

## **In Leningrad Region, a probe into organizer and seven members of «fake policemen» gang to be presented in court**



The Leningrad Regional Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation finished investigation of probes into organizer of a gang and seven its members aged from 25 to 40. Depending on a role of each, they are accused of committing offences under Parts 1,2,3 of Article 209 of Criminal Code of Russia (banditry); Paragraph A of Part 3 of Article 126 (kidnapping committed by an organized group) - 7 episodes; Paragraph A of Part 3 of Article 163 (extortion committed by an organized group) - 7 episodes; Paragraph A of Part 4 of Article 162 (robbery committed by an organized group) - 4 episodes; Part 2 of Article 325 (theft of documents) - 2 episodes; Part 1 of Article 228 (illegal traffic of drugs); Part 3 of Article 222.1 (illegal traffic of explosives).

According to the investigation, from February to August 2017 a gang specialized in kidnapping with subsequent extortion of money acted in Leningrad Region. The gang consisted of 8 persons including

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a former police employee working as a driver - staff member of fleet management service of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It was armed with several firearms and explosive devices, including MR-80-13T and MR-79-9 TM pistols, smooth-bore self-repeating carbine SAIGA-410K-02, gas semi-automatic pistol Streamer 1014 able to shoot pistol cartridges 9 mm RA with rubber bullets, assault fragmentation hand grenade actively used during attacks.

During the indicated period members of the gang and other persons engaged in the illegal activities committed grave and especially grave offences, such as kidnapping, extortion, robbery attacks, illegal drug traffic and theft of documents. The investigation established 7 episodes of kidnapping committed in Leningrad Region and Saint Petersburg under disguise of police officers.

24 probes have been combined in one.

At the end of August 2017, the gang suspended its activities due to detention of an organizer and members of the gang by officers of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Four perpetrators have been put into custody, two were subject to house detention, and another two were subject to travel restrictions and good behaviour obligations.

The investigation collected enough evidence, therefore, the court has started trying it on the merits.

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