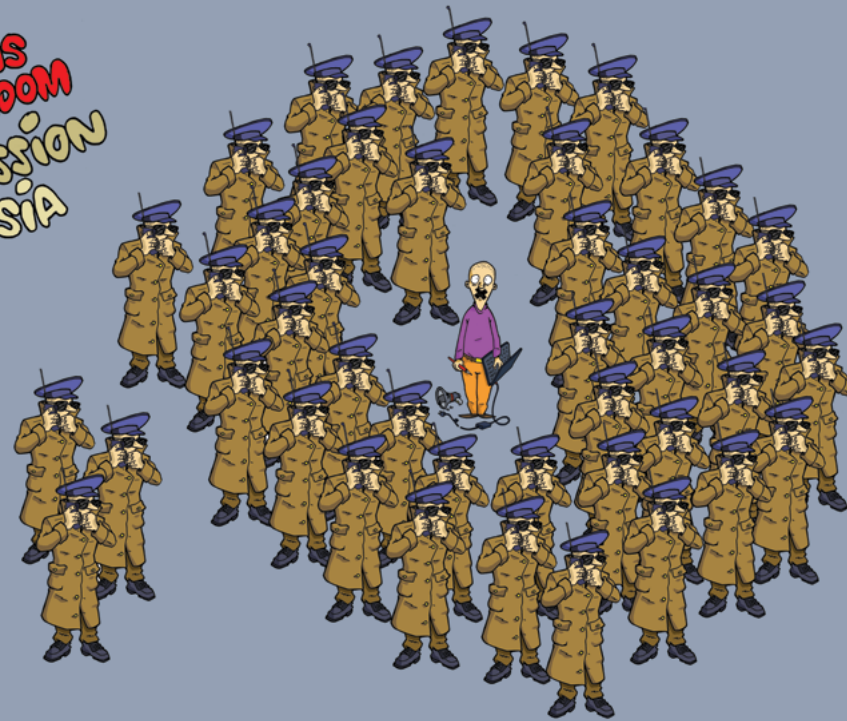


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2012-2017:  
50 NEW LAWS  
TO BAN FREEDOM  
OF EXPRESSION  
IN RUSSIA



**Table Illustrating Legislative  
Crackdown on Rights and Freedoms of  
the Civil Society in Russia since 2012**



Since his re-election in 2012, Russian president, Vladimir Putin, has overseen the creation of 50 new laws designed to strangle opposition voices. The new laws and regulations, introduced during Putin's most recent term in office, range from increased surveillance and censorship powers, to laws banning "questioning the integrity of the Russian nation" - effectively banning criticism of Russia's presence in Eastern Ukraine and Crimea - broad laws on "extremism" that grant authorities powers to crack down on political and religious freedom, **or against anyone promoting a critical interpretation of Russian history.**

The following table lists the laws in question (some are just the amendments of the previously existing ones, and some were reamended several times) that have been adopted from July 2012 to November 2017, their description, provisions and consequences. Each one is illustrated by one or more concrete examples of ways in which the law has been used to effectively restrict fundamental freedoms in Russia.

These 50 laws are only the emerged tip of the iceberg with hundreds of legal initiatives which have been drafted and either abandoned or are pending, nevertheless participating actively in a climate of fear for anyone opposing the regime.



# 1. LAWS RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

Date/N°/Title	What is the law about ?	What are the law's essential provisions?	What problems does the law create?	Examples
<p><b>'Foreign Agents Law'</b></p> <p><b>20.07.2012</b> <b>N 121-FZ :</b></p> <p>Foreign agent law for Non-Commercial Organizations</p> <p>(amended by 04.06.2014 N 147-FZ and 02.06.2016 N 179-FZ, see below the provisions introduced in these versions)</p>	<p>This measure introduces into the law on Non-Commercial Organizations a new legal status of a 'foreign agent'.</p> <p>It restricts freedom of association by forcing NGOs who accept monetary and other forms of assets from foreign sources to register as 'foreign agents'.</p> <p>To qualify as a 'foreign agent', an organization must be registered as an NGO and participate in 'political activities' in Russia.</p> <p>The definition of 'political activity' under the law is so broad and vague that it can extend to all aspects of advocacy and human rights work.</p>	<p>'Political activity' is classified as the participation of an NGO in public events, public appeals to the authorities and expression of opinions on the state policy and activities</p> <p>NGOs identified as 'foreign agent' must:</p> <p>(a) label all published material and publications, websites, etc;</p> <p>(b) provide the Ministry of Justice with additional detailed reporting on its management, activities and spending funds;</p> <p>(c) carry out a compulsory annual audit.</p> <p>NGOs meeting the criteria of a 'foreign agent' (Art. 2.6) must register into a special Register (Art. 13.10)</p> <p>Failure to comply with law provisions can result in a forced inclusion on register, and/or up to 2 years in prison and/or 300,000 ruble fine and/or 480 hours of compulsory works (new art. Criminal code 330.1).</p> <p>Repeated failure to comply can eventually lead in dissolution of the NGO.</p> <p>Other limitations:</p> <p>(a) A foreign agent has no right to participate in the election process in any form;</p> <p>(b) State officials are not recommended, and in some cases explicitly forbidden to communicate with FA</p>	<p>The term 'foreign agent' has been associated in Russia with the notion of a 'foreign spy' and/or a 'traitor', and carries a connotation leading to ostracism or stigma.</p> <p>Being labelled as a 'foreign agent' means that an NGO can't function properly: people &amp; representatives of state institutions will not co-operate with them.</p> <p>The ECHR has criticized the vagueness of the notion of 'political activities', that means the government can potentially apply it to any organization.</p>	<p>Since June 5, 2014, the Ministry of Justice has designated almost 200 groups as 'foreign agents'. By January 2018, at least 42 groups had shut down (12 in process).</p> <p>The Golos Association (an election monitoring NGO) was the first to be labeled as a Foreign Agent. In 2012 Golos received the Andrei Sakharov Freedom Award from the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, including a prize of 7,700 euros. Despite the fact that NGO decided to refuse to accept the money, it was included on the list of foreign agents.</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/07/29/russia-s-most-foreign-agent">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/07/29/russia-s-most-foreign-agent</a></p> <p>Agora was the first of Russia's 'foreign agent' NGOs to be liquidated by court for 'numerous violations of the legislation' which actually consisted of the publication of a report on freedom of the Internet in Russia and several articles in the media</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/02/17/first-blacklisted-and-now-banned">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/02/17/first-blacklisted-and-now-banned</a></p> <p>The Levada Centre (a prominent independent public opinion polling agency) was declared a 'Foreign agent' before the legislative elections of September 2016. Levada Center decided not to publish the results of polls on presidential elections 2018, fearing fines.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/world/europe/russia-vladimir-v-putin-levada-center-polling-duma-united-russia.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/06/world/europe/russia-vladimir-v-putin-levada-center-polling-duma-united-russia.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2018/01/16/russia-s-independent-levada-center-says-it-won-t-publish-new-polling-data-until-after-the-presidential-election">https://meduza.io/en/news/2018/01/16/russia-s-independent-levada-center-says-it-won-t-publish-new-polling-data-until-after-the-presidential-election</a></p> <p>See much more: <a href="https://www.hrw.org/russia-government-against-rights-groups-battle-chronicle">https://www.hrw.org/russia-government-against-rights-groups-battle-chronicle</a></p>

