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## **In Moscow former military servant found guilty of frauds with Defense Ministry's flats**



A court has recognized the evidence gathered by Moscow Military Investigations Directorate of the Russia's Investigative Committee sufficient to convict former advisor with Claims and Legal Department of the Russian Ministry of Defense retired Colonel of Justice Stanislav Balyukin. He was found guilty of crimes under part 4 of article 159 of the RF Penal Code (swindling committed by a person using their official position, as a member of an organized group and on a very large scale).

The court and investigators have found that Balyukin together with former aide to Commander in Chief of Land Forces retired Senior Warrant Officer Valery Danielyan and Head of 159<sup>th</sup> office of Housing Department of the Russian Ministry of Defense retired Colonel Andrey Belousov and Kristina Ivanova, a student of law department at Moscow State Pedagogical University in 2011-2012 stole from the Defense Ministry 5 one-room and 2 two-room flats in the city of Moscow worth in total 28.6 million rubles.

For that the members of the organized criminal group made counterfeit contracts on social leasing of flats and other necessary documents which they then passed over to beneficiaries to register the new

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address and open bank accounts. After that, Ivanova, acting under powers of attorney, filed actions with a court requesting to privatize the flats.

Balyukin, who represented the side of the Russian Ministry of Defense in the said civil actions, used his position for his personal gain by presenting to the court forged documents and false information on the distribution of residences by Ministry's housing bodies. Thanks to efficient actions of law enforcement bodies the state ownership of the flats was not eliminated.

The court has sentenced Stanislav Balyukin to 4.5 years to be served in a minimum-security penal colony and a fine of 250 thousand rubles.

At present the same court is trying the cases against Ivanov, Danielyan and Belousov. The latter two are waiting for the sentence in custody. The investigation against individuals who misappropriated the flats is ongoing.

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