

Trifonova Detention 'Illegal'

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Forensic experts have ruled that Vera Trifonova, a seriously ill businesswoman who died in pretrial detention in April, should not have been placed into custody because of her condition, Trifonova's lawyer Vladimir Zherebenkov said Thursday.

Zherebenkov said the experts determined that Trifonova should have been hospitalized in City Hospital No. 20, the only place able to treat her condition, and not moved from there in her weak state.

"But she was [regularly] transported to pretrial detention and to the court," Zherebenkov said, Interfax reported.

A criminal case has been opened into the investigator who handled Trifonova's case, and the judge who extended her arrest has been fired.

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