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## **In Stavropol Territory a sentence passed on a former high-ranking police officer who patronized Popov's gang**

The court has recognized the evidence collected by the Stavropol Territory investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee as sufficient to convict former Chief of State Corruption Department and Organized Crime Office of Stavropol Territory Directorate of Internal Affairs Vladimir Mokhonchenko. He was found guilty of a crime under part 1 of article 285 of the RF Criminal Code (abuse of official powers).

According to investigators, Mokhonchenko, in the period between 2005 and 2006, maintained confidential and friendly relations with the leader of the organized criminal group Valery Popov, to whom he owed \$12 thousand. For the chance not to pay the debt Mokhonchenko, who had professional knowledge and skills of investigative activity, rendered necessary assistance to the gang leader. Using the information obtained during his professional activity, he helped to conceal Popov's involvement in the murder of mafia boss Erik Sagatelov.

The court sentenced Mokhonchenko to 1 year and 11 months in a settlement type correctional facility and deprivation of right to occupy positions in any state or municipal services for 2 years.

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