<p><b>'Law on Blacklist of Websites'</b></p> <p><b>28.07.2012</b> <b>N 139-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendment to the Law 'On the protection of children from information harmful to their health and development' and to other legislative acts of the Russian Federation' (namely to the Federal Law of July 27, 2006 N° 149-FZ 'On Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection') <a href="http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/35796">http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/35796</a></p>	<p>The law created a registry of domain names with the URLs and IP-addresses as well as web pages containing allegedly illegal information. Initially, it was declared to combat child pornography, drug-related material, and calls for suicide.</p>	<p>The law allows ICT-watchdog Roskomnadzor (Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media) to place websites on a registry if they 'contain information prohibited for distribution in Russia by federal law' identified by a number of government agencies or Courts.</p> <p>Once included in the register, access is blocked by ISPs on the territory of the Russian Federation until the banned information is deleted or withheld for Russian users.</p>	<p>This new legislation is contrary to Art. 29 of the Russian Constitution which prohibits censorship and contrary to the law 'On mass media' that allows shutting down online media only by a court decision or by decision of the founder.</p> <p>A wide interpretation of the law's provisions is facilitated by the vagueness of the terms, which allows the Law to be a major tool for censorship.</p> <p>According to Roskomnadzor between 2012 and 2017 more than 275,000 links were included on the blacklist.</p> <p>The law gives ISPs an opportunity to choose the mechanism of blocking access – by URL or by IP address. The majority prefer to block IP-addresses as it is much cheaper. But this leads to collateral blocking of websites that share servers with sites from the blacklist.</p>	<p>Activists from RosKomSvoboda project reported that more than 10.5 million websites have been blocked within last 5 years. Prominent photographer Alexander Mavrin's website was shut for inappropriate content ('gay propaganda')</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/02/13/web-host-shuts-down-photographer-over-artistic-nudes-and-treasonous-associations">https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/02/13/web-host-shuts-down-photographer-over-artistic-nudes-and-treasonous-associations</a></p>
<p><b>12.11.2012</b> <b>N 192-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offences'</p>	<p>Complements the 'Foreign Agent Law' concerning administrative liability for non-performance of various duties of a Foreign agent as requested by the new legislation.</p>	<p>Failure to report or late reporting of foreign funds can lead to fines up to 300,000 rubles for an NGO and up to 30,000 for officials.</p> <p>Issuing any publications without a 'Foreign Agent' label is punishable with a fine up to 50,000 rubles.</p>	<p>The duties of a FA are formulated so vaguely that it is possible at any time to bring to responsibility any NGO, at the discretion of the Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>GOLOS Association was fined 1,2 mln roubles (approx. 20 000 euros) for not labeling few articles on NGOs website as 'foreign agent' production</p> <p><a href="https://www.rbc.ru/newspaper/2016/04/19/5714ff659a794781e6dbdd0f">https://www.rbc.ru/newspaper/2016/04/19/5714ff659a794781e6dbdd0f</a></p>
<p><b>20.07.2012</b> <b>N 121-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation Regarding Regulation of Activities of Non-Commercial Organizations Performing the Functions of a Foreign Agent'</p>	<p>The Criminal Code was supplemented with Article 330.1 on liability for 'malicious default of duties of a foreign agent'</p>	<p>Repeated refusal to register as a foreign agent is punished by fines or by imprisonment for up to 2 years.</p>	<p>This law is a means of intimidating NGO leaders who become personally at risk of a penal persecution in case of refusal to perform 'duties of a foreign agent', for instance not identifying themselves as such</p>	<p>Valentina Cherevatenko/ Women of the Don, June 2016: first criminal case against a nonprofit for evading the 'law on foreign agents'. In June 2017 the criminal case was dismissed, after a large civil society campaign.</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/06/28/russia-launches-its-first-criminal-case-against-a-nonprofit-for-evading-the-law-on-foreign-agents">https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/06/28/russia-launches-its-first-criminal-case-against-a-nonprofit-for-evading-the-law-on-foreign-agents</a></p>

<p><b>14.11.2012</b> <b>N 190-FZ</b></p> <p>'Amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and Article 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2012/11/14/izmeneniya-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2012/11/14/izmeneniya-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law criminalizes illegal access to information classified as 'state secrets' under Art. 283.1 of the Criminal Code.</p> <p>It also amends three existing articles, on state treason, espionage, and disclosure of state secrets.</p>	<p>Article 1.2 states that any 'financial, material, technical, advisory or any other support given to a foreign country or to international or foreign organizations engaged in activities against the security of the Russian Federation' is considered treason.</p> <p>Article 1.5 indicates that the use of special techniques for espionage entails a prison sentence of up to 8 years.</p> <p>Article 283.1 foresees imprisonment for up to 4 years and/or a fine of up to approx. 16k USD for illegal access to state secrets by means of theft, the threat of violence, blackmail, or other illegal methods.</p>	<p>The legal definition of the term 'state treason' are too broad and there are no firm criteria to define when cooperation with an international organization takes a criminal character.</p>	<p>First case in June 2016: six people who explored Moscow subway (diggers) were convicted for 'unlawful obtaining of classified information' and sentenced to several years conditional imprisonment</p> <p><a href="https://zona.media/news/2017/11/04/digg">https://zona.media/news/2017/11/04/digg</a></p>
<p><b>25.12.2012</b> <b>N 255-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amendments to Article 20.3 of the Russian Federation Code of Administrative Offences and Article 1 of the Federal Law 'On counteraction to extremist activity'</p> <p><a href="http://pravo.gov.ru/proxy/ips/?docbody=&amp;nid=102162255&amp;rdk=&amp;backlink=1">http://pravo.gov.ru/proxy/ips/?docbody=&amp;nid=102162255&amp;rdk=&amp;backlink=1</a></p>	<p>The Law introduces a new definition of extremism: 'extremism' is defined as the advocacy of exclusiveness, superiority or inferiority on the grounds of social, racial, ethnic, religious or linguistic affiliation or attitude to religion.</p> <p>The Law prohibits wearing, publication and use of some symbols.</p> <p>The law imposes fines for public display of banned symbols and increases the penalty for the given offense.</p>	<p>Article 20.3 Criminal Code was expanded. Before, it prohibited wearing, publication and other forms of use of 'Nazi symbols'. It now criminalizes symbols of all organizations declared 'extremist', including banned political parties, Ukrainian or other organizations.</p> <p>The Article mandates administrative arrest of up to 15 days for violating the provision.</p> <p>A court decision declares an organization extremist and recognizes a citizen guilty of extremist activities.</p>	<p>The Law limits the freedom of expression and freedom of religion by introducing new restrictions and vague definitions that can be used and interpreted widely in order to restrict undesirable publications and criticism.</p>	<p>The director of a shopping center in Blagoveshchensk, was fined four thousand rubles, because the holiday poster for a display in his shopping centre that featured German tanks and FW-190 aircraft</p> <p>Other examples: <a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/04/27/gone-mad-with-political-correctness">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/04/27/gone-mad-with-political-correctness</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/02/09/there-s-no-such-thing-as-an-accidental-repost">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/02/09/there-s-no-such-thing-as-an-accidental-repost</a></p> <p>For further information : <a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/</a></p>

