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## **In several Russian regions, 22 persons involved in creation of and participation in terrorist community identified**



The Main Investigations Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia over the North Caucasian Federal District has launched a criminal investigation into 22 persons under Parts 1 and 2 of Article 205.4 of the Criminal Code of Russia (creation of and participation in a terrorist community).

According to investigative data, no later than in 2013, a person born in the Republic of Dagestan, serving a sentence for illegal traffic of firearms in the Penal Colony No. 2 of the Kalmykia Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, had created a terrorist community in the said colony in order to promote, justify, and support terrorism. Supporting his aims and goals, over 100 convicted persons have become members of this community from 2013 to the present moment. In this, the direction of the colony had provided general patronage to participants of the terrorist community for cash remuneration.

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Investigators of the Main Investigations Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia over the North Caucasian Federal District in interaction with officers of the Federal Security Service of Russia, the Federal Security Service Directorate over the Republic of Kalmykia, the Main Directorate for Combating Extremism of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, and the Head of the Kalmykia Regional Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia carried out large-scale activities in this region, including the Penal Colony No. 2, the Republic of Dagestan, the Kabardino-Balkar Republic, Krasnodar Territory, and Volgograd Region. The activities included searches in the places of residence of the convicts and their close relatives and in the office of the First Deputy Head of the Kalmykia Regional Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Five persons were detained on suspicion of the offense during investigative actions in the Republic of Dagestan, Krasnodar Territory, and Volgograd Region. Due to the gravity of the committed offense, the investigation intends to motion the court to put them into custody. Other suspects are serving sentences in penal colonies including the Penal Colony No. 2 of the Kalmykia Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia.

Apart from that, three participants of the terrorist community, after their release from penal colonies in 2014-2015, were eliminated by law enforcement officers when providing armed resistance in the Republic of Dagestan.

At present, the investigation is establishing the role and degree of involvement of each suspect and checking their involvement in other offenses not related to the probe. Active measures are being taken to identify other perpetrators involved in the offense. A legal assessment will be also given to the actions of officers of the Republican Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia. The criminal investigation is ongoing.

Official spokesperson for the Investigative Committee of Russia S. Petrenko

*18 December 2019*

*Page address:* <https://en.sledcom.ru/news/item/1421817>