
In Leningrad Region sentence passed over organizer of criminal gang charged with fraud with land

A court has recognized the evidence gathered by the investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee for the Leningrad Region sufficient to convict Nadezhda Sergeyeva. She was found guilty of crimes under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code (fraud committed by an organized group or on a very large scale) – 32 counts, part 3 of article 30, part 4 of article 159 (attempted fraud committed by an organized group on a very large scale), part 3 of article 159 (fraud committed by a group of people in a previous concert on a very large scale).

The court and investigators have found that in the period between 2008 and 2010, there was an organized criminal group acting in the Leningrad Region and specializing on illegal registration of ownership to pieces of lands in the village of Vyritsa, Gatchina District, Leningrad Region. Members of the group filed forged title documents with registration bodies to register ownership in the names of men of straw, later they sold the lands and divided the money. Sergeyeva was one of the organizers of the group which consisted of 8 people. She had to find the lands, men of straw and organize their transportation to the registration bodies, sell the lands to honest buyers and organize that the lands were put in the cadaster by filing forged documents of title.

According to the investigators, due to Sergeyeva's frauds the municipality lost 34 pieces of lands located in the village of Vyritsa, Gatchina District, with the area of each one between 1,200 square meters and 3,900 square meters and ranging in price between 515 thousand rubles and 2 million 400 thousand rubles each. Overall material damage stands at over 35 million rubles (cadaster cost of the said pieces of land).

During the investigation Sergeyeva confessed to the crime and cooperated with the investigators. Later at the request of the accused a cooperation deal was signed with her.

Investigation against another member of the criminal group Andrey Gritsun, who also made a deal with the investigators, has been finished and sent to court to be tried on the merits. Investigation against another organizer and other members of the criminal group is ongoing.

The court has sentenced Sergeyeva to 3 years in prison to be served in a minimum-security penal colony.

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