<p><b>'Law of Scoundrels'</b></p> <p><b>28.12.2012</b> <b>N 272-FZ</b></p> <p>'On measures on persons involved in violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2012/12/29/zakon-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2012/12/29/zakon-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law is known as an answer to the 'Magnitsky Act', passed on December 6, 2012 by the US Senate.</p> <p>It restricts relations between the US and Russian citizens whose activities could 'endanger Russia's interests', particularly in case of NGO financing.</p>	<p>The Law forbids certain category of US citizens from entering the Russian territory.</p> <p>It forbids US citizens to head the associations in Russia.</p> <p>It forbids US citizens and citizens from countries which have legalized same-sex marriages (like Canada, France, Sweden, Netherlands) from adopting orphans of Russian citizenship.</p> <p>It forbids NGOs engaged in 'political activities' from receiving any financial support from private citizens located in the USA.</p>	<p>This law violates the rights of orphan children, especially those with disabilities, who are unable to obtain the needed care and treatment in the Russian Federation.</p> <p>An NGOs that violates the said provisions risks suspension on the basis of a decision by the registration office. A judge can also order the confiscation of all their funds and property.</p>	<p>The law, presented as a child-protection law, this law de facto affected mainly the freedom of movement and association, but also orphan children and potential parents; 46 Russian children whose adoption by American parents was nearly completed were blocked from leaving the country. An estimated 200 to 250 couples were affected after they had already identified their children they planned to adopt</p> <p><a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shai-baitel/russias-adoption-ban-two_b_6399064.html">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shai-baitel/russias-adoption-ban-two_b_6399064.html</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/05/31/moscow-says-it-s-working-to-protect-russian-orphans-from-adoption-by-samesex-couples">https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/05/31/moscow-says-it-s-working-to-protect-russian-orphans-from-adoption-by-samesex-couples</a></p> <p>On stigmatisation of homosexuals : <a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/05/03/hunting-gays-for-money">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/05/03/hunting-gays-for-money</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/01/30/is-my-sexual-orientation-immoral">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/01/30/is-my-sexual-orientation-immoral</a></p>
<p><b>'Law on Gay Propaganda'</b></p> <p><b>29.06.2013</b> <b>N 135-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending Article 5 of the Federal Law 'On the protection of children from information harmful to their health and development' and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation on the protection of children from information that promotes the rejection of traditional family values'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/06/30/deti-site-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/06/30/deti-site-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law bans 'propaganda for homosexuality'.</p>	<p>The law penalizes dissemination of information about the 'social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relations'.</p> <p>Citizens are penalized by a fine of up to 5,000 rubles, or 100,000 rubles, if the information had been disseminated through the mass media or the Internet,</p> <p>Organizations are penalized with a fine of up to 1 million rubles or with a suspension of their activities for 3 months.</p>	<p>The law directly violates the rights of members of the LGBTI community, limiting their freedom of expression, basically banning even the public mention of their very existence and debating various aspects of rights protection or problems faced.</p> <p>The law is also a clear attempt to ban the promotion of equal rights of LGBTI, so it has effects far beyond the LGBTI community, making illegal any promotion of rights for all.</p> <p>The Law also had a stigmatisation effect. It has been alleged that it lead to an increase in homophobic violence in Russia by anti-gay groups.</p>	<p>Civic activist Elena Klimova, who organized a online-community for LGBT children 'Deti-404' was fined 50,000 rubles. Her social media VKontakte page Deti-404 was banned under a court decision</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/02/02/lgbt-community-blacklisted-on-charges-of-propagating-suicide-and-homosexuality">https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/02/02/lgbt-community-blacklisted-on-charges-of-propagating-suicide-and-homosexuality</a></p>

<p><b>'Law on Insulting Religious Feelings'</b></p> <p><b>29.06.2013 N 136-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amendments to Article 148 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and to certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation on countering insult of religious beliefs and feelings of citizens'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/06/30/zashita-site-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/06/30/zashita-site-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law criminalizes 'insulting the religious feelings of believers' punishing such actions by imprisonment for the term up to 3 years (Art.148 of the Criminal Code).</p>	<p>New Article 148 of the Criminal Code ('violation of the right to freedom of conscience and religion') penalizes 'public actions aimed at insulting religious feelings of believers'.</p> <p>Heavy fines are mandated, and prison terms of up to one year of prison, or three years if the violation is committed in a place of worship.</p>	<p>The law limits the right of citizens to freedom of expression of opinions which contradict the so-called 'traditional Russian religions'.</p>	<p>Video-blogger Ruslan Sokolovsky was convicted for insulting religious feelings and incitement to hatred after playing Pokémon Go in church. He was sentenced to 2 years 3 months conditional imprisonment.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/05/pokemon-go-russian-youtuber-ruslan-sokolovsky-five-years-jail-church">https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/05/pokemon-go-russian-youtuber-ruslan-sokolovsky-five-years-jail-church</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/news/2016/09/05/bloger-iz-ekaterinburga-obzhaloval-arrest-zalovlyu-pokemonov-v-hrame">https://meduza.io/news/2016/09/05/bloger-iz-ekaterinburga-obzhaloval-arrest-zalovlyu-pokemonov-v-hrame</a></p> <p>For further information see the Sova Centre report 'Discrimination against religious organizations and citizens on the basis of their attitude to religion: <a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/religion/publications/2016/04/d34317/#_Toc448421999">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/religion/publications/2016/04/d34317/#_Toc448421999</a></p>
<p><b>02.11.2013 N 302-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/11/06/izmenenia-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/11/06/izmenenia-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The law introduces criminal responsibility for training for a terrorist activity, and for establishing a terrorist organization.</p> <p>Introduction of a new Article 205.3. in the Criminal Code 'Training for terrorism'.</p> <p>New Article 205.4. 'Establishing of a terrorist community and participation in it'</p> <p>A new Article 205.5. 'Establishing of a terrorist organization and participation in the activities of such an organization'</p>	<p>Violation of the Article 205.3 (Training for terrorism) entails up to three years in prison.</p> <p>Violation of the Article 205.4 ('Establishing a terrorist community and participation in it') entails up to ten years in prison.</p> <p>Violation of Art. 205.5. ('Establishing of a terrorist organization and participation in the activities of such an organization') entails up to 20 years in prison.</p> <p>The law also applies to members of terrorist organizations in foreign countries, if they pursue goals that 'contradict the interests of Russia'.</p> <p>The law introduces property liability of relatives of terrorists for any claims for compensation for damage caused by terrorist actions. Relatives of terrorists must prove legality of the origin of their property, or confiscated.</p>	<p>Relatives of alleged terrorists are held liable for the damage caused by a terrorist activity.</p> <p>In the absence of independent courts, the Law might be used against members of opposition political and youth organizations, in particular, for participation in the activities of foreign democratic organizations, such as seminars, trainings, summer camps, etc.</p>	<p>Oleg Sentsov : sentenced to 20 years in a high-security prison for supposedly planning a 'terrorist attack' in Crimea</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/09/06/a-terrorist-in-one-country-and-an-indie-film-director-in-another">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/09/06/a-terrorist-in-one-country-and-an-indie-film-director-in-another</a></p> <p>9 sentences against 24 followers of Hizb ut-Tahrir under Article 205.5 of the Criminal Code</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/09/d35490/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/09/d35490/</a></p> <p>For further information, see annual analyzes of SOVA center: <a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/</a></p>



