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Police Detain Killing Suspect After Rifle Found in IKEA Locker

By The Moscow Times

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Police and Federal Security Service officers have jointly detained a man who left a rifle in a locker in the Moscow region shopping mall, which he is suspected of using to shoot four people.

Moscow region police detained the man after workers at a store in Khmiki, just north of Moscow, discovered a rifle and a hundred bullets in a locker, RIA Novosti reported Sunday, citing a police representative.

The detained man is suspected of involvement in the shooting death of four workers who were found in burnt down service rooms on the street Syezzhinsky Pereulok outside Moscow's Ploshchad Ilyicha metro station the night of Jan. 26, the representative said.

The rifle, a short version of the Kalashnikov model, and 111 bullets were discovered in two lockers at the IKEA in Khimki by a female manager of the store on Tuesday, NTV television

reported.

IKEA's surveillance cameras recorded a video in which three unidentified men approach the lockers, and two of them put the rifle and the bullets into the lockers while the third one looked out, the television station said.

The Moscow branch of the Investigative Committee reported on Monday about the four bodies found in burnt down service rooms in Syezzhinsky Pereulok, but on Thursday investigators changed the address to nearby Andronyevskaya Ploshchad, saying the bodies bore signs of violent death, including injuries to their limbs, torsos and heads.

Investigators found that the doors of the burnt service rooms were intentionally blocked with some objects on the outside, making it impossible for the workers to get out and survive, NTV reported last Monday.

The Investigative Committee said that the men died from gunshot wounds and other injuries "of a criminal character."

Investigators have opened a criminal case on murder charges, which carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

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