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INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Minors Held in Killing of 5-Year-Old

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Police in the central Kurgan region have detained two boys aged nine and 10 on suspicion of murdering a five-year-old, investigators said in a statement Wednesday.

"The boys, aged nine and 10 years, met a five-year-old boy in the street and after taking him to a derelict public steam bath, brutally beat him up," the Investigative Committee said in a statement.

After beating the boy, the two juvenile suspects used a rope to strangle him and then hid his body in a metal drum, investigators said. The incident took place last week, they said.

Both suspects are being held in a juvenile detention center, investigators said.

According to Russian law, a person can be held to be criminally responsible for killing a juvenile from 14 years of age.

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