<p><b>21.12.2013</b> <b>N 369-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending the Federal Law 'On operational-investigative activities' and Article 13 of the Federal Law 'On the Federal Security Service'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/25/deatelnost-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/25/deatelnost-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law expands the authority of the Federal Security Bureau (FSB) by giving them power to conduct 'operational-investigative activities' related to information posted on the Internet.</p>	<p>The Law simplifies the procedure for monitoring the Internet via the installation of special FSB equipment in the offices of Internet service providers to monitor users..</p>	<p>The law limits the right of freedom of expression by facilitating the surveillance of bloggers and private email correspondence.</p>	<p>The law simultaneously targeted radical nationalists, Stalinists, liberal opposition members, Muslim activists (from adherents of terrorist groups to completely peaceful ones), Jehovah's Witnesses and random citizens and organizations.</p> <p>For further information see analyzes of SOVA Center on Inappropriate Enforcement of Anti-Extremism Legislation in Russia:</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/</a></p>
<p><b>21.12.2013</b> <b>N 376-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/25/izmeneniya1-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/25/izmeneniya1-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The law strengthens administrative responsibility for violation of the rules of residence registration.</p>	<p>Citizens are penalized with fines up to 3,000 rubles for violating the rules of residence registration.</p> <p>Article 322.2 of the Criminal Code introduces an imprisonment penalty of up to three years for fraudulent residence registration or for fictitious residence at their address.</p>	<p>The law is aimed at restricting the right to freedom of movement of citizens and foreigners within the Russian Federation.</p>	<p>Human rights defender Tatyana Kotlyar from Obninsk (Kaluga region) was twice convicted for 'fictive registration' of hundreds of refugees from Eastern Ukraine in her apartment. Such registration allows refugees to obtain a legal status in Russia and use public services.</p>
<p><b>'Lugovoi Law' / 'Law on Political Censorship'</b></p> <p><b>28.12.2013</b> <b>N398-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending the Federal law 'On information, information technologies and protection of information'</p>	<p>The law obliges Roskomnadzor, under the order of the General Prosecutor's Office, to immediately block, without a court decision, any websites that disseminate calls for mass riots or extremism</p>	<p>Article 15.3 of the Law 'On information...' give the General Prosecutor and it's deputies to request immediate blocking of any website where call for mass riots or unsanctioned public rallies were found.</p>	<p>The vague wording of the law and unlimited powers of the prosecutors leads to arbitrary and politically motivated blocking of independent media</p>	<p>Some of the most popular independent media Grani.Ru, Kasparov.Ru, EJ.ru, as well as the Livejournal blog of opposition leader Alexei Navalny, were blocked for covering mass protests and 'The Bolotnaya Case'</p> <p><a href="https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/03/russia-blocks-access-major-independent-news-sites">https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2014/03/russia-blocks-access-major-independent-news-sites</a></p>

<p><b>28.12.2013</b> <b>N 433-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/30/uk-izm-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2013/12/30/uk-izm-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law introduces criminal responsibility for public expression of 'separatism', including on the Internet.</p>	<p>The law introduces to the Criminal Code a new Article 280.1 'Public incitement to actions aimed at violating the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation' with the sanction of up to 5 years imprisonment.</p>	<p>The law is intended to limit the right to freedom of expression, in particular, it restricts public debates concerning the possibility of a greater autonomy within the Russian Federation or secession from the Russian Federation. The Law is also used to penalize any contestation or even debating on the issue of annexation of the Crimean peninsula, illegal from the point of view of all intergovernmental organisations such as UN, or a status of other disputed entities.</p>	<p>Ilimi Umerov was accused of influencing the opinions [of the viewers] about the withdrawal of the republic of Crimea from the Russian Federation. Sentenced to 2 years in jail but subsequently transferred to the authorities of Turkey and released.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/29/crimean-tatar-leader-ilmi-umerov-convicted-not-seek-clemency-russia">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/sep/29/crimean-tatar-leader-ilmi-umerov-convicted-not-seek-clemency-russia</a></p> <p>Rafis Kashapov : sentenced to three years in jail. Found guilty of calling for separatism after criticizing the annexation of Crimea in social networks and the violations of the rights of Crimean Tatars.</p> <p><a href="http://www.rferl.org/a/tatarstan-crimea-activist-prison/27249218.html">http://www.rferl.org/a/tatarstan-crimea-activist-prison/27249218.html</a></p> <p>For further information, see:</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/</a></p>
<p><b>03.02.2014</b> <b>N 4-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending Article 443 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="https://11.mvd.ru/document/1969049">https://11.mvd.ru/document/1969049</a></p>	<p>The law allows compulsory psychiatric treatment of persons if they committed even a minor legal offense in a state of mental incapacity.</p>	<p>Before the adoption of the current Law, the court was obliged to discontinue criminal proceedings against persons who committed minor offenses. The law now allows their compulsory treatment in psychiatric hospital.</p>	<p>The law permits sending individuals to psychiatric hospitals for any trivial law violation.</p>	<p>The law has not been applied in politically motivated cases yet, but it strengthens the oppressive character of the legal system, in a context where the cases of a politically motivated psychiatric treatment or deprivation of freedom has been already reported in the last years.</p>

<p><b>03.02.2014</b> <b>N 5-FZ</b></p> <p>'On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Federal Law and Article 31 of the Criminal Procedure Code of Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/38092">http://www.kremlin.ru/acts/bank/38092</a></p>	<p>This law allows the government to target allegedly 'extremist' organizations and to administer heavier sanctions than before.</p>	<p>This Law modifies articles 280, 282, 282.1 &amp; 282.1 of the Criminal Code, doubling the minimum prison term for inciting hatred from two to four years.</p> <p>The minimum penalty for 'establishing an extremist organisation' tripled to 300,000 rubles (4.8k \$); maximum penalty - a prison term up to 6 years.</p>	<p>The definition of 'extremism' given in the law is extremely vague, allowing for abuse.</p>	<p>This charges were also used against activist Ruslan Sokolovsky, arrested for playing Pokemon Go in the Church</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/news/2016/09/05/bloger-iz-ekaterinburga-obzhaloval-arrest-za-lovlyu-pokemonov-v-hrame">https://meduza.io/news/2016/09/05/bloger-iz-ekaterinburga-obzhaloval-arrest-za-lovlyu-pokemonov-v-hrame</a></p> <p>Yuri Ilchenko was arrested in July 2015 after publishing a series of posts, condemning the annexation of the Crimean peninsula by Russia and after his refusal to acquire Russian citizenship. This 37-year-old teacher was charged with articles 280 and 282 of the Criminal Code ('Public calls for extremist activity' and 'Incitement of ethnic hatred or enmity').</p> <p><a href="http://realrusstoday.com/2016/08/19/teacher-accused-of-extremism-for-condemning-annexation-of-crimea-fled-to-ukraine/">http://realrusstoday.com/2016/08/19/teacher-accused-of-extremism-for-condemning-annexation-of-crimea-fled-to-ukraine/</a></p> <p>For further information, see :</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/</a></p>
<p><b>05.02.2014</b> <b>N 343-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the law on the procedure for foreign investment in business entities of strategic importance for national defense and state security</p> <p><a href="http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/4694">http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/4694</a></p>	<p>The law adjusts the rules requiring foreigners investing in publications of 'strategic importance' to secure approval from the government.</p>	<p>Publications of 'strategic importance' were defined as those that produce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- more than 15 million copies per year, given that they are published two or more times a week; OR</li> <li>- 2.5 million copies a year if they appear weekly, once in two weeks, or once in three weeks;</li> <li>- 700,000 copies for monthly publications;</li> <li>- 300,000 for quarterly or less frequent publications.</li> </ul>	<p>The Law further increases isolation from foreign investors investing in media and allows the government to block foreign investments in publications critical of the government.</p>	

