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## **In the Mari El Republic, former employee of District Administration accused of swindling and legalization of criminally acquired property to stand trial**

The Mari El Republican Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has finished the investigation into a 35-year-old former chief specialist of the Municipal Property and Land Resource Management Committee of the Medvedevsky Municipal District Administration of the Mari El Republic and a 33-year-old local resident charged with the crimes under Paragraph B of Part 4 of Article 159 (swindling committed on a large scale, by a group of persons in a preliminary conspiracy) and Part 4 of Article 174.1 (legalization of criminally acquired property to give a veneer of legality to possession, use, and disposal of the said property by a group of persons in a preliminary conspiracy at a large scale) of the Criminal Code of Russia.

According to the investigators, jointly with a group of persons and in a preliminary conspiracy with acquaintances, the former chief specialist of the Municipal Property and Land Resource Management Committee of the Medvedevsky Municipal District Administration had organized the free-of-charge transfer of the ownership by Pekshiksolinskoe rural settlement of Medvedevsky Municipal District of the Mari El Republic for land plots to proxies. In total, in 2014–2016, by abuse of the trust of the Head of the Pekshiksolinskoe Administration of Medvedevsky Municipal District of the Mari El Republic, they had acquired ownership of 98 land plots worth over 111 million rubles. Some of those--53 land plots with the total value of 14.5 million rubles--in July 2015--October 2016 had been re-registered in the name of their acquaintances and relatives to give a veneer of legality to the possession, use, and disposal of the land plots acquired in the result of criminal actions.

At the request of the investigator, the property and bank accounts of the accused individuals were arrested.

A great amount of work was completed with respect to the probe; its materials comprise over 60 volumes. A quadcopter was used for an inspection of the land plots. The investigation gathered enough evidence; therefore, the criminal case was submitted for approval of the indictment and subsequent referral to the court to be tried on the merits.

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