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## **In Komi Republic local resident found guilty of involvement in Ifa-Kozlov gang and other crimes**



The court found the evidence gathered by the Komi Republic investigating authorities of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation sufficient to convict the 40-year-old resident of the city of Vorkuta Rafael Mamedov; he has been found guilty of participation in the Ifa-Kozlov criminal organization (Part 2 of Article 210 of the RF Criminal Code), participation in a stable armed group (gang) and attacks committed by it (Part 2 of Article 209 of the RF Criminal Code), murder committed by an organized group and involving gangsterism (Paragraphs "g", "h" of Part 2 of Article 105 of the RF Criminal Code).

The court and investigators found that Mamedov, nicknamed "Raf", was an active member of the Ifa-Kozlov gang, operating in the city of Vorkuta and other cities of the republic in the period between

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1990 and 2000, the leaders and members of which are charged with committing multiple murders and attempted murders, kidnapping, extortion and fraud on a large scale, trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives and explosive devices and other serious crimes. 29 persons are under investigation as defendants; 25 of them have been remanded in custody. One of the leaders (Oleg Ifa) and three active members of the gang are on the international wanted list (the court has arrested them in absentia). In particular, in April 1999, Mamedov took part in the murder of businessman Kharuk and the attack on his bodyguard. Upon the instructions of the gang leader Kozlov, who was serving his sentence in prison, an organized group of seven members of the gang was engaged in the preparations for the murder. For a month, criminals had been tracking the movements of a businessman; they purchased clothes and guns to commit crimes. April 18, 1999, Mamedov and other person disguised as police officers, got armed with two home-made sub- machine guns and assaulted a businessman and his bodyguard, who were playing soccer in a sports complex at the time. The attackers fired numerous shots at the victims (72 bullets and cartridges have been seized from the crime scene). The businessman died of multiple gunshot injuries into the cranial cavity, and his bodyguard, who received serious bodily harm, has survived. The attackers fled the scene in the accomplice's car.

In the course of a criminal investigation, Mamedov had been consistently confessing (more than 30 investigative actions have been conducted with his participation); in connection with this a pre-trial cooperation agreement was made with him and the criminal case against him were separated.

The court sentenced Mamedov to 9 years 3 months imprisonment in a maximum security penal colony.

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