

Moscow's 'GTA Gang' Members Sentenced to Life for Roadside Murders

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Sentencing of the 5 GTA band members/ Vyacheslav Prokofyev/ TASS

Five members of a criminal group infamous for a string of roadside attacks reminiscent of the “Grand Theft Auto” video games have been sentenced to life in jail, or 20 years in one case, by a court in Moscow on Thursday.

The defendants, many from post-Soviet Central Asian countries, are accused of killing 17 people in the Moscow and Kaluga regions between 2012 and 2014. In 2014, the head of the Prosecutor General’s Office [resigned](#) over alleged ties to the gang’s leader, though no definitive connection was proven.

Four of the “GTA Gang” members were sentenced to life in prison, while a fifth defendant was sentenced to a jail term of 20 years, Russia’s Investigative Committee said Thursday.

One of the defendants [faces](#) three additional criminal charges, including attempted murder of a law enforcement officer.

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Three suspects remain at large and two others have been detained in Tajikistan, the investigators said in a statement.

Their ringleader Ibaydullo Subkhanov (also known as Rustam Usmanov) was killed in a police raid in November 2014.

An escape attempt by members of the group during a court hearing in August 2017 [ended](#) in a shootout between security guards and the defendants, three of whom were killed while one died later in the hospital.

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