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## **Former Moscow police officers and their accomplices accused of theft, robbery, abuse of office and bribery, found guilty**



The evidence gathered by the Moscow Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has been found by court to be sufficient to sentence 11 former officers of Moscow police and two their accomplices not holding any official positions. Depending on the role of each they were found guilty of committing offenses under Part 3 of Article 161 (robbery), Part 6 of Article 290 (bribery on an especially large scale), Part 3 of Article 286 (abuse of authority) and Article 158 of the Criminal Code of Russia (theft).

Investigation and the court established that in March 2016 the accused obtained information about a Moscow resident possessing rough expensive stone - amber and decided to steal this property. Under the guise of carrying out operational and search activities, they arrived at the Rumyantsevo business park and used physical force and special equipment against the victim, demanding to hand over to them as a bribe about 4 kilograms of amber and 200,000 rubles. They threatened to bring the

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businessman to criminal responsibility under the article of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, which provides for liability for violation of rules for turning precious metals and precious stones to state, in case if their requirements were not met. The victim believed to their threats and on the same day handed the required property over to them. As a result of search carried out in the victim's car the operatives stole 200,000 rubles from his bag.

In August of the same year the accomplices committed a similar offense against one more director general of a Moscow commercial organization. They demanded from the director to transfer them a bribe in the amount of 1.5 million rubles for not bringing him to criminal responsibility, and also openly stole amber worth at least 2 million rubles and cash in the amount of over 700,000 rubles.

The criminal activities of the organized group were detected by investigators during investigation of a probe processed by the Moscow Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia.

The investigation was actively discouraged. Thus, during the night of March 19, 2018, Victor Shaforost, brother of one of the accused, holding at that time position of a minister of Tver Region, and three his accomplices, being near a residential building on Kharkovsky drive in Moscow, out of hooliganism, intentionally destroyed by fire a Toyota Highlander car belonging to one of the victims, inflicting damage of over 1 million rubles.

Despite the complexity of the investigation caused by a big number of episodes and non-obvious nature of the offenses, as well as an active obstruction to the investigation, investigators managed to collect evidence proving guilt of all perpetrators. Investigators of the Investigative Committee of Russia carried out a significant amount of investigative and procedural actions at a high professional level. Over 60 witnesses were identified and questioned; over 50 complex forensic examinations were performed, the results of which provided for establishing the involvement of all the accomplices in committing of the offenses. The probe amounted to more than 177 volumes.

Today the court sentenced the 13 accused to 9-13 years of imprisonment in a strict regime penal colony.

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