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## **Former chairman of territorial election commission of Volgograd accused of stealing over 65 million rubles detained in Bulgaria**



The Volgograd Region investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee continue investigating a criminal case against former chairman of territorial election commission of Kirovsky district Oleg Serenko. He is charged with the crime under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code (swindling on an especially massive scale).

According to investigators, in September 2012, Serenko, being a co-founder of the region's largest computer facility OOO Computer Facility for Housing and Communal Services and Fuel and Energy Balance (LLC), designed to settle accounts with people for communal services and to accept corresponding payments, designed a scheme how to steal the money received from the consumers as payments for power supply and subject to compulsory transfer to OAO Volgogradenergosbyt (OJSC). To avert suspicions in December 2012 he sold his share in the authorized capital of the company to the controlled person, having basically resigned. However, in mid-January 2013, he ordered to hold at the settlement accounts of the company a half of the money received from the citizens. He cashed the money through fictitious contracts selling of shares in the authorized capital of the firms managed by Serenko's relatives of friends. On the order of the suspect the computer facility transferred to his personal account and the accounts of five persons controlled by Serenko 35 million 189 thousand rubles. Another 30 million rubles was stolen by the suspect by transferring the money from the settlement account of the computer facility to the account of a sham firm, with which they allegedly concluded a contract on supplying computer equipment.

It is notable that most of companies controlled by Serenko, through which he cashed the stolen money, have multi-million debts to the municipality.

The accused escaped investigators and in November 2013 was put on an international list of wanted criminals. On 7 March 2014, investigators got information from the Interpol that Serenko had been detained in the city of Sofia in the Republic of Bulgaria, where he will be arrested in the nearest future. The procedure for extradition has been initiated.

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The criminal proceeding was launched based on the files of the regional office of the Federal Security Service.

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