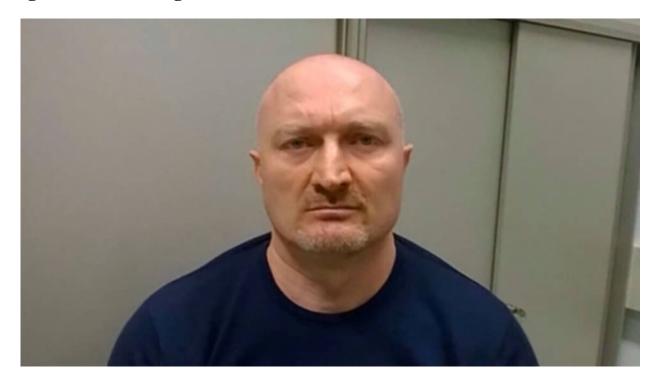
The court begins consideration of the merits of the criminal case against Aslan Gagiev



The Southern District Military Court has begun consideration of the merits of the criminal case against the head of the criminal community, Aslan Gagiev. This case was investigated by the Main Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia for the North Caucasus Federal District. Gagiev was accused of committing offenses under Part 1 of Article 210, Part 1 of Article 209, Paragraphs A, F, G, H of Part 2 of Article 105 of the Criminal Code of Russia (organization of a criminal community or participation in it, organization of a stable armed group (gang), murder, illegal turnover of firearms).

According to investigation, in 2004 Gagiev created a criminal community in Moscow, Moscow Region and the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania including at least 50 persons. Not later than in November 2012 he created three stable armed groups (gangs) in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania, being structural units of the criminal community he was leading, in order to establish a dominant position in the criminal environment of the Republic. Upon Gagiev's instructions the lead in the said gangs was taken by active participants of the criminal community Bakhrom Sekinaev (sentenced), Oleg Dzarakhokhov (sentenced) and Denis Kokoev (on international wanted list) who selected participants of the gangs from local citizens and purchased firearms and ammunition using

money allocated by the accused.

In 2012-2013, upon instructions of Aslan Gagiev, the participants of the said gangs committed murders of Naimur Kadzaev, Valery Laliev, Alan Torchinov, Aslan Torchinov, Albeg Plaev and Oleg Oziev (at the time of the murder holding position of the deputy prosecutor of the Promyshenny District of the city of Vladikavkaz) in the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania. As a result of 49 episodes of illegal activities in Moscow, Moscow Region and Republic of North Ossetia - Alania, participants of the community murdered 60 persons, including law enforcement officers, republican and municipal authorities, businessmen and other persons. To date, 24 members of the criminal organization have been sentenced to longterm imprisonment, including life imprisonment. Probes into 12 members of the criminal community are being considered by court, 7 are on the international wanted list, and 7 had been killed upon Gagiev's instructions as a result of internal conflicts during the period from 2010 to 2014.

Gagiev was hiding from the investigation and in 2014 was put on the international wanted list, and a year later he was detained in the city of Vienna, the Austrian Republic. A lengthy extradition procedure began. After examining the evidence collected by the Investigative Committee of Russia, the competent authorities of the Austrian Republic in 2018 extradited Gagiev to the Russian Federation.

At the same time, the procedure of obtaining the consent of the extraditing party (the competent authority of the Republic of Austria) to charge Gagiev with committing other crimes that have become known to the investigation during the extradition procedure is continuing.

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