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## **In Krasnodar Territory, organizer and participants of criminal community to stand trial for swindling in shared construction and other offences**

The Krasnodar Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has finished the investigation into two organizers and a participant of a criminal community, aged from 41 to 44. Depending on the involvement of each, they are charged with swindling on an especially large scale (Part 4 of Article 159 of the Criminal Code of Russia), organization of a criminal community and participation in it (Parts 1 and 2 of Article 210 of the Criminal Code of Russia), legalization (laundering) of funds acquired in an illegal way (Paragraph B of Part 4 of Article 174.1 of the Criminal Code of Russia), non-payment of wages (Part 2 of Article 145.1 of the Criminal Code of Russia), and tax evasion (Paragraph B of Part 2 of Article 199 of the Criminal Code of Russia).

According to the investigators, in 2012, the 41-year-old and 44-year-old accused individuals had established a criminal organization, in which they had involved two acquaintances in different time periods. The purpose of the criminal community had been obtaining financial gain with the funds from citizens by deception; creating the appearance that residential development of the Kino multicomplex on Uralskaya Street in Krasnodar had been organized and carried out. The group had had a clear hierarchical structure, distribution of functions, as well as the common material and financial base. According to the plan developed by the perpetrators, the 41-year-old organizer with one of the community members who had been the director of a manufacturing unit at the time had been responsible for creating the material base. In addition, the organizers had instructed the director of the manufacturing unit, who had been renting a land plot, to take measures for transferring rights to this plot for further use for criminal purposes. The second organizer of the community (the director of an enterprise--the general contractor), with extensive experience in construction, together with the 21-year-old community member, had been responsible for creating the appearance of construction works and procurement of funds from citizens. The 21-year-old community member had been the Director General of a legal entity acting as a developer of the apartment building on Uralskaya Street. During the activity of the criminal organization until July 2017, under the pretense of construction of the apartment building, the criminal community members had been systematically stealing funds from citizens who had intended to buy real estate under construction. As a result, for construction of the Kino multicomplex on Uralskaya Street, the accused individuals had attracted money from the citizens under contracts for shared construction exceeding 754 million rubles. Over 1,080 people have been recognized as victims of the offence. At the moment, the construction of the apartment housing complex is not finished; obligations to citizens are not fulfilled. Moreover, the

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accused persons had legalized the illegally acquired amounts of money to a total of over 58 million rubles.

Also, the 44-year-old organizer of the criminal community had not been paying wages to 46 employees of the construction enterprise for over two months. As a result, wage arrears totaled over 2.55 million rubles and are not settled at the moment. He also had evaded taxes in the amount of over 38 million rubles, which is considered large-scale.

The 21-year-old criminal community member fled from the investigating authorities and was declared on the international wanted list; there is a separate investigation into him underway.

The investigative support of the probe was carried out by the Directorate for Economic Security and Corruption Control of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Krasnodar Territory. As part of the criminal investigation, a number of examinations were carried out, including construction, handwriting, financial, and economic ones. The number of materials collected on the said persons exceeded 150 volumes.

To reimburse the damage to the victims of the crimes, the investigators arrested real estate objects and cars of the total value exceeding 488 million rubles.

The investigation gathered enough evidence; therefore, the criminal case with the approved indictment was sent to the court to be tried on the merits.

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