

Moscow Banker's Murder Prevented, Police Say

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The  **Moscow Times**

Police have prevented the assassination of the president of a Moscow bank, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday.

In early August, operatives were informed that a man was seeking to hire people to abduct and kill the head of a Moscow bank, the ministry said in a statement. Two law enforcement officers posed as the would-be killers.

"In the evening of Aug. 20, Moscow criminal investigation officers staged the abduction and brought people who looked like and were made up as the bank's president and his bodyguard to the suspect's garage," the ministry said.

The suspect was then detained by police, it said, adding that the mastermind had planned to extort 800 million rubles (\$24.3 million) from the victim.

The ministry did not reveal the name of the targeted banker.

(MT)

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