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Siberian Anti-Drug Police Chief Caught Selling Heroin

By The Moscow Times

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MOSCOW, October 7 (RIA Novosti) — The head of the police's anti-narcotics department in southwest Siberia has been arrested for selling heroin, local investigators said Monday.

The official was detained near a shopping center in Omsk last week.

The Investigative Committee said the suspect was detained with "a significant amount" of heroin and money he had received from a sale.

Police also seized drugs during a search of the official's house and office, the statement said.

Russia, which is the main conduit of drugs originating in Afghanistan, holds the first place worldwide for the number of heroin addicts per capita. More than 90 percent of drug addicts in the country use heroin.

The heroin market in Russia is valued at $6 billion by various sources, while the country's

hashish market is estimated at $1.5 billion.

Between 30,000 and 40,000 Russians die every year from drug-related illnesses, according to official statistics.

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