
Tornado mass brawlers convicted in Miass of Chelyabinsk Region

The court has recognized the evidence collected by Urals Federal District Investigations Committee of the Russia's Investigative Committee as sufficient to convict 13 participants of mass brawl at Tornado festival in the town of Miass. They were found guilty of crimes under paragraphs "a, c" of part 2 of article 282 (incitement of hatred on the basis of social group committed with the use of violence and by an organized group) and parts 1, 2 of article 212 of RF Criminal Code (organization and participation in mass riots).

According to investigators on 29 August 2010 the convicts arrived at the rock-music festival Tornado held in the territory of children's health camp and organized mass riots accompanied by violence, pogroms, destruction of property and use of firearms against participants of the event. The main reason for the crime was disapproval by the convicts of the fact of increasing number of rock-music festival participants.

It was particularly difficult for investigators to establish all participants of the festival involved in the conflict from both sides, because young people from not only Chelyabinsk Region arrived in Miass, but from Bashkortostan, Sverdlovsk, Tyumen Regions, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous District and other subjects of the Russian Federation. Considerable help in identifying organizers and participants of the conflict was provided by guests of the festival who recorded and took pictures of assault. These materials they gave to preliminary investigation bodies, they were subject to photo portrait examinations incorporated in the case and were an important evidence of guilt of the convicts. In addition, investigators made special statements in media to identify the victims. Investigators contacted a number of victims through social networks as well.

Having identified all participants of the festival, investigators recognized 39 people as victims. Within the framework of the case more than 700 interrogations of witnesses and victims and 40 seizures and searches have been made. There are 73 volumes in the case.

The court sentenced the organizer of mass brawl Robert Nazaryan to 6 years in prison, his accomplices Konstantin Katayev and Andrey Izmetev – 5 and 4.5 years respectively. They will serve their time in a minimum security correctional facility. Other participants of the brawl were sentenced to between 3 and 4 years in prison. In addition the court ruled a damage of between 25 and 50 thousand rubles to each of the victims.

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