

## **Investigation in fire in mental hospital in Moscow Region killing 38 people finished**



The first department of the Investigative Committee's Central Office has finished the investigation against former chief doctor of department No 6 of Mental Hospital No 14 Murad Shaov and his security deputy chief Mikhail Khokhlov. They are charged with a crime under Part 3 of Article 219 of the RF Penal Code (violation of fire safety requirements which entailed death of two or more people).

Investigators have revealed that the building of the hospital was a reception and quarantine room and consisted of a wooden part built in 1940 and a brick one built in 1976-1977 by non-contracted construction. 38 patients with mental disorders of different gravity in the hospital, as well as a ward nurse on call and two nurse's aides were in the hospital on the night of 25 April 2013. One of the patients accidentally set fire to a couch in the wooden part of the building. Only the nurse and two patients survived the fire. 36 patients and two nurse's aides died.

The investigators believe that the reasons that led to the fire were violations of fire safety rules and requirements by the two accused. It turned out that the employees of the hospital permitted to work

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had not had fire safety briefing and were not ready for an emergency. Moreover, there were just too few of the staff to take measures and save the patients. The fire escapes had some violations and there were no fire safety instructions whatsoever.

Apart from confessions made by Shaov and Khokhlov, their guilt is also confirmed by all the evidence collected during the probe: scene examination protocols, physical evidence, statements made by the staff of the Moscow Region Health Ministry and the mental hospital, conclusions of forensic experts and other evidence.

The investigators have enough evidence, so the criminal case with the approved indictment has been referred to court.

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