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*Translated from Russian*

**Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva**

No. 4621

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, with reference to the communication from the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, AL RUS 14/2022 of 7 September 2022, has the honour to transmit herewith information from the Russian Federation.

The Permanent Mission takes this opportunity to convey to the Office the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 October 2022

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva

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**Information from the Russian Federation in response to the enquiry of the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders concerning I. Evloeva and others**

*Reference: AL RUS 14/2022 of 7 September 2022*

On 4 April 2022, the investigating agency for the Sunzhensky district, a unit of the investigation department for the Republic of Ingushetia working under the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, initiated criminal proceedings against I. Evloeva, a citizen of the Russian Federation, on the basis of evidence of an offence under article 207<sup>3</sup> (1) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

It was established that, while outside the Russian Federation, Ms. Evloeva (who is presumed to be in [REDACTED]) had been administering and systematically updating the content of the Fortanga.ORG website and the "Not a Woman, but a Journalist" ([https://t.me/izabella\\_evloeva](https://t.me/izabella_evloeva)) and "Fortanga" (<https://t.me/fortangaorg>) Telegram channels, which are not registered as mass media outlets. In particular, between 5 and 9 March 2022, she posted four messages on the "Not a Woman, but a Journalist" Telegram channel containing information that she knew to be false about the actions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

Ms. Evloeva is not engaged in editing, creating, gathering or preparing content for the editorial board of any registered mass media outlet, is not bound by the relevant labour or other contractual relations and is not authorized to conduct such activities. Therefore, in accordance with the Media Act, No. 2124-1 of 27 December 1991, she does not have the status of a professional journalist.

In addition, on 26 April and 27 July 2022 the aforementioned investigative body initiated similar criminal proceedings against Ms. Evloeva under article 207<sup>3</sup> (1) of the Criminal Code in connection with the following facts.

On 3 April 2022, Ms. Evloeva published material about events in the city of Bucha on the "Not a Woman, but a Journalist" Telegram channel.

On 27 June 2022, she posted material about an incident in the Ukrainian city of Kremenchug on the "Fortanga" Telegram channel.

These posts by Ms. Evloeva about the actions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine did not reflect reality. Thus, they constitute inaccurate publicly significant information aimed at discrediting the Armed Forces and other State authorities of the Russian Federation that could lead to an increase in social tension, sow panic among the population and create the conditions for mass violations of public order endangering public safety, including the lives and health of citizens.

These criminal cases have been combined in a single proceeding. The decisions to initiate the cases were made in accordance with the requirements of current criminal procedure law and there was sufficient evidence tending to show that offences had been

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committed. The specific grounds were provided by the results of the enquiries conducted by the departments of the Federal Security Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Republic of Ingushetia in accordance with the established procedure.

Since the actions of Ms. Evloeva as set out above were united by a common intent and were continuous in nature, on 9 May 2022 it was decided to charge her with a single offence under article 207<sup>3</sup> (1) of the Criminal Code. On the same day, by way of a preventive measure, a restricted residence order was issued along with a requirement to give a pledge of good conduct. On 23 June 2022, an international search warrant was issued for Ms. Evloeva.

As for the search referred to by the Special Rapporteur, it was carried out by an investigator at the place where Ms. Evloeva is registered on 7 June 2022, pursuant to a decision of the Sunzhensky district court of the Republic of Ingushetia of 1 June 2022. During this procedure, two mobile telephones were seized; they were returned to their owners after the necessary investigations had been carried out on 11 and 13 August 2022, respectively.

Owing to the failure to establish the precise whereabouts of the accused, on 27 August 2022 the pretrial investigation into her case was suspended in accordance with article 208 (1) (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the Russian Federation. However, as investigative measures were not yet complete, on 5 October 2022 this decision was overturned by the prosecutor and the case was returned to the head of the investigative body for further action.

On 13 October 2022, it was decided to charge Ms. Evloeva with an offence under article 207<sup>3</sup> (1) of the Criminal Code (updated version). The investigation into the case is ongoing.

It should be noted that, according to information from the Office of the Procurator General of the Russian Federation, on 10 October 2022 Ms. Evloeva's father, [REDACTED] stated that he had no complaint against the investigation, including with regard to the aforementioned search. Neither he nor any other family members were threatened in connection with the criminal prosecution of his daughter, nor were there any demands to give testimony that would incriminate her. Thus, the claims about the allegedly unlawful actions of the investigating officers have not been corroborated.

The criminal prosecution of Ms. Evloeva is thus being conducted in strict compliance with the requirements of the criminal and criminal procedure law of the Russian Federation, having been triggered by her commission of a specific criminally punishable act and having nothing to do with either her human rights work and journalistic activities or her criticism of the authorities.

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