

Businessman, family killed in Moscow

by UPI

MOSCOW -- A French businessman, his wife, who was strangled, and their baby daughter were found dead in their burning apartment in Moscow, detectives said Monday.

Thierry Spinelli, his wife, Olga, and their 2-year-old daughter Elise were found in their home near the Mayakovskaya metro Moscow detective Anatoly Bagmet said.

Olga Spinelli had been strangled, said Bagmet, who released no information on how Thierry and Elise Spinelli died.

Police said the couple's black Mitsubishi Jeep Pajero was missing, The Moscow Times reported.

Thierry, a winemaker, had lived in Russia for more than 10 years and was a founder of the Chateau le Grand Vostok winery in the Krasnodar region, said Yelena Denisova, who sits on the winery's board of directors.

"He was a very successful businessman," Denisova said. "The company has produced the best wine in Russia. I don't think he had any enemies. It could be only a robbery."

The couple purchased the apartment in 2006, RIA Novosti reported.

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