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## **In St. Petersburg, a probe launched into organization of a criminal community**



The St. Petersburg Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia launched a probe under Parts 1, 2 of Article 210 of the Criminal Code of Russia (organization of a criminal community and participation in it).

According to the investigation, in St. Petersburg, a former police officer, previously convicted of fraud, created and managed a criminal community, which also included a lawyer from the Leningrad Region Bar Association. The accomplices, using controlled commercial structures that did not carry out real financial and economic activities, produced fake accounting documents, further legal entities that used these forged documents illegally reduced the taxable base, gaining the right to present a tax deduction for VAT, which resulted in incomplete payment of taxes on the amount of over 890 million rubles.

At the same time, it was established that the defendants prepared forged documents about the allegedly existing financial and economic relations totaling 150 billion rubles.

Currently, in St. Petersburg and Moscow, investigators, together with employees of regional

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departments of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the FSB of Russia, with the military support of the Russian Guard, are carrying out more than 60 searches, during which various documentation, electronic media, as well as objects and documents of interest to the investigation are being seized.

The issue of the arrest of the participants of the criminal community, a preventive measure for them and bringing charges against them is being decided upon.

A number of previously initiated criminal cases on the facts of non-payment of taxes on an especially large scale were combined into one proceeding with the specified criminal case.

The criminal investigation is ongoing.

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