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Baikov has been sentenced to 10 years, Kaganskikh reported. What is known about the verdict in the Hydra case

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The prosecution had sought an 18-year sentence. Kaganskikh reported a ten-year sentence in a high-security prison and a fine of 4.8 million roubles. What is known about his cooperation with the investigation, the seized assets and the transfer of 107 BTC.

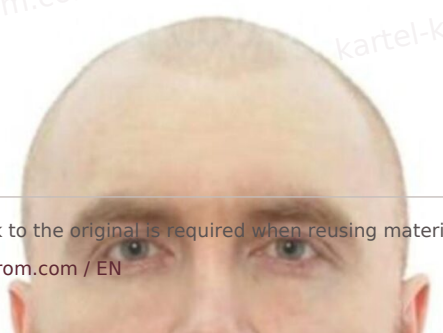
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An AI-generated editorial collage based on a portrait of Alexei Baikov provided by the source.

On 13 November, the prosecution sought an 18-year prison sentence for Alexei Baikov. Four days later, journalist Andrei Kaganskikh reported a ten-year sentence in a strict-regime prison and a fine of 4.8 million roubles. The eight-year discrepancy between the prosecutor's request and the published sentence became the main issue in the Perm trial. An explanation should be provided in the judgement, but at the time of this review, 'Kartel Khimprom' had not found the text of the judgement in the public domain. [1] [2]

The Kirovsky District Court in Perm heard the criminal case against a man whom the prosecution considers to be one of the organisers of Hydra. In July, the court announced that the case files had been received. According to *Kommersant*, in November, Baikov was charged with forming a criminal organisation, money laundering on a particularly large scale, and organising more than ten instances of drug trafficking. The trial was held in camera. The report on the sentence does not yet clarify which specific offences were included in the verdict or how the court assessed each of them. The editorial team has found no information on when the sentence came into force. [2] [3]



Case file

Alexey Anatolyevich Baikov

The Perm case and theories regarding his role in managing Hydra.

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Why there is an eight-year discrepancy remains unclear for the time being

Reports of Baikov's pre-trial agreement with the prosecution had emerged prior to the sentencing. The contents of the agreement and the court's assessment of its fulfilment could not be found in publicly available materials. If the case had been heard in accordance with Article 317.7 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the public prosecutor would have been required to explain to the court exactly how the defendant had assisted the investigation. Under this procedure, the court considers the nature of the cooperation and its significance, including assistance in tracing assets and identifying other participants. The conditions for applying mitigating factors are set out in Article 62 of the Criminal Code. [4] [5] [6]

Another question is how long the sentence was for each individual offence. Article 69 of the Criminal Code provides for the imposition of sentences for individual offences and the determination of the total sentence for the aggregate of offences. Therefore, based on the two final figures alone, it is impossible to determine what role cooperation played, whether the scope of the charges changed, or how the total sentence was calculated. To do this, the reasoning and the operative part of the court judgement are required. [2] [6] [7]

Kaganskikh estimated the remaining sentence at approximately seven and a half years. For a maximum-security prison, Article 72 of the Criminal Code provides for time spent in custody to be counted day for day. The exact date of release depends on the period the court decides to count towards the sentence and the further progress of the case. The journalist himself provided an approximate estimate. [1] [8]

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From the server room to the accounts department

Following the shutdown of Hydra's servers in April 2022, the platform's technical infrastructure became the subject of separate criminal cases. On the day of the international operation, the US Department of Justice announced charges against Dmitry Pavlov. According to the US authorities, Pavlov was involved in leasing and administering the equipment. The Russian case proceeded separately. *Kommersant*, citing *Izvestia*, reported on Pavlov's pre-trial agreement and a six-year prison sentence. In October 2025, another system administrator, Boris Gubko, was sentenced to 21 years in a strict-regime prison, as reported to the publication by the press office of the Yaroslavl Regional Court. Each case has its own set of charges and volume of evidence. [9] [10] [11]

Kaganskikh suggests that Pavlov's old computer helped track down Baykov. According to the journalist, it contained years of correspondence on Jabber, ICQ and Skype, including with a person whom the author identifies as Baykov. Kaganskikh's sources also claim that Baikov frequently changed his telephone numbers and met in person with other members of the platform's team. From the publicly available materials, it is not yet clear which messages have been attached to the Perm case and how the investigation linked a specific account to an individual. [1] [9]



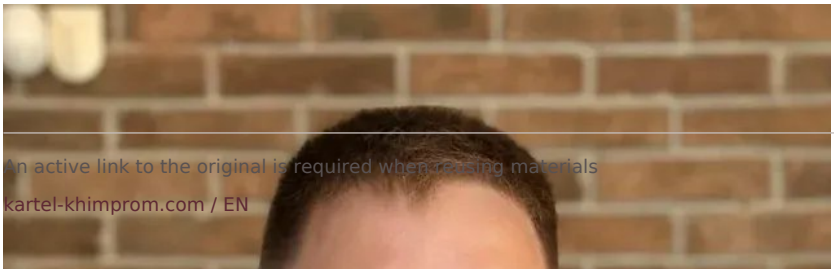
Case file

Dmitry Olegovich Pavlov

Server infrastructure in the case files of the US and Russian cases.