<p><b>05.05.2014</b> <b>N 97-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending the Federal law 'On information, information technologies and protection of information' and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation on streamlining the exchange of information using information and telecommunication networks'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/informtech-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/informtech-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The law establishes a new category of websites: "organizers of information exchange".</p>	<p>Internet service providers and website owners are required to store data, correspondence and content of their blogs for 6 months and to give access to the FSB upon request, under threat of blocking of access and fines.</p> <p>The law prohibits to store personal information of citizens of the Russian Federation on servers located abroad.</p>	<p>The law gives the Russian authorities the ability to require any IT-company to provide any information about users under the threat of blocking. The list now consists of 98 resources including Snapchat, Vkontakte, Yandex, Mail.Ru, Telegram, etc. Potentially, this means that on the basis of this law such social networks as Facebook, Twitter and Google+ may be blocked in the Russian Federation.</p>	<p>In 2017 LinkedIn, together with messengers Zello, Imo, Line and Blackberry Messenger were blocked for refusal to provide Roskomnadzor with requested information.</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2017/03/07/linkedin-stilled-blocked-in-russia-following-fruitless-talks-with-roskomnadzor">https://meduza.io/en/news/2017/03/07/linkedin-stilled-blocked-in-russia-following-fruitless-talks-with-roskomnadzor</a></p> <p>For further information :</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/</a></p>
<p><b>05.05.2014</b> <b>N 128-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/reabilitacia-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/reabilitacia-dok.html</a></p>	<p>Law on 'combating the rehabilitation of Nazism'</p>	<p>Article 354.1 of the Criminal Code ('Rehabilitation of Nazism') penalizes 'the dissemination of false information about the activities of the USSR in the Second World War' with imprisonment for a term up to 5 years.</p> <p>Article 13.15 introduces into the Code of Administrative Offences a penalty for 'the distribution of information expressing a clear disrespect for society, information about the days of glory and memorable dates of Russia' with a fine up to 1 million rubles.</p>	<p>The Law restricts freedom of expression, in particular in political and academic discussions.</p> <p>Under the pretext of 'combating the rehabilitation of Nazism', it restores the notion of 'a deliberately false statement,' that existed in the USSR, and prohibits criticism of the actions of the USSR during the Second World War.</p> <p>A potential crime becomes criticism of the actions of the USSR during the occupation of Poland, of the war crimes committed by the Red Army, genocide in the occupied territories, political purges and terror against its own citizens during the war, etc.</p> <p>The great victory in 1945 becomes a untouchable taboo, and the debate on it is only allowed in positive terms.</p>	<p>A man in Perm was sentenced to 200,000 roubles fine for Rehabilitation of Nazism after reposting an article titled '15 Facts about Bandera's Followers, or What the Kremlin Isn't Saying.'</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/07/07/in-kontakt-with-the-cops">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/07/07/in-kontakt-with-the-cops</a></p> <p>This topic is also more frequently exploited under other articles of the Criminal Code. For instance, the Investigative Committee opened a criminal case under art. Article 282, for incitement to hatred and humiliation of dignity of veterans of the Great Patriotic War, after a retailer in the Central Children's Store mall was found selling busts and figurines of Nazi Germany soldiers and officers, collectibles and not intended as children's toys. On the same day, interrogations and searches were conducted in homes and offices of the sales staff of the company, which owned the store implicated in selling the figurines.</p> <p>For further information :</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/</a></p>

<p><b>05.05.2014 N 130-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/terror-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/05/07/terror-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law introduces new offenses of 'extremist' orientation and tightens sanctions on the already existing offenses.</p> <p>The new law simplifies criminal and procedural proceedings in cases of 'terrorist crimes'.</p>	<p>The law expands the powers of the FSB . It now can check documents, conduct personal searches, inspect personal belongings and vehicles.</p> <p>Article 212 of the Criminal Code increases the penalties for 'mass riots'. The lowest penalty now ranges from 4 to 8 years, the highest - from 10 to 15 years.</p> <p>Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code introduces criminal responsibility for 'the recruitment of members of an extremist organization' carrying prison sanction of up to 6 years.</p> <p>Terrorism crimes are to be transmitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of Moscow and the North Caucasus district military court. Defendants are denied the right to trial by jury. The cases are to be considered by a panel of 3 military judges ("Troika").</p> <p>The law repeals the statute of limitations for some crimes of a 'terrorist nature', in particular, under Article 277 (Encroachment on the life of the state or public figure), Article 278 (Forcible seizure of power or forcible retention of power), Article 279 (Armed rebellion) and other.</p>	<p>The Law limits the right to privacy of citizens and increases the authority of the Federal Security Bureau (FSB).</p> <p>FSB can access private documents and property under vague and not-justified suspicions.</p> <p>The Law violates the principles of a fair trial. Moreover, it contradicts the international norms of due process requiring civilians to be tried by civilians jurisdictions.</p>	<p>Two criminal cases against Alexander Byvshev for publishing two poems against the Russia-Ukraine conflict and in support of Ukraine</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2015/01/d31165/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2015/01/d31165/</a></p> <p>Four Hizb ut-Tahrir followers in Moscow were convicted under this law: one of the offenders was sentenced to eleven years in prison, two others to eight years, and the fourth was sentenced to seven years – all this, despite the absence of any evidence of their plotting a coup or other violent actions</p> <p>In April 2017 the Investigative Committee started a case under Article 212 p. 3 of the Criminal Code (mass riots appeals) investigating some messages of unknown origin in social networks which called people to protest on Red Square. On April 6th the Investigative Committee arrested the first suspected person regarding this case, 25-years old IT specialist and mathematician Dmitry Bogatov. Next day even more serious charges were added to the initial one, such as justifying of terrorism (Article 202.2 of the Criminal Code) and preparation of organization of mass riots (Article 30 p. 1, Article 212 p. 1 of the Criminal Code), and after that Bogatov was arrested. See: <a href="https://freebogatov.org/en/">https://freebogatov.org/en/</a></p> <p>For further information :</p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/#ultr006">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/#ultr006</a></p>
<p><b>05.05.2014 N110-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p>	<p>The law limits money transfers and donations as well as the Internet transactions.</p>	<p>The maximum amount that can be transferred anonymously is 15,000 rubles.</p> <p>To transfer an amount up to 200,000 rubles per month a citizen must register with a passport</p> <p>NGOs are put under special control of financial institutions when obtaining online transfers amounting to more than 100,000 rubles from foreign states, international and foreign organizations.</p>	<p>The law limits the rights of non profit and political organizations to receive donations and also limits the ability to raise funds for candidates in the elections. It also controls and limits Internet transactions.</p>	<p>This law cuts funding for a large number of independent initiatives of all kinds. It has an important impact on the independence of the NGOs and associations, in the context when receiving grants for them is more and more difficult.</p>

