

# Oniani Denies Ordering Hit

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

Reputed thief-in-law Tariel Oniani has denied ordering a hit on rival underworld boss Aslan Usoyan, better known as Grandpa Khasan, Oniani's lawyer said Monday, Interfax reported.

A sniper seriously wounded Usoyan and a bodyguard on Thursday in central Moscow. Russian media have reported that Usoyan and Oniani had been fighting over the empire of a third thief-in-law being held in a Spanish jail.

Oniani "categorically denies" involvement in the attempted killing, lawyer Nikolai Mdinradze told Interfax, referring to his defendant by his other surname, Mulukhov. Oniani is in a Moscow jail appealing a 10-year sentence he received in July for kidnapping.

*(MT)*

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