

Reputed Mob Boss Usoyan Shot Dead

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One of the country's purportedly most influential crime bosses was killed by a sniper in broad daylight Wednesday, police said, prompting fears of a return of 1990s-style gang wars in the capital.

Aslan Usoyan, better known as Grandpa ("Ded") Khasan, was hit in the head by a single bullet around 2:30 p.m. when he exited a restaurant in downtown Moscow, Interfax reported, quoting law enforcement officials. The 75-year-old died shortly after at a hospital without regaining conscience.

The killer, who fled, fired from a building opposite the crime scene on Povarskaya Ulitsa, the Investigative Committee