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## **Criminal investigation against the accused of membership in a terror group is finalized**



The Main Investigation Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation for the North Caucasian Federal Okrug, in cooperation with a subdivision of the Main Directorate of the Russian Federal Security Service, the Federal Security Service of Russia for the Republic of Kalmykia, the Federal Security Service of Russia for the Karachay-Cherkes Republic, the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia, finalized the investigation of the criminal case against Mr. Rustam Shebzukhov, Mr. Alim Tkhagalegov, Mr. Omar Omarov, Mr. Marat Tulepov, Mr. Sakit Jamalov and Mr. Abdulkhan Temurkaev. They are accused of committing a crime prescribed in Part 2, Article 205.4 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (membership in a terror group).

The investigation identified that in mid-2013, Mr. Shakhban Gasanov, a native of the Republic of Dagestan, who was serving a sentence for illicit arms trafficking in FSI PC-2 (Federal State

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Institution, Penal Colony - 2) of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Republic of Kalmykia, created a terrorist group on the territory of the mentioned above colony in order to promote, justify and support terrorism. In 2015, after his release from FSI PC-2 of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Republic of Kalmykia, while in the Republic of Dagestan, Mr. Gasanov declared himself an Amir, that is, the Head of an illegal armed group operating in the Republic of Dagestan. Subsequently, on March 31, 2015, he was eliminated during an infringement on life of law enforcement officers in the Khasavyurt city, the Republic of Dagestan.

From mid-2013 to December 16, 2019, on the territory of the penal colony, the mentioned group of terrorists included more than 100 convicted persons, including Mr. Shebzukhov, Mr. Tkhagalegov, Mr. Omarov, Mr. Tulepov, Mr. Jamalov and Mr. Temurkaev. They supported the goals and objectives of the terrorist community. While serving their sentences in FSI PK-2 of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Republic of Kalmykia, they were active members of the terrorist group, obeyed the general principles and norms of behavior formed as a result of a false, fictitious idea of religious superiority over other members of civil society, they studied Arabic, passed ideological training, attended lectures on literature recognized by the courts as extremist.

The investigation collected a sufficient evidence base, so the criminal case is finalized for its further submission to court.

Earlier, 10 persons were sentenced to long terms of punishment for membership in the terrorist group on the territory of FSI PC-2 of the Federal Penitentiary Service of Russia in the Republic of Kalmykia, and criminal cases are currently pending in court against another 22 defendants.

The investigation into other participants in the crime continues.

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