

Suspect Detained in Killing of Furniture Magnate

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Mikhail Kravchenko, president of the 8 March furniture group, holding up a bat by the wings in New Guinea.

An alleged organizer of a murder of Russian furniture magnate Mikhail Kravchenko has been detained in the Moscow region, Itar-Tass reported Tuesday.

Kravchenko, 46, who was a president of the March 8 furniture holding, was shot and killed on May 20 near his home in the Moscow region town of Peredelkino. Police found a dozen gunshot wounds on Kravchenko's body.

The murder was organized by Kravchenko's acquaintance Alexei Pronin, who has been detained and confessed his role in the crime, the news agency said, citing law enforcement sources. The motive for the crime was not immediately clear.

Pronin was Kravchenko's former business partner in the town of Ryazan, according to Kommersant.

Kravchenko oversaw one of the largest furniture holdings in Europe, with five factories as well as stores in about 100 cities in Russia and other former Soviet republics.

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