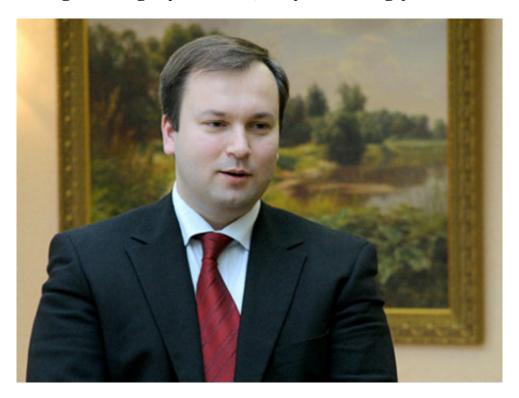
Investigators break off gang involved in many murders including killing of Yevgeny Dushko, mayor of Sergiyev Posad



During an inquiry in the murder of mayor of Sergiyev Posad, Moscow Region, Yevgeny Dushko, Investigators of the Major Cases Directorate of the Investigative Committee have gotten on the tracks of a gang headed by Konstantin Piskaryov aka Big Kostya. According to the investigators, he set up the gang in 1999 to kill people. The gang included Sergei Aleksandrov, Sergei Bezrukov, Alexander Zamyatin, Denis Zemtsov, Dmitry Lupichev, Dmitry Mishin, Igor Saryan, Andrei Stolyarov, Dmitry Yurov and others. The gang's activity was broken off in 2016, when the gangsters were detained.

Over the said period of time, the gang committed at least 18 murders, including that of Yevgeny Dushko and other crimes in the city of Moscow, Moscow Region and other regions of Russia.

The gang's victims were people who confronted the gang's leader for this or that reason, did not agree to his demands to their business. It was the same with killing Yevgeny Dushko. According to investigators, Big Kostya and Dushko had a conflict in 2011 connected with Dushko's activity as the mayor of Sergiyev Posad that threated the gang's commercial interests. Then the gangster decided to

murder Dushko. Following his orders, Bezrukov gathered information on target's working schedule, routes, vehicle and residence. On the morning of 22 August 2011, the accused arrived to Dushko's residence in Sergiyev Posad in a car driven by Bezrukov. They waited until the man left the house and got into his car. Then Konstantin Piskaryov came up to him and fired 7 shots from a pistol. The mayor died at the scene and the killers led.

It was a stable gang with strict discipline instilled by the leader. The gangsters plotted the crimes thoroughly and in great secrecy which helped them to avoid being caught for a long time. The gagsters were detained and the gang dismantled when the inquiry was commissioned to one of the most experienced investigators and was supported by officers of the Interior Ministry's Crime Detection Directorate and the Federal Security Service.

The investigators discovered a large cache of weapons the gang had used.

By now, 10 of the gangsters including their leader have been placed in custody pending trial. Depending on the role of each one in the crimes they are charged with banditry under Parts 1 and 2 of Article 209, murder under Article 105, abduction under Article 126 and illegal circulation of firearms under Article 222 of the RF Criminal Code. The investigators are working to identify other gangsters and reveal other crimes they committed.

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