<p><b>04.06.2014</b> <b>N 142-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending Articles 6 and 30 of the Federal Law On citizenship of the Russian Federation and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/06/06/grajdanstvo-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/06/06/grajdanstvo-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The Law increases control on citizens with dual citizenship or with dual residence.</p>	<p>Russian citizens with dual citizenship or dual residence permits must voluntarily notify the relevant migration services within 60 days from the day of issue of the citizenship/residence card.</p> <p>Failure to comply with this regulation or intentional conceal of dual citizenship entails criminal liability with penalties up to 200,000 rubles (approximately EUR 4250) or up to the amount of the offender's annual salary or up to 400 hours of community service.</p> <p>The notification must include the following information on the individual: full name, date and place of birth, permanent place of residence, number of the Russian passport, name, number and date of issue of the foreign passport.</p>	<p>The law limits the right of citizens to freedom of movement and the right to leave their country and return to it.</p> <p>The law allows for labeling Russian citizens with dual citizenship or residence as spies and suspicious persons.</p>	<p>More than 40,000 people have been fined for failing to register dual citizenship.</p> <p><a href="http://www.novayagazeta.ru/news/1689956.html">http://www.novayagazeta.ru/news/1689956.html</a></p>
<p><b>04.06.2014</b> <b>N 147-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending art 32 of the Federal law' and the Law 'On non-commercial organisations' (amendment to the foreign agent law)</p> <p><a href="http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/45840">http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/45840</a></p>	<p>This amendment establishes the procedure of unilateral inclusion of NGOs into the list of 'foreign agents' by the Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>The Law amends provisions regulating the legal status of NGOs, procedure of their establishment, activities and liquidation, sets the rights and duties of their founders and members and defines the relationship between NGOs and public authorities.</p> <p>It establishes a system for denouncing, and sanctioning NGOs who fail to register as foreign agents.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice has now the authority to forcibly register an NGO on the list of 'foreign agents' if it fails to do so voluntarily.(Art. 32.7).</p> <p>It endows 'individuals or organizations' with the authority to inform the authorities about 'activities of a non-profit organization acting as a foreign agent which has not submitted a request to be included in a State register as a non-profit organizations acting as a foreign agent'.</p>	<p>Registering NGOs as foreign agents without their consent is contrary to Article 11 of the ECHR that guarantees the right to form an association in a free manner.</p> <p>it allows the relevant authorities to carry out unscheduled inspections of a relevant NGO.</p> <p>Being registered as a foreign agent can potentially lead to espionage charges under the Treason Law.</p>	<p>For example, under this law Transparency International was placed on Russia's 'foreign agents' list by the Ministry of Justice</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/04/08/transparency-international-placed-on-russia-s-foreign-agents-list">https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/04/08/transparency-international-placed-on-russia-s-foreign-agents-list</a></p>
<p><b>28.06.2014</b> <b>N 179-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/03/izmenenia-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/03/izmenenia-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The law criminalizes financing of 'extremist activity', broadening the spectrum of possibility for repression, as the definition of 'extremist activity' is extremely vague.</p>	<p>Article 282.3 of the Criminal Code ('Financing of extremist activity') introduces the penalty of deprivation of liberty for up to 3 years.</p> <p>The concept of 'extremism' includes participation in activities of a public or religious association or other organization recognized as 'extremist', any 'extremist' actions and statements, also posted on the Internet.</p>	<p>The law has uncertain and vague wording easily applicable in politically motivated cases or mass movements.</p>	<p>Taking into account the extremely vague definition of extremism, and examples of its misuse given above, it can lead to arbitrary enforcement.</p>

<p><b>31.07.2014</b> <b>N 758-R</b></p> <p>'Amendments to some acts of the Russian Federation in connection with the adoption of the Federal Law On Amendments to the Federal Law, On Information, Information Technologies and Protection of Information, and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation concerning the exchange of information ordering, using information and telecommunication networks'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/08/05/svyaz-site-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/08/05/svyaz-site-dok.html</a></p>	<p>The amendments impose on the providers of public wireless networks the obligation to register the identity of network users before giving them access to the internet, and store this information for six months.</p>	<p>Individuals are required to hand over their passport-validated phone numbers to access public wireless networks. This allows for the creation of a database of users of public wifi, and their online activity.</p>	<p>The Law allows for a further surveillance of Internet users, offering a basis for repression of critical voices.</p>	<p>See 'Russia's federal government wants higher fines on Internet providers for connecting users to banned websites': <a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/06/20/russia-s-federal-government-wants-higher-fines-on-internet-providers-for-connecting-users-to-banned-websites">https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/06/20/russia-s-federal-government-wants-higher-fines-on-internet-providers-for-connecting-users-to-banned-websites</a></p>
<p><b>'Anti-protest Law'</b></p> <p><b>21.07.2014</b> <b>N 258-FZ</b></p> <p>'On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation to improve the legislation on public events'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/30/meropriyatiya-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/30/meropriyatiya-dok.html</a></p>	<p>This law criminalises participation in an unsanctioned rally or protest.</p> <p>It introduces heavier administrative sanctions for the violation of the law provisions.</p>	<p>The new Article 212.1 of the Criminal Code introduces criminal liability for participation in unsanctioned protests or rallies, upon the third administrative sanction by a court within 180 days.</p> <p>Administrative sanction for two weeks of detention were and are commonly used for participation in the protest actions. Now, criminal sanction entails up to five years in prison if such an administrative prosecution is used more than three times for the same person.</p> <p>Higher fines and imprisonment for up to 30 days reinforce also the administrative sanctions for participation in unsanctioned rallies and protests.</p>	<p>Article 212.1 not only violates the international human rights standards. It is also contrary to the Russian legislation and its Constitution.</p> <p>First, it imposes double punishment for the same acts, establishes heavy sentences for minor offenses and allows abuses, such as in the case of I. Dadin, who was sentenced to three years deprivation of liberty for three stand-alone pickets.</p>	<p>Ildar Dadin : the first Russian citizen convicted for 'repeated violations of the rules on conducting public events' under article 212.1 of Russia's Criminal Code after he was repeatedly fined for individual pickets. Later the Constitutional Court demanded a review of the case and Dadin was released after one year and two months in prison and heavy tortures he denounced from in-there, taking serious personal risks.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/first-sentence-under-the-new-anti-protest-legislation-in-russia-three">https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/human-rights-defenders/first-sentence-under-the-new-anti-protest-legislation-in-russia-three</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/04/06/the-repeat-activist">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/04/06/the-repeat-activist</a></p>
<p><b>06.10.2014</b> <b>N 292-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the Law on assemblies, meetings, demonstrations, marches, and pickets</p> <p><a href="http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/46738">http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/46738</a></p>	<p>New legislation further curtailing the right to peaceful assembly and imposing a curfew on protesters.</p>	<p>This new legislation to further curtail freedom of assembly by banning protests between 10pm and 7am,</p> <p>The are exceptions for events dedicated to memorable dates in Russia and cultural events.</p>	<p>The Law is contrary to Article 31 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation (on freedom of assembly) and against the Article 11 of the ECHR.</p> <p>The law effectively prohibits any attempt of long-term demonstrations like those associated with Ukraine's Euromaidan movement.</p>	<p>TV channel Dozhd case, see:</p> <p><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russian-advertising-ban-on-paid-cable-and-satellite-channels-threatens-independents/2014/11/05/ebb933e-6370-11e4-ab86-46000e1d0035_story.html">https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russian-advertising-ban-on-paid-cable-and-satellite-channels-threatens-independents/2014/11/05/ebb933e-6370-11e4-ab86-46000e1d0035_story.html</a></p>

