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'Hooligans' Free Patient From Psychiatric Hospital

By The Moscow Times

February 13, 2013



A group of men wounded a guard and snatched a 34-year-old female patient from a psychiatric hospital in eastern Moscow on Tuesday evening, police said.

About 6 p.m., three men armed with pistols and pepper spray broke into the psychiatric hospital, located near the Preobrazhenskaya Ploshchad metro station, Vesti reported Wednesday, citing police.

The perpetrators shot into the air several times with the pistol and sprayed a hospital guard with the pepper spray, then grabbed a female patient and fled with her in a Nissan sedan.

Police opened a criminal case on hooliganism charges, a police spokesman said Wednesday in comments carried by Interfax. Police said they had established the identity of one of the attackers after interviewing witnesses.

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