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## **In Moscow sentence passed over Stepan Goncharik charged with murdering his wife and her daughter based on the verdict of jury**



A court has found the evidence gathered by the investigating bodies of Moscow Main Investigation Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee enough to convict Stepan Goncharik. He was found guilty of the crime under paragraphs "a" and "h" of part 2 of article 105 of the RF Penal Code (murder of two or more persons out of mercenary motives).

The court and investigators have found that in 2008, Stepan Goncharik, a citizen of Belorussia, married Yevgenia Silina, who lived with her daughter Yekaterina Silina, a journalist. Later he decided to have their flat, assuming that he was the sole heir and after their death would be able to get the right of ownership on their flat. Goncharik tried to deceive law enforcement by staging a disappearance of mother and daughter. According to his plan, the Silins were to be killed at night of 20 June 2010 and he had bought the train tickets to Saint-Petersburg beforehand for Yevgenia. On

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the day of murder Goncharik's plans were disturbed as Yekaterina Silina had not come home. That day he strangled his wife and hid her body in the woods. He killed Yekaterina Silina in January 2011. During the investigation the specialists have run more than 50 expert examinations, a lot of questionings and other investigating operations. According to the results of out-patient and comprehensive in-patient psychological and psychiatric expert examinations Goncharik was ruled sane.

The court sentenced Goncharik to 20 years, 10 of them in prison, and 10 – in a maximum-security penal colony. In addition the court granted civil actions of the victims claiming 6 million rubles.

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