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Police Kidnap Businessman

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Three Moscow policemen were detained in connection with the kidnapping and robbery of a businessman in the capital, investigators said.

The suspected mastermind of the crime, the head of a detective unit in the Troparevo-Nikulino district of western Moscow, was taken into custody Thursday, the Investigative Committee said in a statement on its web site. The police major, born in 1971, wasn't identified by name.

Two other policemen were arrested Dec. 1 for carrying out the Aug. 4 kidnapping, the investigators said. They are suspected of stealing a briefcase containing 90,000 rubles ($3,000) and a cell phone from the unidentified entrepreneur, who was sitting in his car. After that, the police lieutenants drove him out of the city and passed their hostage to three accomplices, investigators said.

The businessman was freed two weeks later by a different group of police.

(Bloomberg)

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