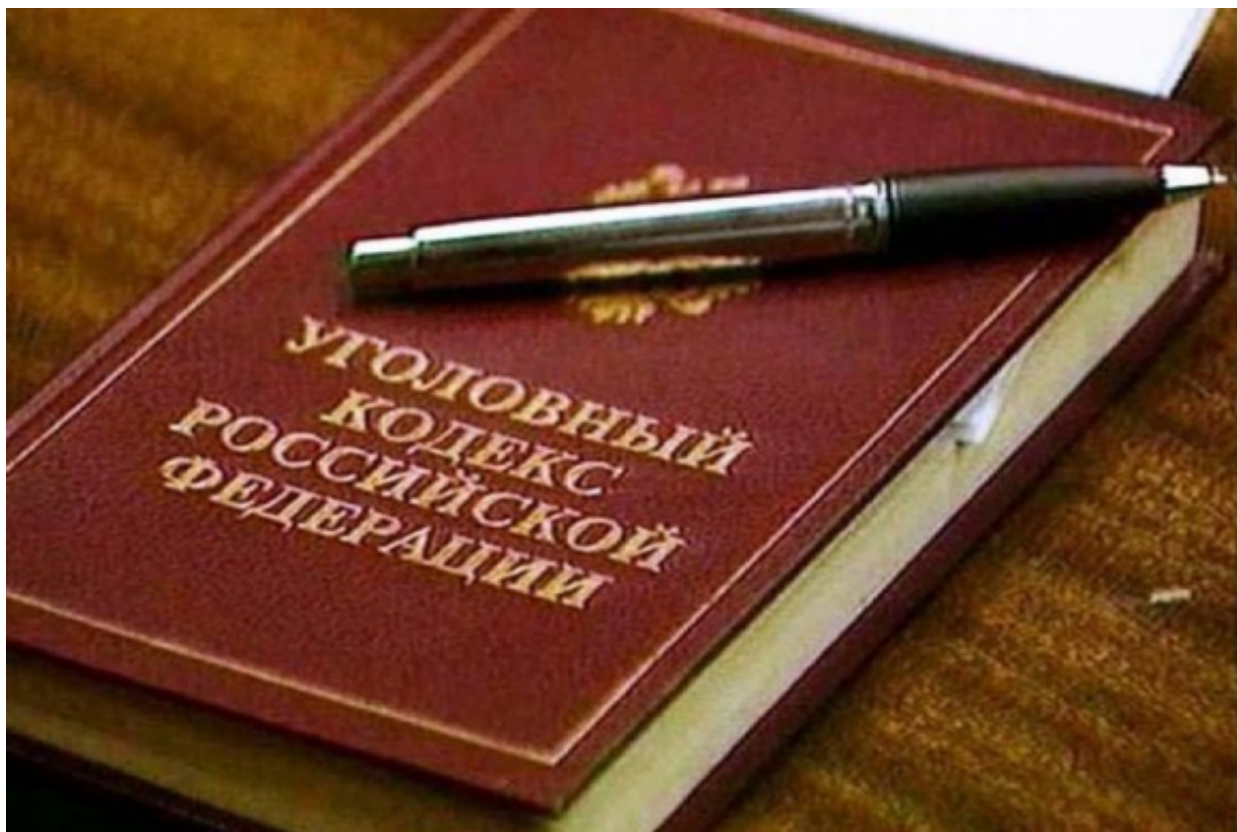

Another accomplice of Alexey Kuznetsov, extradited from France, sentenced



The evidence gathered by the Main Directorate on Major Crimes Investigation of the Investigative Committee of Russia was found to be sufficient by the court to sentence USA citizen Dmitry Kotlyarenko in absentia. He was found guilty of committing crimes under Part 4 of Article 159 of the Criminal Code of Russia (swindling) and Part 3 of Article 174.1 of the Criminal Code of Russia (legalization).

The probe into the perpetrator was processed separately since he had fled from the investigation in the USA. Despite numerous extradition requests with the provision of relevant evidence, the relevant authorities of the indicated state refuse to extradite him due to a lack of a respective treaty between two countries. Due to this, as provided for by the criminal procedural law, charges against Kotlyarenko were pressed in absentia, and the trial was held in the same format.

The investigation and the court established that from 2005 to 2008 Kotlyarenko had entered an organized criminal group headed by former Deputy Chairman of Moscow Region Government Alexey Kuznetsov. During the stated period, Kotlyarenko had stolen the right to claim debts from Public Utilities companies to Moscow Region municipalities and assets of Moscow Region Investment Trust Company OJSC. The damage inflicted by the illegal actions of the convicts amounts to 11.8 billion roubles.

The stolen money was legalized by fake deals with controlled accomplices including Janna Bullock, various legal entities with accounts in MZB bank also controlled by Kuznetsov, Valery Nosov and Bullock. After the conclusion of fake deals, the stolen money was transferred to accounts of non-resident companies registered in the offshore zone of the Republic of Cyprus. Afterward, the money was spent on luxury items and overseas property.

The criminal scheme was disclosed due to a thorough analysis of financial and accounting documents seized during search activities in RIGroup and other organizations controlled by the convicts. This revealed money stealing and legalization schemes. The investigation was also complicated by the necessity to obtain numerous documents from abroad. As a result of cooperation with foreign relevant authorities, the investigation managed to gather enough evidence including this to establish what the money obtained by illegal activities was spent on.

The court sentenced Kotlyarenko to 11 years of imprisonment.

Moreover, three perpetrators had been sentenced earlier: Valery Nosov, Vladislav Telepnev, and Elena Kuznetsova. Janna Bullock was also found guilty of the same offences in absentia.

At present, the probe into Alexey Kuznetsov extradited from France is pending in court.

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