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## **The criminal investigation into the 2007 murder of a Cossack army ataman completed**



The Main Investigations Directorate over North Caucasian Federal District of the Investigative Committee of Russia has finished investigation of a probe into Viktor Abakumov. He is accused of committing crimes provided for by Part 1 of Article 105 of the Criminal Code and Part 1 of Article 222 of the Criminal Code (murder, illegal bearing of firearms).

Earlier, during a personal reception of citizens, the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation instructed to remove the unsolved criminal case from the investigative department of the Investigative Committee of Russia for Stavropol Territory and transfer it for further investigation to the main investigative department of the Investigative Committee of Russia for the North Caucasus Federal District.

According to investigators, Abakumov was the controller of the MUE "Central Market" in the city

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of Novoalexandrovsk, Stavropol Territory. However, the ataman of the Lower Kuban Cossack Department of the Stavropol Cossack District of the Terek Cossack Troops, Andrei Khanin, decided to promote the change of management of the MUE "Market Central," which could affect the loss of the job by Abakumov. In this connection, on February 13, 2007, Abakumov approached Khanin, who was in his car near the building of the Novoalexandrovsky district palace of culture, and intentionally fired two shots at him from an unidentified rifled firearm. In doing so, he inflicted two head wounds on Khanin, which resulted in his death in a medical facility on February 17, 2007.

This murder was solved due to the coordinated cooperation of the Investigative Committee of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District with the officers of the 1st Investigative Department of the Interior Ministry of Russia in the North Caucasus Federal District and the Russian Federal Security Service for Stavropol Territory, which provided operational support in the case. During the preliminary investigation, as well as operational and investigative measures, additional witnesses and eyewitnesses to the crime were identified. They participated at checks of the testimonies on the spot, and identification tests, a number of forensic examinations have been appointed.

The criminal case with the approved indictment has been sent to the court to be tried on the merits.

*15 December 2021*

*Page address:* <https://en.sledcom.ru/news/item/1639605>