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Life Sentence Given for 15 Murders

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Vasily Krivets, 22, a Muscovite, was convicted of 15 counts of murder motivated by ethnic hatred and sentenced to life in prison by the Moscow City Court on Thursday, Interfax reported.

His accomplice, Dmitry Ufimtsev, 23, who unlike Krivets pleaded guilty, got 22 years in prison on five counts of murder, the report said.

Both men were also fined hefty sums for killing and robbing Tajiks, Uzbeks, Azeris and Turks, as well as Russians, in 2007 and 2008. Ufimtsev was considering an appeal, Interfax said. Krivets' lawyer refused to comment.

Krivets was arrested in 2008 but fled detention, only to be recaptured in August 2009 as he tried to escape to Ukraine by train.

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