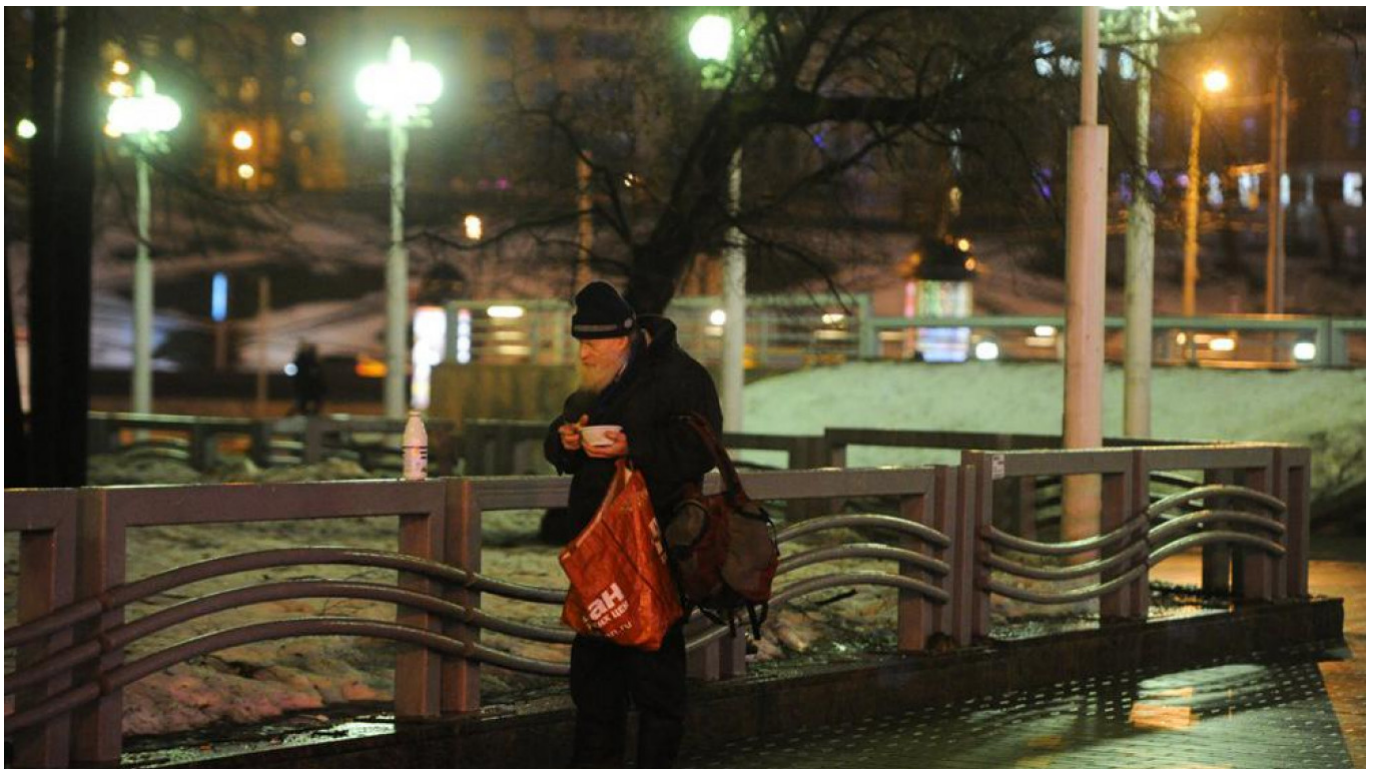


Moscow Gang Accused of 'Purging' Homeless People Sentenced

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Lyubimov Andrei / Moskva News Agency

A Moscow gang who killed homeless people to "cleanse the city" were handed jail terms ranging from nine and a half years to life imprisonment on Monday.

Investigators said the four men and one woman met on the internet and referred to their spate of murders as a "purge," the state-run RIA Novosti news agency [reported](#).

Yulia Ivanova, an Investigative Committee official, said the gang singled out homeless people in the Moscow and Yaroslavl regions from July 2014 to February 2015. A jury earlier declared the five gang members guilty of committing 14 murders.

"The murders were committed with particular brutality in sparsely-populated or deserted places, primarily at night," Ivanova said. "As weapons, the conspirators used knives, hammers, brass knuckles and other objects."

State-owned 360TV news [said](#) the head of the gang, Pavel Voitov, flashed Nazi symbols

during the trial and came to the courtroom on one occasion wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "Only Hate."

All of the defendants were found mentally fit to stand trial, although one of them, Vladislav Karatayev, was diagnosed with a psychiatric illness and said to require mandatory treatment.

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