

Man Chains, Abandons Alleged Thief

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A Siberian man was given a year in prison and a minor fine for chaining an alleged thief and abandoning her on a small river island, the Omsk region branch of the Investigative Committee <u>said</u> Thursday.

Alexei Kolchanov, 33, suspected his 24-year-old acquaintance of stealing 200,000 rubles (\$6,300) from him, the report said.

To force her to pay him back, he beat up the woman, ferried her to an islet on the Irtysh River and abandoned her with a leaking metal can chained to her neck to prevent her from escaping.

The woman, whose name has not been disclosed, still managed to flee, keeping herself afloat on a piece of styrofoam she found on the island long enough to be rescued by fishermen.

The incident took place in July, but was not reported before.

A local court convicted Kolchanov of battery and illegal deprivation of freedom and sentenced him to jail time and a fine of 5,000 rubles (\$160).

The committee did not specify whether Kolchanov would appeal or whether the woman really stole the money.

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