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## **In Smolensk region member of organized group accused of flat fraud and instigation of murder to face trial**



The Main Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee has finished investigation of a criminal case against Mikhail Gavrilentov. He is accused of committing crimes under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code (fraud on a very large scale, committed by an organized group) (9 counts) and part 4 of article 33, paragraphs "h", "j" of part 2 of article 105 of the RF Penal Code (instigation of murder motivated by greed with the purpose to facilitate another crime).

According to investigators, during 2002-2014 in cities of Moscow and Smolensk an organized group of more than 15 people headed by Mikhail Gavrilentov had been kidnapping people, who had no close links to relatives, orphans, elderly people, alcohol or drug abusers, people with mental problems. Several times a victim was murdered. The motive of kidnapping and murders was to fraudulently gain possession of their flats.

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At the same time, in 2008-2013 Gavrilentov acting as part of the organized group, has been misleading people of the said categories. To steal flats, he imitated searches in apartments of victims, faked rapes of counterfeits allegedly committed by victims and deceived flat owners in other ways, to make them sell their property. In 2009, in order to prevent a victim from contacting law enforcement bodies, Gavrilentov through bribery and persuasion inclined a group member to murder him.

Investigators collected enough evidence, and the Gavrilentov case with approved indictment has been forwarded to court.

The said organized group also comprised deputy head of Smolensk Directorate of Russia's Ministry of Internal Affairs the colonel of police Tagir Abbasov. Earlier the court had sentenced him to 7 years of confinement.

During the investigation 11 participants of the organized group were identified and arrested, a number of subject are still on a wanted list. The investigation against other accomplices is ongoing.

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