

Suspected Russian Gang Leader Nabbed in Thailand

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A Russian gang leader has been arrested in Thailand.

A suspected Russian gang leader has been arrested in Thailand at the request of the Russian branch of Interpol, state news agency RIA Novosti reported Wednesday.

Sergei Kovalenko, who is accused of founding a criminal gang in Siberia's Kemerovo region in the late 2000s, was nabbed in the Thai resort of Pattaya on Tuesday night, the news agency reported, citing Vladimir Sosnov, head of the Russian Embassy's consular division in Thailand.

Kovalenko's criminal gang, which was based in the town of Yurga, was dismantled by Russian law enforcement in 2012. Kovalenko was charged in absentia at the end of 2013, according to RIA, and added to an international wanted list in February last year.

According to Sosnov, Kovalenko's criminal gang is accused of committing a string of serious crimes, including kidnapping, extortion and theft.

Kovalenko will soon be deported to Russia to face justice, RIA reported.

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