
The Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia holds a brief meeting on the investigation of the circumstances of the historical buildings demolition in St. Petersburg



Mr. Alexander Ivanovich Bastrykin, Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia, held a brief meeting in St. Petersburg, where he heard a report from his subordinates on the progress of the criminal investigation of case launched on the demolition of cultural heritage sites in the Northern capital. This criminal investigation is a subject to special control of the Head of Department.

Mr. A.I. Bastrykin recalled that he had received many appeals from historic preservation activists, who asked to prevent the demolition of historical buildings, which, in their opinion, was being carried out unreasonably and in violation of the norms of the acting legislation. An investigative group of the Main Directorate Officers was arranged to identify all the circumstances, and it has already begun its work. Necessary examinations were appointed for a number of objects; documents related to the demolition of buildings are being studied.

The investigators reported to the Chairman of the Russian Investigative Committee on the preliminary results of the investigation, indicating that they are taking all necessary measures to protect the interests of the city and its citizens. It was noted that due to the fact that the Deputy Prosecutor of St. Petersburg canceled the decision to launch a criminal case related to the dismantling of Saltykova's mansion, this decision was appealed to a higher prosecutor. On the instruction of the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of Russia, a criminal case was launched again on this fact.

It was also reported that within the criminal investigation on the attack on Mr. Oleg Mukhin, historic preservation activist, during his video filming of the dismantling of the mansion of E.P. Saltykova, another suspect was detained, investigators are working with him, a petition for his arrest was sent to the court. The Head of the Department instructed to launch one more procedure of imposing the restraint as custody to another person involved, as the court previously decided not to deprive his freedom. The Head of the Department instructed his subordinates to report on the reasons for such a decision, in case of repeated refusal by the court to custody that person.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. A.I. Bastrykin gave a number of specific instructions, noting that it is necessary to monitor objects of cultural significance thoroughly, and it is our common task to prevent the demolition of historical buildings for the sake of commercial or other interests.

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