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Worker Seizes Crane

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The head of a construction unit seized a crane in Bashkortostan's capital, Ufa, on Wednesday, demanding that a former employer pay off its debt of 1 million rubles ($32,000) to the unit, Interfax reported Wednesday.

Gafur Gabitov vowed to remain high up in the crane's cab until the employer, SMU 1 Monolitstroi, paid the unit of 30 men for two months of work in 2009.

Gabitov's colleagues were taking turns keeping watch at the foot of the crane, preventing anyone from approaching. They also filed a complaint with prosecutors, which said it was preparing to open a criminal case against the firm, alleged to have gone into a premeditated bankruptcy in 2009.

(MT)

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