
In Tatarstan case against black realtors gang goes to court

Tatarstan investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee have finished investigating a criminal case against an employee of a real estate agency Ruben Gafurov, 47; Alexander Shcherlkonogov, 44; CEO of the real estate agency Natalia Gafurova, 46; former registering clerks of the district office of the Russian Register Nadia Kayumova, 44 and Ramzia Nazipova, 53; a former clerk of the district office of the Russian Register Olga Kokoreva, 44; Alexander Korovin, 40; a former real estate agent Ivan Kurulyuk, 36 and a former police officer Andrey Shchipitsin, 45. Depending on the role and degree of participation in crimes, they are charged with crimes under parts 1 and 2 of article 210 of the RF Penal Code (organization of a criminal community (criminal organization) and membership in it), part 4 of article 159 (fraud on a very large scale committed by an organized group entailing deprivation of right on housing), paragraph "a" of part 3 of article 163 (extortion committed by an organized group), part 3 of article 285 (abuse of office), part 2 of article 290 (bribery).

According to investigators, in March 2003, Shchelkonogov and Gafurov set up a criminal community of 11 people in the town of Naberezhnye Chelny. The accused found owners of flats who lived alone, abused alcohol and had debts on their household bills. By accustoming to hard drinking, deceit or intimidation they got from the owners powers of attorney to privatize and then sell the flats. They got all necessary documents and then privatized and sold flats and had all the money to themselves. During the crimes the victims were taken to specially arranged houses and flats in the town of Naberezhnye Chelny and in Tukay District and broke any attempts of the victims to get in touch with their relatives or call the police.

This way in since August 2007, by deceit and abuse of trust the accused sold the flat of a resident of Naberezhnye Chelny that cost over 2.8 million rubles and took the money. In all the investigators revealed 24 crimes committed by the gang in the period between March 2003 and June 2012. Their actions caused citizens damage of over 26 million rubles. There are 30 victims.

The investigators have gathered enough evidence, so the criminal case with the approved indictment has been sent to court to be tried on the merits.

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