

4 People Arrested Amid Corruption Allegations Following Deadly Russian Mall Fire

March 26, 2018



Emergency Situations Ministry

Russian investigators have detained four people as part of a criminal investigation into Sunday's deadly fire at a shopping mall in the Siberian city of Kemerovo.

At least 64 people were killed when a fire swept through the upper floors of the Winter Cherry mall, which housed a cinema complex and children's play area. Russia's Investigative Committee has [opened](#) a criminal case into death through negligence, fire safety violations and the provision of services in violation of safety requirements.

Related article: [At Least 53 Die in Russia Shopping Mall Fire](#)

“Four people were detained and interrogated within the framework of the criminal case,

including the tenant of the premises where the epicenter of the fire was allegedly located,” the committee [said](#) in a statement Monday.

Nadezhda Suddenok, the director of the company that rents the mall’s top two floors, is among those being interrogated, Interfax [cited](#) a law enforcement source as saying.

Anton Gorelkin, a State Duma deputy from Kemerovo, [wrote](#) a Facebook post Monday accusing the city’s deputy mayor of accepting a bribe for providing the signature for the mall’s opening in 2013.

“The only way that he could have overlooked the blatant safety issues, I think, is in one scenario: His eyes were closed by money.”

The lawmaker claimed that the Winter Cherry mall, along with others in the city, had been built from “s--- and sticks: Cheap plastic, a labyrinth of corridors and a hellish mess of ownership documents.”

“No amount of corrupt money can make up for the lives of children,” he said, vowing an investigation.

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