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... to become one of the most promi-
nent figures in the Moscow underworld, presiding
over an empire of political connections, casinos
and coveted export monopolies before he was

... by police crackdowns and internally di-
vided, still are active in produce markets. The
drug trade is shared by Azeris, Chechens and As-
syrians.

TRADITIONAL CODE OF 'VORY V ZAKONE'

'THIEVES PROFESSING THE CODE'

- ▶ **A Thief must turn** his back on his family (mother, father, siblings) . . . the criminal community is family.
- ▶ **It is forbidden** to have a wife or children.
- ▶ **It is forbidden** to work. A Thief must live only off the fruits of criminal activity.
- ▶ **A Thief must give** moral and material assistance to other Thieves using a communal fund.
- ▶ **When a conflict arises** in a criminal group or among Thieves, there must be a summit meeting to resolve the issue.
- ▶ **When necessary** a Thief must attend a summit meeting to judge another Thief's conduct or behavior if it comes into question.
- ▶ **A Thief must** be proficient in criminals' jargon.
- ▶ **A Thief must not** enter a card game if he does not have the money to pay.
- ▶ **A Thief must teach** his craft to novice thieves.
- ▶ **A Thief must not** lose his wits while drinking.
- ▶ **A Thief must not** in any way become involved with the authorities, nor participate in social activities nor join social organizations.
- ▶ **A Thief must neither** take up weapons on behalf of state authorities nor serve in the army.
- ▶ **A Thief must fulfill** all promises made to other Thieves.

SOURCE: Joseph Serio and Vyacheslav Razinkin, "Thieves Professing the Code," unpublished paper.

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