
Sentence was passed against the seven members of a criminal group, convicted of fraud in the housing market and the organization of prostitution

The court considered the evidence collected by the investigating authorities of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Chuvashia sufficient to convict the residents of Novocheboksarsk 31-year-old Dmitry Sorokin, 27-year-old Andrey Kulichkov, 30-year-old Valery Ryzhov, 25-year-old Airat Khairullin, 32-year-old Sergei Prokopiev, 36-year old Maxim Nazarov and 35-year-old Elena Kulikova. Depending on the role of each they were found guilty of committing crimes under paragraph "a" of Part 3 of Art.163 of the RF Criminal Code (extortion), paragraph "a" of Part 3 of Art.126 of the RF Criminal Code (kidnapping), Part 3 and Part 4 of Art.159 of the RF Criminal Code (fraud), Part 2 of Art.127 of the RF Criminal Code (illegal detention), Art.241 of the RF Criminal Code (organization of prostitution) and Part 3 of Art.240 of the RF Criminal Code (incitement to prostitution).

Investigation and the court found that in 2005-2008 in Novocheboksarsk the convicts committed a series of fraudulent actions with the apartments of poor people, some of whom misused alcohol or had public utility debts. As a result, they obtained the right of free management of five apartments. In order to implement their criminal intentions the members of a criminal group either forced householders to sell their apartments or convinced them that they will settle the public utility debts and will arrange privatization and sale of their apartments, and then will buy them another apartment or will give them money. However, after the sales contracts were concluded they handed the victims only a part of the money and did not fulfill the obligation to purchase another apartment. For these purposes, they committed against the householders a number of other crimes. For example, they kidnapped two men and unlawfully deprived them of liberty for a long time (from 1.5 to 4 months), threatening violence, until they sign the necessary documents. Despite the fact that the prisoners managed to escape, they were almost immediately found and imprisoned again. One of the victims, who lost his apartment as a result of criminal actions of "black realtors", was driven to suicide - he was found hanged in a house in the Koptush village of the Mari El Republic on July 1, 2010. Another victim, which misused alcohol, was confined in his apartment since the spring of 2008, where he was provided free drinks in unlimited quantity. In June 2008, this man, being misled, sold his apartment to one of the members of the criminal group, and after that the criminals continued to illegally hold him there until his death from coronary heart disease on August 14, 2008.

In addition, Sorokin and Kulikov organized prostitution in sauna on highway M7 "Moscow-Ufa" in the Nikolskoe village of the Yadrinskoe in 2008-2011, and engaged at least four local residents in

this activity. The cost of sexual services was 1-1.5 thousand rubles, half of which went to the income of the accused.

A total number of victims is 11. The damages established by the investigators exceeded 2.6 million rubles. More than 50 witnesses were questioned under this case.

The court sentenced Sorokin to 10 years of imprisonment in a penal colony with a strict regime, Kulichkov - to 4.5 years suspended, Ryzhov - to 7.5 years of imprisonment in a penal colony with a strict regime, Khairullin - to 5 years and 5 months suspended, Prokopiev - to 4.5 years of imprisonment in a general regime penal colony, Nazarov - to 3.5 years of imprisonment in the general regime penal colony, 35-year-old Elena Kulikova - to 4 years suspended.

It should be noted that two other members of the criminal group had fully admitted their guilt and made agreement on cooperation, for which reason the criminal cases against them had been separated, both of them had already been sentenced.

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