

Russian Mafia Boss Arrested in Thailand

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The  Moscow Times

A Russian mafia gang leader wanted back home for his alleged involvement in scores of killings and other criminal activities since 1995 was arrested in Thailand while living on a retirement visa, police said Wednesday.

✘The mafia boss, Alexander Matusov, was arrested Monday in front of a supermarket in Thailand's eastern seaside town of Sattahip in Chonburi province, said Police General Wut Liptapanlop.

✘Matusov's network "Chelkovo" was active from 1995 to 2009 and was notorious for killings, extortion and kidnappings in the Moscow and St. Petersburg areas, according to Alexei Falunin, a Russian diplomat in Bangkok. "They were responsible for a lot of killings and his detention is very important to us," he told The Associated Press.

✘Authorities issued arrest warrants for Matusov and other gang members for allegedly murdering four members of a rival gang in 1996.

✘Wut said the 52-year-old first entered Thailand in 2009 and left before returning on a fake Armenian passport. He said Matusov had been living in Thailand on a retirement visa.

☒ Thai immigration police had revoked his visa and were pushing for his deportation to Russia for prosecution.

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