

“I don’t know what he [Avayev] did for a living; I never knew him, and I had never heard of him before. I also know that at the time of his alleged suicide, he was the acting First Vice President of Gazprombank. I don’t believe he was capable of killing his wife and daughter; I think it was staged. Why? It’s difficult to say. Maybe he knew something and posed some kind of danger,” said Voloboev.

In Volobuyev’s view, the war between Russia and Ukraine has been going on for 20 years already, and it started with economic pressure. “Their objective was to bind Ukraine to Russia, to get it addicted to gas, just like Belarus. That was part of the war. I have to admit that I myself took part in these gas wars when I worked for Gazprom. The first one was around the turn of 2005-2006, and the second was 2008-2009,” he told Liga.net.

During the "gas wars," according to Volobuyev, European consumers stopped seeing Ukraine as a reliable gas supplier, which allowed Russia and Gazprom to offer supply routes that bypass Ukraine.

Volobuyev said that the information war against Ukraine was led by Russian Presidential Administration Deputy Head Alexey Gromov. “Gromov was the main shadowy figure in charge of Russia’s information policy in general and Gazprom’s information policy more specifically. In that sense, Gazprom wasn’t the ideas generator, it was just the executor — all of the tasks came from above. I took orders from Gazprom Press Secretary Sergey Kupriyanov,” said Volobuyev.