Read the dossier ↗

Vladimir Verevkin. According to the investigation, 'Izvestia' links him to Hydra's financial accounting and cryptocurrency transactions. In a new article, Kaganskikh details Verevkin's alleged responsibilities: recording revenue and expenditure, making payments to staff and covering infrastructure costs until mid-2018. Each of these roles is linked to verifiable transactions. For example, a hosting contract can be matched to an invoice, a payment order and the person who authorised the payment. There is no published verdict regarding Verevkin's role in Hydra in the verified materials. [1] [12]



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Vladimir Yuryevich Verevkin

Hydra’s alleged financial records as reported in publications covering the case.

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Roman Savonin. *Izvestia* refers to him as the second alleged financier. Kaganskikh reports that Savonin was accused of keeping records, making transfers and cashing out cryptocurrency, whilst noting that he is unaware of any evidence from the investigation supporting this version of events. Claims that assets were registered in Baykov’s name remain based solely on information from journalistic sources. In publicly available materials, the editorial team found no court ruling that would establish Savonin’s role in the platform’s financial transactions. [1] [12]

Alexey Kornienko. *Izvestia* named him as one of the alleged leaders of Hydra according to the prosecution’s case and reported that he was wanted. On 16 November, Kaganskikh wrote separately about Kornienko and noted that no report had been made of his arrest. The editorial team does not have a public list of all the individuals whom the prosecution considers to be the founders of Hydra. Even regarding Baikov himself, the journalist has not yet disclosed the verified nickname which, according to the prosecution, he used on the platform. [1] [12] [13]



Alexey Valeryevich Kornienko

His role according to the prosecution’s version of events and reports of a wanted notice.

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Property, seizures and bitcoins. What each figure means

Reports on Baikov feature a range of figures relating to various assets and events. In December 2025, the Ministry of Internal Affairs reported an investigation into the money laundering of over one billion roubles by one of Hydra’s organisers, without naming him. The same report mentions the seizure of 39 properties in Moscow and a car. In November 2026, Kaganskikh provided further estimates regarding Baikov. Without a list of assets or documents relating to specific transactions, it is impossible to determine where this information overlaps. [1] [14]

Amount	What the source describes
Around 1.5 billion ₽	Valuation of the property which the journalist links to Baikov. [1]
46 million ₽	The balance in the bank account as stated by the author in 2024. [1]
Over 300 million ₽	A journalist’s assessment of the cash and cryptocurrency seized during the search. The editorial team has not found a public ruling on the fate of the entire sum. [1]
Almost 3 billion ₽	An estimate of potential assets based on addresses published by individuals whom the journalist describes as Baikov’s former colleagues. This depends on the attribution of the wallets. [1] [15]

Seizure during a search is recorded as a procedural action. To answer the question of how much property was ultimately recovered for the state, a court order and a list of the seized items are required. If part of the money has already been taken into account in a valuation on a different date, adding up all the sums mentioned will overstate the estimated net worth.

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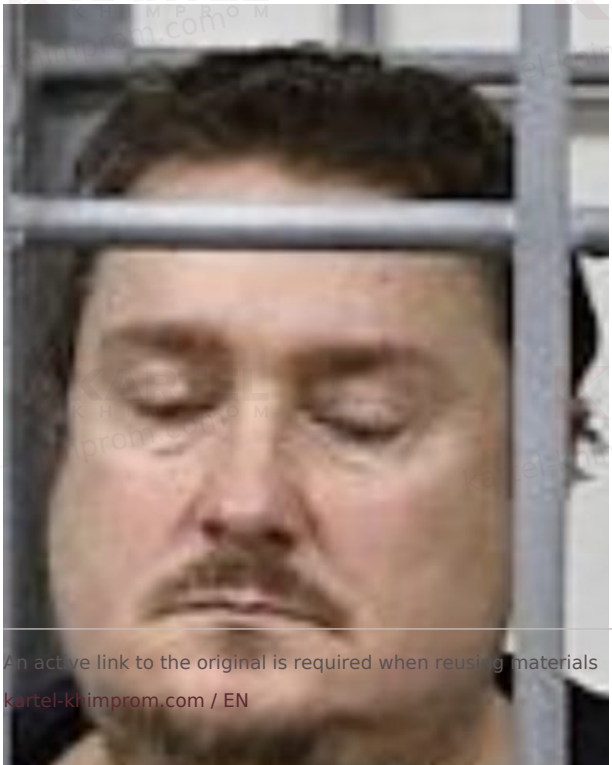
How did the number 10 change the story of the 107 BTC transfer?

