
Charges pressed against three more suspects in Admiral fire case



Tatarstan investigating bodies of the Russia's Investigative Committee have pressed charges against head of inter-district bailiffs' office for special enforcement proceedings of Tatarstan Office of the Federal Bailiffs' Service Zhanna Alparova and former executor of inter-district department of the regional Office of the Federal Bailiffs Service Minzilya Safina. Depending on the role of each one they are charged with the crimes under part 4 of article 33, paragraph "c" of part 3 of article 286 of the RF Penal Code (solicitation of abuse of authority entailing grave consequences).

It has been reported earlier that in 2013, a check by the prosecutor's office on following by OOO Zarya fire safety rules in operation of the Admiral shopping center revealed a lot of violations. Following the check an action was filed with a court requesting elimination of the said violations, which was then satisfied. Later Alparova gave an illegal order to her inferior an executor Minzilya Safina to finish the enforcement proceeding on OOO Zarya in connection with its alleged actual execution. But Alparova was aware that the violations remained in place. On 12 November 2013, the enforcement proceeding was finished. A repeated check in 2014, revealed that over half of the violations remained in place. The prosecutor's office made a protest and resumed the proceeding against OOO Zarya.

Alparova has referred to article 51 of the Russian Constitution and refused to give testimonial evidence. Safina did the same. Following a request filed by the investigators, a court ruled to put Safina under house arrest.

The investigators have also charged Albert Khalikov, 52 with a crime under part 3 of article 216 of the RF Penal Code (violation of safety rules during work, entailing death of 2 or more people by negligence).

According to the investigators, on the day of the fire workers Albert Khalikov, Nail Gabdulkhayev and Firdinat Uldanov, following instructions of the market administration were dampproofing the roof of the Admiral shopping center using a gas tank and a burner. The investigators believe that the fire was caused by their actions. Khalikov has not admitted his guilt. Following a request filed by the investigators, a court has ruled to place him in custody pending trial.

By now over 500 victims and over 300 witnesses have been questioned. Documents are being confiscated from supervising and controlling bodies. Investigators are going to assign a number of expert examinations in the Federal Forensic Examinations Center of the Russian Ministry of Justice (Moscow), including a construction and fire technical ones, which will allow the investigators to answer the question about the causes of the fire in the Admiral shopping center and collapse of its roof. The investigation is ongoing.

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