<p><b>'Mass media ownership law'</b></p> <p><b>14.10.2014</b> <b>N 305-FZ</b></p> <p>(amendment to Law 'On mass media')</p> <p><a href="http://asozd2.duma.gov.ru/main.nsf/(spravkanew)?openagent&amp;m=604509-6&amp;02">asozd2.duma.gov.ru/main.nsf/(spravkanew)?openagent&amp;m=604509-6&amp;02</a></p>	<p>This law limits foreign participation in Russian mass media to 20 percent, in order to ensure the country's 'national security', pretexting an information assault from Ukraine.</p>	<p>The Law bans foreign participation in Russian media outlet (TV, print, radio, online media) beyond a 20% limit.</p> <p>The law covers: 'A foreign State, an international organisation, including an organisation controlled by these entities, a foreign legal entity, a Russian legal entity with foreign participation, a foreign national, a stateless person, a Russian citizen with another State's citizenship'.</p> <p>By 15 February 2016, media are obliged to report to the federal executive body responsible for the control and supervision in the field of media (Roskomnadzor), or face liquidation.</p>	<p>The media law amendments are clearly aimed at limiting and controlling what information Russians may access.</p> <p>Russia is a party to both the ECHR and the ICCPR, which guarantee freedom of expression. The law clearly prevents media pluralism, and reinforces the government's domination over media outlets in Russia.</p>	<p>'Vedomosti' lost its foreign owners :</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/11/13/vedomosti-one-of-russia-s-most-respected-independent-newspapers-is-reportedly-losing-its-foreign-owners">https://meduza.io/en/news/2015/11/13/vedomosti-one-of-russia-s-most-respected-independent-newspapers-is-reportedly-losing-its-foreign-owners</a></p>
<p><b>21.07.2014</b> <b>N 270-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amendments to Article 14 of the Federal Statute On Advertising'</p> <p><a href="http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/25/statiya-dok.html">http://www.rg.ru/2014/07/25/statiya-dok.html</a></p> <p>Amended: 04.02.2015 N 5-FZ</p> <p>'On Amendments to Article 1 of the Federal Law 'On Amendments to Article 14 of the Federal Law ' On Advertising '</p>	<p>According to the amendments, advertisement on paid TV channels and on channels that use decoders is not allowed.</p> <p>An exception is made for TV channels whose broadcasting content is comprised of at least 75% 'national mass media products' (amendment on 04.02.2015).</p> <p>The justification of the amendments was the need to stop unfair competition on the market, where the pay channels supposedly benefit from mixed funding schemes (subscription fees and commercials) while the open access channels do not have such a privilege.</p>	<p>Content is regarded as a 'national product' if it meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is produced in Russian or in other languages of peoples of the Russian Federation or in a foreign language (in the event the product is intended for the Russian mass media);</li> <li>- It is produced by citizens of the Russian Federation and/or by organizations duly registered in the Russian Federation and/or on request of Russian mass media</li> <li>- Russian investments into its production constitute no less than 50%.</li> </ul> <p>The antitrust authority performs assessment of mass media products for rating them as a national product only as part of planned and unplanned inspections.</p>	<p>This new law limits freedom of the media.</p> <p>The ban on advertising on paid TV channels is a political tool to disarm independent media.</p> <p>The amendment will monopolise the television advertising market and lead to an inevitable increase in subscription fees and the closure of numerous channels.</p>	<p>Applicable to all the free media, cut of the independent funding; also results in censorship and auto-censorship.</p>



<p><b>Law on 'undesirable organizations'</b></p> <p><b>23.05.2015</b> <b>N 129-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amendments of some legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p> <p><a href="http://www.genproc.gov.ru/smi/news/genproc/news-832994/">http://www.genproc.gov.ru/smi/news/genproc/news-832994/</a></p> <p><a href="http://asozd.duma.gov.ru/main.nsf/%28Spravka%29?OpenAgent&amp;RN=662902-6">http://asozd.duma.gov.ru/main.nsf/%28Spravka%29?OpenAgent&amp;RN=662902-6</a></p>	<p>The activities of organizations identified as 'unwanted' (including commercial ones) in the Russian Federation may be banned by the General Prosecutor and his deputies in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in extrajudicial procedure</p>	<p>This law gives prosecutors the authority to declare as 'undesirable' foreign and international organizations which represent 'a threat to the foundation of the constitutional order of the Russian Federation, the defense capability of the country or the security of the state.'</p> <p>Given a notice from the prosecutors, such organizations have to disband. Violators face fines or prison terms of up to six years. People cooperating with such entities are subject to fines and can be banned from entering Russia.</p>	<p>Endowing prosecutor's office with the authority to declare foreign organizations as 'undesirable' without judicial decision is contrary to the Russian Constitution and international human rights standards.</p> <p>The Law is a tool to isolate Russian civil society from foreign civil society organizations and donors.</p>	<p>Members of the Russian Duma initiated a list of organisations to be seen as undesirable and addressed it to the General Prosecutor (commonly called 'Stop-List'). The list includes the think tank Carnegie Moscow Center, the international history and human rights society Memorial, as well as the Moscow offices of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.</p> <p>As of April 2017, the registry of 'undesirable organizations' included the following organizations:</p> <p>National Endowment for Democracy (July 27, 2015); OSI Assistance Foundation and Open Society Foundation (December 1, 2015); U.S. Russia Foundation for Economic Advancement and the Rule of Law (December 7, 2015); National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (May 17, 2016). International Republican Institute (16 August 2016); Media Development Investment Fund (16 August 2016). Open Russia (United Kingdom) (April 2017); Institute of Modern Russia (United States) (April 2017); Open Russia Civic Movement (April 2017)</p> <p>For further information:</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/05/19/the-most-draconian-law-yet">https://meduza.io/en/feature/2015/05/19/the-most-draconian-law-yet</a></p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/04/18/moscow-prepares-to-double-the-size-of-russia-s-list-of-banned-undesirable-organizations">https://meduza.io/en/news/2016/04/18/moscow-prepares-to-double-the-size-of-russia-s-list-of-banned-undesirable-organizations</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/">http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/</a></p>
<p>14.12.2015 N 7-FKZ</p> <p>'On Amendments to the Federal Constitutional Law' On the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation'</p>	<p>Grants the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation the authority to verify the decisions of any international court for compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation and the possibility (or impossibility) of fulfilling it.</p>	<p>If the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation makes a decision on the impossibility of executing such a decision, any actions aimed at its implementation in the Russian Federation can not be carried out.</p>	<p>The established procedure contradicts the international obligations of the Russian Federation, which, having ratified the convention, recognized the compulsory jurisdiction of the ECHR.</p>	<p>The Constitutional Court found that the decision of the ECHR in the case Anchugov and Gladkov v. Russia' is contrary to the Russian Constitution, therefore it can not be executed. The CC pointed out that the ECHR exceeded its authority, demanding that Russia grant voting rights to those who serve their sentences in the colonies</p> <p><a href="https://www.rbc.ru/politics/19/04/2016/5715db289a7947a96e774faa">https://www.rbc.ru/politics/19/04/2016/5715db289a7947a96e774faa</a></p>

<p><b>30.12.2015</b> <b>N 468-FZ</b></p> <p>'On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation'</p>	<p>Largely further expands the powers of the FSB with regard to the use of weapons, including for the suppression of mass riots, as well as penetrate into the home and collect biometric data of citizens</p>	<p>FSB officers now have the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- use weapons to suppress any crimes;</li> <li>- use special means to suppress a crime or an administrative offense;</li> <li>- collect fingerprints from persons crossing the state border of the Russian Federation, if such persons have signs indicating the possibility of their inciting to terrorist activity</li> </ul>	<p>The FSB receives unlimited powers to use force against participants of public rallies and collect biometric information regarding 'suspicious' persons</p>	<p>No data available</p>
<p><b>23.06.2016</b> <b>N 208-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the the Federal Law of July 27, 2006 № 149-FZ 'On Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection')</p> <p>and</p> <p>the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offences</p>	<p>Internet services that distribute news (news aggregators) should be responsible for the reliability of the information and follow the legislation on mass media.</p>	<p>News aggregators are held responsible for the reliability of their information and follow the legislation on mass media.</p>	<p>The law determines the legal status and responsibility of the news aggregator</p>	<p>As a result, such services like Yandex.News had to change their policies and re-publish only materials of registered media. That seriously affected the results</p>

