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## **In Nizhny Novgorod Region, two perpetrators declared wanted internationally under investigation into Garmonia Group**

The Nizhny Novgorod Investigations Directorate of the Investigative Committee of Russia continues the investigation into the actual direction of Garmonia Group under Part 4 of Article 159 (swindling); Paragraph B of Part 2 of Article 199 (tax evasion); Paragraphs A, B of Part 4 of Article 174.1 (legalization (laundering) of money or other property acquired by a person as a result of a crime committed by them); and Part 2 of Article 173.1 (illegal institution (creation, reorganization) of a legal entity) of the Criminal Code of Russia.

According to the investigation, the actual management of Nizhegorodets LLC, UTA-NN LLC, UTA LLC, and Firm Magistral LLC evaded payment of taxes of a total sum of over 2.4 billion rubles using bank information of nominal organizations registered without a purpose of real entrepreneurial activities.

Apart from that, the actual management of Verus Group LLC, Nizhegorodets LLC, Sevastopolsky LLC, and Kamenishchensky Quarry LLC committed embezzlement of money from the budget of the Russian Federation on an especially large scale through unjustified VAT reimbursement of the total value exceeding 500 million rubles.

Subsequently, the money stolen from the budget was legalized and used by the management of the above-listed organizations for the repayment of bank loans and the purchase of cars.

Criminal proceedings under this probe were launched against Head of Nizhegorodets LLC Vadim Smirnov and Financial Director of this organization Natalya Demina. Due to the fact that these persons fled from the investigation, they have been declared wanted internationally and subjected to preventive detention in absentia.

At present, investigators of the Investigative Committee of Russia together with an inquest body are carrying out a set of investigative actions and search activities aimed to establish all circumstances of the committed offenses and compensate for the damage inflicted on the budget of the Russian Federation.

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