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## **In the Republic of Bashkortostan, an organized criminal group of black real estate agents, which caused damage of more than 60 million rubles, will stand trial**

The Investigative Department of the Investigative Committee of Russia for the Republic of Bashkortostan has completed investigation of a criminal case against six residents of Ufa between the ages of 35 and 61. They are accused of committing crimes under Part 4 of Article 159, Part 3 of Article 30, Part 4 of Article 159 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (large-scale fraud committed by an organized group, as well as an attempt to commit it), Paragraph A of Part 4 of Article 174.1 of the Criminal Code (legalization of property obtained by a person as a result of a crime), Parts 1 and 2 of Article 327 of the Criminal Code (forgery, production or circulation of counterfeit documents).

As established by the investigation, between 2016 and 2020 in Ufa, the defendants searched for apartments that were municipal or private property, whose owners had no relatives, led an antisocial lifestyle, were deemed incapable or were absent from their place of residence for a long time due to being incarcerated, and those whose owners had died and had no heirs. After that, the defendants forged their passports and other documents of title and registered the apartments as the property of third parties, and then sold them to bona fide purchasers.

Thus, they stole 21 apartments, but managed to sell only 10 of them. In addition, the accused, with the help of forged documents withdrew money from the bank accounts of the victims, totaling more than 6.5 million rubles. The total damage from their criminal activities amounted to more than 61 million rubles.

The accused were detained in the course of operational and investigative activities carried out by officers of the Department of the Federal Security Service of Russia in the Republic of Bashkortostan and the Interior Ministry of the Republic of Bashkortostan. They partially confessed to the crimes they had committed. The movable and immovable property of the accused was seized in order to ensure the compensation for the damage caused and the execution of the sentence.

At present, the indictment for this probe has been approved; after the accused receive a copy of it, the probe will be referred to court to be tried on the merits.

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