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Chaika Plans Dismissals in Turf War

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Prosecutor General Yury Chaika plans to fire Moscow region prosecutors accused of having ties to illegal gambling business, Kommersant reported Tuesday.

The region's top prosecutor, Alexander Mokhov, will be relocated and possibly demoted, while his deputy Alexander Ignatenko and department head Dmitry Urumov face sackings, the report said.

Officials did not comment on the story Tuesday. Inquiries submitted to Chaika's press office and regional prosecutors went unanswered.

The Prosecutor General's Office last week closed several cases against its Moscow region officials, including Ignatenko and Urumov, whom the Investigative Committee accused of protecting a local gambling ring in exchange for perks.

The gambling case had been in the works since 2009, but the committee only named the suspects in February, soon after being separated from the Prosecutor General's Office.

The ring's alleged mastermind, Ivan Nazarov, who is currently in pretrial detention, appealed

to the Kremlin in an open letter last week, saying he was a victim of the strife between two law enforcement agencies.

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