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## **In Kostroma Region, man convicted for murder of minor he committed in 2015**



The evidence gathered by the Kostroma Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation was found to be sufficient by the court to sentence a 36-year-old resident of the Komi Republic. He was found guilty of committing an offence under Article 105 of the Criminal Code of Russia (murder).

On May 6, 2015, an investigator of the Manturovo District Investigations Department of the Kostroma Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation found a body of a female minor showing signs of violent death, during a probe into a report on disappearance of a 14-year-old resident of Manturovo in a forested area near the 273rd kilometre of the Kostroma-Verkhnespasskoe highway.

A criminal inquiry was immediately launched into the offence, with an investigative team comprising most experienced investigators of the Department on Major Crimes Investigation and local investigative departments of the Kostroma Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia, forensic experts of the Forensics Department of the Kostroma Regional Directorate, and officers of the Russian Ministry for Internal Affairs. During the investigation, officers of the Central

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Office of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation were providing practical assistance on ongoing basis.

The investigators were working intensely and professionally for almost three years. Thus, in March 2018, the investigation found evidence of involvement in the murder of a 36-year-old Komi resident, who was previously convicted and served 14 years in prison for committing a murder and released from prison in late 2014.

The investigation and the court established that, on May 2, 2015, the defendant was driving from Kostroma to Kirov, saw a girl hitchhiking on Manturovo bypass road, and stopped to give her a lift. During the trip they had an argument that went on later near the car, where the defendant and the victim exchanged blows. Following that, the defendant murdered the victim through strangulation out of emerged enmity towards her. To conceal the crime, he hid the body in the woods and left the scene.

Later, the defendant and his family moved to Vorkuta for permanent residence where he was detained by officers of the Kostroma Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia in March 2018.

The investigation kept going incessantly. It included a significant number of investigative and other procedural activities. Over 1,500 witnesses were questioned, and genetic samples were taken from almost 13,000 people to perform a comparative study. There were more than 50 forensic examinations arranged and conducted, including computer ones to identify persons that had been driving on Kostroma-Verkhnespasskoe highway on the day of the murder, as well as a DNA examination, a psychiatric examination and a pathologic examination, the results of which became a foundation of the charges and the indictment.

It should be noted that the information obtained during the investigation helped solving several other crimes, including an especially grave offence against the sexual integrity of the victim's minor female friend.

The court sentenced the defendant to 13 years of imprisonment - first four years in a prison, the rest nine years in a special regime correctional colony, with restriction of liberty for two years.

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