

Russian Entrepreneur Raped and Tortured to Death in Jail Cell, Medics Say

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Svetlana Kholyavchuk / Interpress / TASS

A Russian entrepreneur suspected of defrauding the Russian military was reportedly raped and tortured to death inside his jail cell while on pre-trial detention, a forensic examination has said.

Valery Pshenichny, 56, was accused of embezzling 100 million rubles (\$1.6 million) in carrying out a defense contract on the construction of military submarines for Russia's Defense Ministry. He was [found](#) hanging inside a St. Petersburg jail cell in February three weeks after his arrest.

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Forensic medical examiners determined that Pshenichny died from neck trauma and asphyxiation, and had been raped before his death, the investigative Novaya Gazeta newspaper [reported](#) Monday.

“Electric shock burns from a hot-water boiler cord were found in his mouth. Lacerations and stab wounds on his body. A broken spine. Simply put, he was tortured,” the newspaper listed expert findings as saying.

Although authorities opened a criminal case into incitement to suicide, the forensic expert findings last week dismissed the determination that Pshenichny had taken his own life, Novaya Gazeta reported.

Friends reportedly referred to the businessman, who had developed a unique modeling technology for submarine construction and repair, as Russia’s Elon Musk.

Pshenichny suspected his business partner Andrei Petrov of embezzlement in 2016.

After his arrest, Petrov testified that Pshenichny himself and another associate had conspired to inflate the cost of the Russian Defense Ministry contract.

“He was confident in himself, in his position, he knew that he was innocent and was not afraid of anything,” the outlet cited his wife, Natalya, as saying.

“Everyone betrayed me” [were](#) Pshenichny’s last words, according to Agora international human rights organization director Pavel Chikov.

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