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## **Progress of criminal proceedings against Yekaterinburg policemen charged with large scale and especially large scale bribery**

Sverdlovsk Region investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee continue investigating a criminal case against chief of department of organized criminal groups, ethnic criminal groups of crime detection office of Yekaterinburg Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Sergey Rakhmanov, 32, and former chief of department of crimes against morality crime detection office of Yekaterinburg Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs Vladimir Plaksin, 29. Depending on the role of each one they are charged with a crime under parts 5 and 6 of article 290 of the Russian Federation Criminal Code (bribe taking by a group of persons in a preliminary conspiracy and with extortion).

According to investigators, at the end of March 2012 Rakhmanov received by parts from a private entrepreneur selling goods in the market Tagansky Ryad in Yekaterinburg a bribe of 14 million rubles for deciding an issue on returning to him money seized earlier under a criminal case over illegal entrepreneurship. In addition in the period between November 2011 and March 2012 both accused repeatedly through a mediator received bribes from another private entrepreneur – owner of a massage parlor for protection of his business and not prosecuting him for organization of prostitution. In all, the policemen received from the businessman 250 thousand rubles. One more businessman –owner of several massage parlors was affected by illegal actions of the policemen. He in the period between November 2011 and March 2012 handed over through a mediator to Rakhmanov and Plaksin 780 thousand rubles for general protection of his business not prosecuting him for organization of prostitution.

A number of complicated forensic examinations have been carried out during investigation. Namely, the specialists carried out phonographic expertise to identify voice on audio and video records made by officials of Sverdlovsk Region Directorate of Federal Security Service during search and investigation operations. In addition, there was carried out photo-portrait forensic expertise to identify appearance of one of the accused on a video record. More than 50 witnesses have been interrogated, including law enforcement officials and workers of massage parlors.

At present Rakhmanov is under arrest, Plaksin gave written undertaking not to leave the place and behave properly. A number of necessary investigating operations are under way to collect and consolidate evidence. Investigation is to be continued.

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