
Investigation into embezzlement of Russian humanitarian aid provided to Transdnestrian Moldavian Republic



General Investigative Directorate of the Russian Investigative Committee continues investigation of the criminal case against Transdnestrian Republican Bank Deputy CEO Oleg Brizitsky, former banker Oleg Smirnov suspected of stealing of Russian humanitarian aid provided to Transdnestrian Moldavian Republic.

In 2006, The Russian Federation allocated humanitarian aid of more than 1.5 billion rubles. These funds were transferred to the bank account stipulated by the President of Transdnestrian Moldavian Republic I.O. Smirnov in Transdnestrian Republican Bank and could be spent only under his order. The investigation has found that instead of paying extras to pensioners of the Republic the funds disguised as credits and loans were provided to “Gazprombank” Ltd. (Tiraspol) and about 160 million rubles was stolen. In 2006, the Tiraspol “Gazprombank” was headed by the president’s daughter-in-law Marina Smirnova.

Only after the theft had been found the Republic made a decision to accrue the funds provided by RF in subsequent years to the bank account of the Supreme Council of the Republic.

The investigation has found that Oleg and Marina Smirnovs in 2010-2011 regularly received funds from a company in Cyprus. A total sum received equals to more than 1 million US dollars. According to the investigation these transfers from the Cyprus company are a disguised money laundering after stealing the humanitarian aid. Thereby, actions of Smirnov and persons related to him might be qualified under other articles of the Russian Criminal Code.

General Investigative Directorate of the Russian Investigative Committee has forwarded all necessary documents to summon Oleg Smirnov and Oleg Brizitsky and detection of Marina Smirnova’s location. The investigation is to be continued.

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