

# Interior Ministry is looking for an investor

The head of Hermitage Capital Management is accused of failing to pay billions in taxes



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**As Kommersant learned yesterday, Russian law enforcement authorities charged in absentia for not paying taxes on a large scale and wanted the British citizen William Browder, head of Hermitage Capital Management, one of the largest foreign investment funds operating in the Russian market. Ivan Cherkasov, manager of the department of this foundation in Russia, is also being sought for similar charges. Lawyers for entrepreneurs have appealed both the initiation of a case and investigative actions on it, but have not yet achieved success.**

The decision to prosecute William Browder as an accused was signed by the investigator of the investigative unit of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Central Federal District under Part 2 of Art. 139 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (tax evasion from the organization on a large scale, sentence of up to six years in prison). A similar article by the Central Investigation Department of the Moscow police department accused Ivan Cherkasov. Investigative actions, as it became known to Kommersant, were carried out in the absence of the accused, and even their official defenders, in absentia. According to the law enforcement agencies, they sent the summons to Mr. Browder in his London office and to the Moscow address of Mr. Cherkasov, but this was rather a formality. Mr. Cherkasov left Russia in the summer of 2007, shortly after as a result, she conducted the first searches at Hermitage Capital and related structures, and Mr. Browder has not appeared in Russia since 2013 - then, due to a reason that was not made public until now, his Russian visa was canceled. Nevertheless, the investigation announced both of them to the federal wanted list, and in the near future is going to appeal to the courts with a request for their arrest in absentia. This is necessary for the announcement in the international search.