In Previous analysis of the 107 BTC transaction We checked the blockchain. On 6 November, an output of 107.26182747 BTC, created in May 2024, was spent. The transaction shows one input, two outputs and a fee. Based on this record, the editorial team was unable to establish who managed the source address or who controlled the address of the major recipient. The rouble equivalent of approximately 600 million appeared in reports about the alleged bribe. [15]

Kaganskikh pointed out that ten years falls within the range previously mentioned by the source of the leak. This is a numerical coincidence. It would be possible to establish whether this is linked to the payment by examining documents or verifiable evidence regarding the owners of the addresses, the recipient and the purpose of the transfer. No such confirmation has been found in verified public sources. [1] [15] [16]

WayAway is a separate case involving some familiar names

According to an August report by *Kommersant*, Dmitry Kononenko, Igor Maleev, and Alexander and Alexandra Grishin feature in the WayAway and Kraken cases. According to the prosecution's version as set out by the publication, Kononenko and Maleev previously worked as moderators for Hydra, and after its closure were involved in WayAway's operations. The report also sets out the defence's position on the charges. Kaganskikh asks whether testimony or evidence from the Baikov case aided this investigation. As yet, the publicly available documents do not reveal which materials from one case were used in the other, nor who passed them on. [1] [17]



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Case file

Dmitry Anatolyevich Kononenko

‘Lucifer’. Court documents relating to the WayAway and Kraken case.

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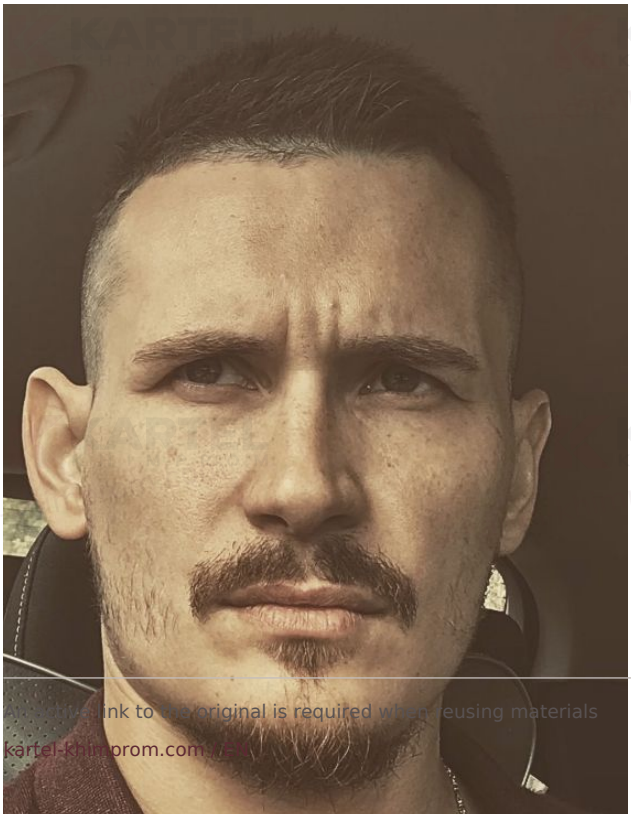


Case file

Igor Vladimirovich Maleev

Alleged involvement in WayAway’s operations, according to the prosecution.

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Case file

Alexander Vladimirovich Grishin

Information from the case files regarding the pre-trial detention order in the WayAway case.

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Case file

Alexandra Igorevna Grishina

‘Taiga’. The charges in the WayAway case and the defence’s position.

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What to look for in the text of the judgement

The first point concerns the specific charges on which the court found Baikov guilty and the separate sentences imposed for each. The second concerns what level of cooperation the court deemed to have fulfilled the terms of the agreement and how this was taken into account. Thirdly, the procedure for crediting time spent in custody, the fine and the fate of the seized assets. These points will enable us to verify the initial reports on the sentence and distinguish the actual consequences of the verdict from assessments based on leaked information. [5] [7] [8]

The background to the Perm trial — in our article ‘The people behind Hydra’. The names, the prosecution’s case and links to WayAway are summarised in the article ‘Hydra after its closure. Roles, documents and the Kraken trail’.

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Original publication

https://kartel-khimprom.com/en/article/baikov-has-been-sentenced-to-10-years-kaganskikh-reported-what-is-known-about-the-verdict-in-the-hydra-case/