
In Khakassia, probe launched against members of organized group suspected of grand bribery in medical equipment and medicines purchases

The Khakassia Office of the Investigative Committee has initiated criminal proceedings against seven members of an organized criminal group consisting of former official of Khakassia's head administration Vladimir Byzov, his secretary Yevgeniya Kobalyova, four officials of the Interagency Procurement Center, a state funded institution Igor Arokin, Inga Meluzova, Svetlana Kazachenko, Sergei Pushnov and non-official Alexander Giter.

They are suspected of taking a bribe on a very large scale under Part 6 of Article 290 of the RF Penal Code.

According to investigators, in 2015, Byzov and Giter set up the organized group involving Kobalyova and the officials of the Interagency Procurement Center Arokin, Meluzov, Kazachenko, Pushnov and other yet unidentified individuals.

In 2016, Byzov, Giter, Arokin, Meluzov, Kazachenko, Pushnov and Kobalyova got a bribe of more than 79 million rubles and a Mazda 6 vehicle worth more than 1.5 million rubles from representatives of commercial organizations which were taking part in biddings for procuring goods for the needs of state-funded health institutions and the Capital Construction Administration of Khakassia for illegal actions to ensure that the said organizations won the electronic biddings. The cash and the vehicle were shared between the members of the group.

The investigators revealed that the perpetrators intended to get a pre-conditioned kickback of 10 to 20% from the sum of each of state contracts worth a total of 146 million rubles. They were not able to get the last part of the bribe as they were detained on 28 December 2016 by law enforcers as part of a grand fraud investigation.

All of them are now in custody pending trial for the grand fraud in purchasing medical equipment and medicines and for several counts of bribery. During the probe into all those instances, the investigators have gathered evidence that all the bribes they got were a single crime committed by an organized group which made the basis for the current investigation.

By now the investigators have seized from the suspects some 46 million rubles and arrested their property (vehicles, flats, land property). The investigation is ongoing.

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