

The KGB of Naberezhnye Chelny also issued a statement, indicating that accusations against inhabitants of Tatarstan of complicity with terrorists were groundless, and that the Tatarstan KGB had no information indicating the involvement of residents of the republic in the bombings.

The terrorists who set up the September explosions followed the line of least resistance. First they used their "cover documents" to rent several basement and semi-basement rooms, including the ones on Guryanov Street and Kashirskoye Highway. Then they moved in the explosives, stacking sacks of sugar and tea and packages of plumbing supplies around the crates of hexogen (at least that's the way they did it on Guryanov Street). The targets for sabotage were ideally selected. The chances of encountering the police in front of buildings in the unfashionable dormitory districts are not usually very high, and usually there are no caretakers in the entranceways. Starinov announced that "the location of these buildings and the environment around them met the two conditions most essential for terrorist bombers-vulnerability and accessibility."

The terrorists planted the right amount of explosive required for the total demolition of their targets. The saboteur Starinov believed that three men could have carried out the bombings. The terrorists seemed to have been well trained, not just in sabotage, but also in intelligence work: they knew how to avoid surveillance and live under assumed identities. Even a year's course at the very best special training center is not long enough to learn all of this. So it seemed that Muscovites had fallen victim to professional terrorists. And the only professional terrorists working in Russia were in the structures of the FSB and GRU.

Petra Prohazkova, a Czech journalist who was interviewing Hattab at the time of the bombings, remembered Hattab's astounding reaction to the announcement of the terrorist attacks in Moscow. His face suddenly assumed an expression of genuine fright. It was the sincere fright of a front-line soldier who realizes that now he's going to get the blame for everything. Everybody who knows Hattab agrees that he is no actor and could not possibly have feigned astonishment and fear.