

Charges Dropped Against Lawyer Who Defended Murderers of Anna Politkovskaya

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Murad Musayev

Criminal charges were dropped Wednesday against prominent lawyer Murad Musayev, who had been accused of bribing witnesses and interfering with court proceedings in a 2013 trial, the Interfax news agency reported.

The court said charges against Musayev — known for defending the men convicted of the 2006 murder of journalist Anna Politkovskaya — were being dropped because the statute of limitations on his case had expired.

The court did not dismiss, however, the legal proceedings against two jurors also involved in the case, according to Interfax.

Investigators had accused Musayev of bribing two witnesses in Jan. 2013 in the case against Yusup Temerkhanov, who was later sentenced to 15 years in prison for the murder of former

Russian army colonel Yury Budanov. Budanov, who was gunned down in Moscow in 2011, had been sentenced to prison for the kidnap, rape and murder of an 18-year-old Chechen woman during the Second Chechen War.

Musayev had pleaded not guilty to the charges laid against him, saying that they represented an attempt to remove him from the high-profile cases in which he was involved.

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