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## **In Komi, probe finished against minibus driver who caused traffic accident injuring young athletes**



The Komi Republic Office of the Investigative Committee has finished criminal proceedings against a minibus driver charged with unsafe services entailing grievous bodily harm under part 2, item “c” of Article 238 and violation of road and vehicle operation codes entailing grievous bodily harm under Part 1 of Article 264 of the RF Criminal Code.

According to investigators, the accused was transporting a team – a coach and 8 athletes, seven of whom were between 12 and 16 years of age, on a Volkswagen Transporter T4 minibus from the town of Mikun to Syktyvkar on 13 February 2017.

The driver violated the road code at kilometer marker 59 of Syktyvkar-Ukhta motorway in Ust-Vymsky District and collided with an Audi-100 and then with a Scania heavy hauler with a semitrailer. Passengers of the minibus suffered a range of injuries, with one of the teenagers

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suffering grievous bodily harm.

The investigators established that the driver was aware of technical faultiness of the vehicle. The construction of the minibus had been illegally altered, that is it had had some additional passenger seats installed. There were no safety belts on five of the seats. The front spindle had refractory-face tires, while the rear one had non-refractory-face ones. In addition, there were more passengers than it was permissible. All the said faults are by law conditions under which the vehicle is prohibited to be used.

The accused denied the charges. He is under house arrest pending trial.

The investigators have enough evidence, so the criminal case has been forwarded for the indictment to be signed and will then be referred to court.

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