

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

No. 1516

The Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit information from the Russian Federation in response to the joint enquiry from several special procedures of the Human Rights Council AL RUS 2/2022 of 11 February 2022 with regard to the situation surrounding the OVD-Info media project.

The Permanent Mission takes this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Enclosure: 4 pages

Geneva, 8 April 2022

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Geneva

**Information from the Russian Federation in response to the joint enquiry from several special procedures of the Human Rights Council regarding the situation surrounding the OVD-Info media project**

*Reference: AL RUS 2/2022 of 11 February 2022*

The Russian Federation, having examined the joint enquiry of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, has the honour to provide the following information.

Under article 29.1 (1) of Federal Act No. 82-FZ of 19 May 1995 on Voluntary Associations, a voluntary association which operates without acquiring the rights of a legal person, which receives money and/or other assets from foreign sources and which takes part in political activities in the territory of the Russian Federation, or which intends to receive money and/or other assets from such sources and take part in political activities in the territory of the Russian Federation, must notify the federal State registration body or a local branch thereof, in accordance with the procedure and within the time limit prescribed by the federal State registration body.

In addition, under article 2 (6) of Federal Act No. 7-FZ of 12 January 1996 on Non-Profit Organizations, an organization, apart from a political party, is deemed to take part in political activity in the territory of the Russian Federation if, regardless of the aims and purposes set forth in its constituent instruments, it engages in state-building activity, the defence of the pillars of the constitutional order of the Russian Federation or the federal structure of the Russian Federation, the defence of the sovereignty and securing the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation, the preservation of legality, law and order, State and public security, national defence, foreign policy, the socioeconomic and national development of the Russian Federation, and also the development of the political system, the activity of State and local government bodies, the legal regulation of human rights and freedoms and citizens' rights and freedoms, in order to influence the devising and implementation of State policy, the establishment of State and local government bodies, or their decisions and action.

In pursuance of the applicable provisions resting on article 29.1 (5) of the Federal Act on Voluntary Associations, in the event that a voluntary association which operates without acquiring the rights of a legal person is found to receive money and/or other assets from foreign sources and take part in political activity in the territory of the Russian Federation without notification in accordance with paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned article, the federal State registration body places it on the register of unregistered voluntary organizations acting as foreign agents (hereinafter referred to as "the Register").

Under the regulation entitled "Issues of the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation", approved by Presidential Decree No. 1313 of 13 October 2004, this register is kept by the Ministry of Justice. In addition, in accordance with paragraph 9 of the Procedure for keeping the Register approved in turn by Order No. 92 of 1 June 2001 of the Ministry of Justice, the basis for including a voluntary association in the Register is an order issues on the basis of:

(a) Notification

(b) Documents of the authorities of the Russian Federation confirming that a voluntary association which operates without acquiring the rights of a legal person and without registering

in accordance with article 29.1 (1) of the Federal Act on Voluntary Associations has received money and/or other assets from foreign sources and that it takes part in political activity in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The requirements of all the above-mentioned legislation comply fully with the international human rights obligations of the Russian Federation.

According to information supplied by the Moscow Procurator's Office and gleaned from the website <https://ovdinfo.org>, this media project was financed by the interregional voluntary association "Memorial", a human rights centre included in the register of non-profit organizations acting as foreign agents and also by the European Commission and the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH). The total external support it received amounted to more than [REDACTED] in 2020 alone.

In addition, according to the data of Federal Financing Monitoring Service, the Memorial human rights centre, which financed OVD-Info, itself received money from several foreign sources:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] etc.

OVD-Info material was disseminated through its own website and resources with similar content and identical names on several social networks and Internet channels with the participation of 34 persons, but without the requisite notification. Hence the media project was placed on the Register on the basis of documents received from the authorities by Order No. [REDACTED] of 29 September 2021 of the Ministry of Justice.

On 14 December 2021, the Lukhovitsy Municipal Procurator of Moscow Region applied to the Lukovitsy District Court of Moscow Region under article 30 of the Code of Administrative Court Procedure (Participation of the Procurator's Office in an administrative case) to have the dissemination of information on the websites <https://vk.com/ovdinfo>, <https://www.facebook.com/ovdinfo>, <https://www.instagram.com/ovdinfo>, <https://twitter.com/ovdinfo> и <https://t.me/ovdinfo> prohibited in the territory of the Russian Federation.

The Procurator's Office showed in particular that there had been systematic posting on the above-mentioned websites of information aimed at justifying the activity of extremist, terrorist associations, of material justifying the actions of members of such associations and of opinions that motivated and prepared Internet users to commit public order offences.

On 20 December 2021, the Lukovitsy District Court of Moscow Region, having examined the application, decided to satisfy the requests submitted by the Procurator's Office.

At present, access to the resources of the OVD-Info media project in the territory of the Russian Federation is restricted by the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technologies and Mass Media, in accordance with the powers granted to it in the context of the implementation of article 15.1 of Federal Act No. 149-FZ of 27 July 2006 on Information, Information Technologies and Data Protection.



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