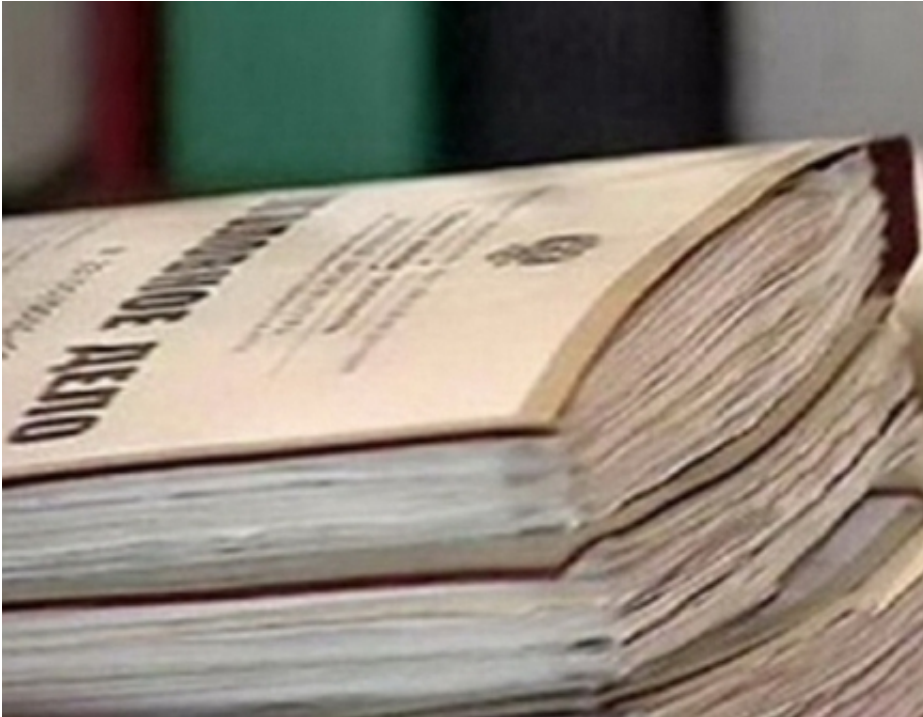# Former head of Musical Festival "Stars of White Nights" to face trial on embezzlement charges

The Main Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee has finished investigating the criminal case against Former Head of the independent non-commercial organization Musical Festival "Stars of White Nights" and Moscow Easter Festival ZAO Igor Zotov. He is charged with offenses under part 4 of article 160 of the RF Criminal Code (misappropriation and embezzlement).

According to investigators, from April 2009 to June 2011, acting as Deputy General Director of "Moscow Easter Festival" ZAO and Executive Director of "Music Festival "Stars of the White Nights", Zotov made up fake contracts specifying a number of non-existent payments. After that, he transferred more than 137 million rubles from the accounts of those organizations to the accounts of the companies affiliated to him.

In addition, from July 2007 to August 2011, Zotov signed a number of fake contracts between "Music Festival" Stars of the White Nights" and some fly-by-night companies for the provision of advertising services and information support during the tour of the Mariinsky Theatre at the Festival

"Ugra-Classic", in New York City, USA at the Metropolitan opera and other events, while Zotov knew that such services will be provided by the inviting party. The defendant transferred more than 90 million rubles to the accounts of those fly-by-night companies, thus causing major damages to the independent nonprofit organization.

In order to cover the civil action in the criminal case, investigators seized the property and funds owned by Zotov, including shares of "Bank VTB" OAO, "Gazprom" OAO, "Lukoil Oil Company" OAO, "Transneft" OAO and other companies. In addition, they seized a large number of properties in Italy worth about 3 million euros.

Investigators have gathered sufficient evidence, and the criminal case with the approved indictment has been referred to the court for consideration on the merits.

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