
Organizer of gang charged with series of assaults and murders of businessmen to stand trial in Moscow

The first investigations department of the Main Investigations Directorate based in Moscow has completed investigation of a case against Andrey Safronov. He is charged with crimes under article 105 of the RF Penal Code (murder), part 1 of article 209 (banditry) and article 222 (illegal purchase, transfer, selling, storage, transportation or carrying of firearms, its main parts, ammunition).

According to investigators, in 2005, Safronov set up an organized stable armed group (gang) for the purpose of killing citizens for fee, and involved there Dmitry Makarenko, Yuri Khasanov and Gennady Shevchenko. Under the leadership and following orders of Safronov, in 2005-2009, members of the gang committed attempted murders and murders of businessmen in Moscow and Moscow Region, including murder of one of co-founders of OOO Interfrukt Solomon Gavrilov. For assaults the gangsters used cold and firearms. In all, the accomplices committed four murders. The gang stopped existing in December 2011, as most of its members were detained by law-enforcement officers.

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

Earlier Makarenko, Khasanov and Shevchenko were sentenced to long terms in prison.

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