Belov boarded a commuter train and headed for the town of Gorokhovets in Vladimir Region and killed his mother thinking that she might report him.

On 4 August, the police found Belov on his wife’s property in the town of Kovrov, Vladimir Region.

During initial investigation the accused had a forensic psychiatric examination which showed that he suffered from a mental disorder which did not rule out sanity therefore he is absolutely liable for his

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crimes. This gives the court the right to sentence Belov. However, the court can also send him for compulsory treatment in a specialized hospital and after that he will serve his time in a penal colony.

At present the investigators have enough evidence so the criminal case with the approved indictment was sent to court to be tried on the merits.

There are ongoing investigations against officials of Nizhny Novgorod District administration and police department No 5, whose negligence had contributed to Belov's crimes.

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