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## **In Maritime Territory, two probes launched into violence by North Koreans against two Russian coastguards**



The Far Eastern Transport Office of the RF Investigative Committee has opened two investigations into crimes under Part 1 of Article 318 of the RF Penal Code (use of violence against a representative of the authority) following the results of a check into illegal actions committed by the citizens of North Korea against Russian coastguards when they detained and searched a North Korean vessel in the Sea of Japan.

According to investigators, on 15 October 2016, between 3 and 9 PM, unidentified citizens of North Korea from the crew of the SMRTDAEYANG 10 vessel sailing in Russian waters in the Sea of Japan used violence against two of Russian coastguards from the Maritime Territory Office of the Federal Security Service while on duty. One of the coastguards suffered a concussion and bruises to the head and another one a closed fracture of right foot.

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By now an investigator and officers of the Pacific Fleet Military Office of the Investigative Committee have searched the North Korean ship, registered the traces of the incident, confiscated objects that might have been used as weapons (knives, wooden bats, crow bars, sticks with nails and others). In addition they have confiscated the ship papers and the documents stating the number of the crew. No permit to fish or to sail in Russian waters has been found.

At present investigative and search operations are underway to identify those involved in the crime. The investigators have questioned some witnesses and assigned forensic medical inquiries. The investigation is ongoing.

*19 October 2016*

*Page address: <https://en.sledcom.ru/news/item/1074448>*