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## **Director of Central Naval Museum of Russian Defense Ministry detained in St. Petersburg**

The Main Military Investigation Directorate of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation initiated a criminal case against the Director of the Federal State Public Institution of Culture and Art, "The Central Naval Museum" of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (hereinafter - "CNM" of the Russian Defense Ministry) Andrei Lyalin. He is suspected of having committed a crime under Part 4 of Article 159 of the RF Criminal Code (fraud committed on a large scale).

The investigators have established that in December 2010 the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation has concluded a state contract for a range of activities to move holdings and exhibits of "CNM" of the Russian Defense Ministry from Bolshaya Morskaya Street in St. Petersburg to the new building, located on Truda Ploschad with OOO "NEVISS-complex". Then, the Defense Ministry transferred an advance of more than 295 million rubles to the account of OOO "NEVISS-complex". During the year, on the basis of acts of acceptance and transfer of equipment and acceptance of services signed by Lyalin, the government transferred more than 690 million rubles to the commercial organization.

According to experts, a significant portion of the payment was made on the basis of fictitious documents. A year after the state contract performance, OOO "NEVISS-complex" has not executed design, assembly and packing and transport operations in full, and under-delivered the equipment. The specified actions caused damage amounting to more than 400 million rubles to the state.

Given that Lyalin has travelled abroad more than 40 times over the past few years, has repeatedly expressed his intention to leave the territory of the Russian Federation, and also put pressure on the parties to the proceedings, the investigation filed a petition to choose custody as a pre-trial measure of restraint against him, which was granted by Dzerzhinsky district court of St. Petersburg.

The criminal investigation is ongoing.

Head of Investigative Committee V. Markin

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