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## **Probe launched in abduction of Russian citizens by Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies**



Department for investigating crimes connected with use of prohibited means and methods of warfare of the Investigative Committee's Head Office during investigation of a case dedicated to abduction of Russian citizens by Ukrainian law-enforcement agencies as crimes under Part 1 and Part 2 of Article 210, Article 126 and Article 126.1 of the RF Penal Code (Organisation of a Criminal Community, abduction of persons, human trafficking), gathered new information about abductions of Russian citizens by this criminal community in the period from 2014 to 2015 for further groundless involvement of Russian citizens to criminal liability.

In December 2014 on a roadblock, located near the settlement of Krasny Partizan of Donetsk Region of Ukraine, agents of Ukrainian special services abducted 36-year-old Russian citizen that was not involved into the armed conflict in the southeast of Ukraine, but was a volunteer rendering aid to restore industrial facilities in Donetsk People's Republic. After abduction the Russian citizen was kept in premises and even a cargo container, located in the towns of Novogradovka, Volnovakha and

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Mariupol.

Then agents of Ukrainian special services delivered the Russian citizen to a Donetsk Region Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine, where he was groundlessly detained as a suspect in a crime under Part 1 Article 258.3 of the Ukrainian Penal Code (creation of a terrorist group and an organization, heading of a terrorist group or an organization or a participation in it, as well as organizational and other cooperation with a terrorist group or an organization), where he was illegally sentenced. After two years he was freed.

Additionally, armed people have abducted volunteers of the Russian Fund for aid to refugees, compatriots and Russian-speaking population “SVOIKH NE BROSAYEM”, including Russian citizens that transported relief goods (clothes, foodstuffs, etc) near the settlement of Yelenovka of Donetsk Region of Ukraine. Later abducted Russian citizens were kept in a basement of the Donetsk Region Security Service of Ukraine and were groundlessly accused of the crime listed above. They were exchanged for Ukrainian captives, detained by representatives of self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics.

A probe have been launched in crimes under Article 126 of the RF Penal Code (Abduction). Currently investigative operations are underway to find out all the circumstances surrounding the crimes.

Official spokesperson for the RF Investigative Committee S.L. Petrenko

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