

Son Confesses to Killing Widow of Ex-Mayor in Moscow Region

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The 22-year-old son has confessed to killing his mother and sister.

The 22-year-old son of a businesswoman who was the widow of a mayor of the Moscow region town of Roshal has confessed to killing his mother and sister during a dispute in the family's home over the weekend, investigators say.

The 43-year-old woman, who owned a chain of gas stations in the region, and her 12-year-old daughter were earlier reported to have been killed during a home invasion on Saturday night in the small town.

The son said he came home around 4 a.m. Saturday morning and found his mother dead and sister in critical condition. But a spokesman for the Investigative Committee said Sunday that the son confessed to the killings during questioning, Interfax reported.

The son often argued with his mother, and this time he grabbed a hammer and "hit his mother several times in the head," the investigator said. "The little girl ran into the room when she heard the woman's screams ... and he got her with the hammer too."

Authorities had initially attributed the killing to a robbery or a settling of scores by business competitors, Russian media reported. The woman was the widow of the town's former mayor, Sergei Syusyukin, reports said.

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