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**After minute work by Khabarovsk Territory investigators and criminalists, man to stand trial for raping and killing 7-year-old girl committed 19 years ago**



The Khabarovsk Territory Office of the Investigative Committee has finished an investigation against a 62-year-old man charged with murder under Part 2, items “c” and “j” of Article 105 of the RF Criminal Code of 13.06.1996, rape under Part 3, item “c” of Article 131 and sexual abuse under Part 3, item “c” of Article 132 of the RF Criminal Code.

A 7-year-old girl went missing on 26 February 1998, in the settlement of Pereyaslavka, Lazo District. She had gone sledding, but had never come home. Searches gave no results.

10 years later, in May 2008, some local residents accidentally found a cemented iron barrel at a wasteland in the settlement of Mogilyovka. They wanted to take it scrap metal, but first they had to empty it of the cement. While doing it they discovered child’s bone remains and shreds of clothes. A murder investigation was opened. To solve the crime, the investigators ran 17 forensic examinations (a forensic medical inquiry of the remains, 5 biological inquiries, examination of lacquer and paints, construction materials and minerals, 2 medical criminological, 2 commission medical examinations, an examination of fibrous materials, an in-patient sexological psychiatric evaluation, examinations of

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traces and handwriting), conducted 5 examinations of the crime scenes, 4 seizures, made 10 instructions on investigative and search operations, more than 30 requests of information and interrogated 78 people. None of these made it possible to find either the child's cause of death or its gender. It was impossible to even identify the child because there was no equipment. Neither did they identify the murderer.

In spring 2016, experts of the territorial investigative authority once more examined the clothes found in the barrel. Using modern forensic equipment, they found biological traces belonging to a man. They matched them to DNA of a person suspected of the crime. The test showed that the 61-year-old man was involved in the crime. He was apprehended but denied the charges. However, the investigators did a lot of work to document his criminal activity. For example, they established that in 1998, the man was working at an art studio located in the settlement of Pereyaslavka. Criminalists arrived at the settlement and found the building. Now it is abandoned. They examined the building using specialized forensic equipment (bluestar) and found microscopic blood traces. Laboratory then confirmed that it was blood of the missing girl.

The man had had a previous conviction for a sex crime committed against 4-year-old girl and had served a 10-year sentence.

Operative support to the investigation was provided by the Khabarovsk Territory police department.

The investigators have enough evidence, so the indictment has been signed and soon the case is going to be referred to court.

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