<p><b>06.07.2016</b> <b>Law N-375 FZ</b></p> <p>'On establishing new measures aimed at countering Terrorism and Protecting Public Safety'</p> <p><a href="http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/ru/Q7t146BkLNBDUXEsAPvOdb44JdrQPQPt.pdf">http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/ru/Q7t146BkLNBDUXEsAPvOdb44JdrQPQPt.pdf</a></p>	<p>This law establishes stricter sanctions for a variety of crimes, especially those that prohibit extremist activities.</p> <p>All existing types of punishment, including fines, compulsory labor, bans on specific professional activities, and imprisonment, have been increased.</p> <p>These amendments increase minimum and maximum terms of imprisonment or introduce a mandatory minimum punishment where it did not exist before.</p>	<p>Punishments for crimes defined by articles 282.1, 282.2, and 282.3 are increased. The maximum punishment for the establishment of an extremist organization, involvement in its activities, and financing of extremism will be up to ten and not less than two years of imprisonment. (Law No. 375, art. 1, §§ 22–25.)</p> <p>Amendments to article 205 of the Criminal Code extend the definition of public calls for advocacy of terrorism. The justification of terrorism on social media or in the mass media is now punishable with imprisonment for a term of up to seven years.</p> <p>Public justification of terrorism is defined as a 'public statement that the ideology and practice of terrorism are correct, and need to be supported and imitated.'</p> <p>Additional crimes in the form of recruiting or involving others in creating public disturbances are included in the Code and will be punished on conviction with a term of imprisonment of five to ten years.</p> <p>The criminal liability of adolescents over 14 is extended. Currently, people in this age group can be prosecuted for 22 different criminal-code articles. Now the number will rise to 32. It will be possible to prosecute 14 year olds for international terrorism, for participation in terrorist communities, terrorist organizations, and illegal armed groups, for taking part in terrorist training camps, for participating in mass unrest, for making an attempt on the life of a state official, and for attacking an official or facility that enjoys international protection.</p> <p>The failure to report a crime becomes a criminal offense. Russians will be required to inform the authorities about anything they know regarding preparations for terrorist attacks, armed rebellions, and several other kinds of crimes on a list that has more than half a dozen different offenses. Anyone who doesn't faces up to a year in prison.</p>	<p>This new criminal-code article very broadly defines 'protecting people's safety' which can run to unjustified limitations, including freedom to manifest one's beliefs. It also outlaws 'inducing, recruiting, or otherwise involving' others in the organization of mass unrest. The maximum penalty for breaking this law is 10 years, and the minimum prison sentence is 5 years.</p>	<p>No data available</p>
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<p><b>06.07.2016</b> <b>N 420-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendment of Article 205.2 on public incitement to terrorist acts</p>	<p>One more law on public incitement to terrorist acts</p>	<p>Public incitement to terrorist acts or public justification to terrorist acts is subjected to a 100,000 rubles fine and 2 to 5 years of jail.</p>		<p>Alexey Kungurov from Tymen was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment for criticizing of Russian air-forces actions in Syria.</p> <p><a href="https://www.svoboda.org/a/28189472.html">https://www.svoboda.org/a/28189472.html</a></p>
<p><b>06.07.2016</b> <b>N 374-FZ</b></p> <p>On the introduction of Amendments to Federal Law On the Counteraction of Terrorism and to Certain Legislative Acts of the Russians Federation with regards to Establishing Additional Measures Designed to counteract Terrorism and Promote Public safety</p>	<p>This measure introduced several new Amendments :</p> <p>Law n° 126-FZ 'On Communications '</p> <p>Law n°149-FZ 'On information, information technologies and protection of information'</p>	<p>The law requires that telecom operators shall store in the territory of the Russian Federation information receipt, transmission, delivery and/or processing of their customers' messages including voice data, text messages, pictures, sounds, video-messages or other messages within 6 months as of the date of receipt, transmission etc.</p> <p>The services which use encryption of any type must provide Federal Security Service with decryption keys upon request.</p>	<p>The law extends the practice of intercepting telephone calls (SORM), previously recognized by the ECtHR as violating Articles 10 and 8 of the European Convention, on Internet communications of any kind. In the current form, the law does not contain any guarantees of the right for respect for one's private and family life. The law also applies to foreign services and their foreign citizens.</p>	<p>Telegram Messenger LLP which owns and supports the Telegram messenger was fined 800,000 roubles and faces blocking in Russia for refusal to provide the FSB with decryption keys.</p> <p><a href="https://meduza.io/en/news/2017/12/14/telegram-wants-to-make-its-fsb-dispute-a-un-issue">https://meduza.io/en/news/2017/12/14/telegram-wants-to-make-its-fsb-dispute-a-un-issue</a></p>
<p><b>29.06.2016</b> <b>Presidential decree</b></p> <p>'On the federal service of the armed forces of the National guard'</p> <p><a href="http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001201610040002">http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001201610040002</a></p>	<p>Presidential decree</p>	<p>The law gives more power to the national guard: They can:</p> <p>Work and in hand with the army in time of war</p> <p>Collaborate with defense and military companies</p> <p>Form local police troops and, importantly, prosecute for administrative offenses</p> <p><a href="http://graniru.org/Politics/Russia/FSB/m.255157.html">http://graniru.org/Politics/Russia/FSB/m.255157.html</a></p>		<p>The fact that a special armed National Guard was endowed with powers to prosecute administrative offenses highlights the 'police state' Russia has become over the last decades.</p> <p>Importantly, the latter National Guard shall be composed of, among others, special police forces OMON and SOBR that are regularly employed to repress peaceful assemblies and intimidate civic activists.</p>
<p><b>28.05.2017</b> <b>N 102-FZ</b></p> <p>'On Amending Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation on the Issues of Administrative Supervision of Persons Who Have been Exempt from Prisons'</p>	<p>The law expands the practice of supervision of citizens released from prison.</p>	<p>Persons convicted of extremist crimes are subjected to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The obligatory appearance of a supervised person from one to four times a month to the internal affairs body at the place of residence, stay or actual residence for registration;</li> <li>- prohibiting a supervised person who does not have a place of residence to depart from the limits of the territory established by the court;</li> <li>- notifying the authorities about absences from the place of residence, change of place of residence, work;</li> <li>- allowing police officers to enter dwellings</li> </ul>	<p>The law makes it possible to significantly restrict the constitutional rights of citizens to freedom of movement and respect for private life on uncertain grounds and can be used as an additional instrument of pressure on persons convicted for political reasons</p>	<p>Rafis Kashapov, ex-chairman of the department of the all-Ttar public center in Naberezhnye Chelny, recognized by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience is kept under administrative supervision.</p> <p><a href="https://www.business-gazeta.ru/news/371581">https://www.business-gazeta.ru/news/371581</a></p>

<p><b>07.06.2017</b> <b>N 120-FZ</b></p> <p>On amending the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and article 151 of the Criminal-Procedural Code of the Russian Federation in the parts of installation of additional mechanisms counteraction activities directed to the children's suicidal behavior</p>	<p>The Criminal Code is supplemented with articles 110.1 and 110.2, which establish responsibility for the incitement to suicide.</p>	<p>Incitement to committing suicide by persuasion, offers, bribery, deception or otherwise, and facilitation of the commission of suicide by advice, instructions, information, means or instruments of committing suicide, or by removing obstacles to its fulfillment or by promising to conceal the means or tools for committing suicide are punishable by imprisonment for up to 8 years.</p>	<p>The law has uncertain and vague wording which may lead to arbitrary enforcement and unjustified censorship.</p>	<p>Several warnings were already issued to the media even just for a fact of mentioning the suicide facts, for instance, of the ontologically ill persons, or persons in detention. This tendency, on the penal level, can become a source of further hard censorship of critical information.</p>
<p><b>21.07.2017</b> <b>N 276-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the the Federal Law 'On Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection'</p>	<p>The law allows Roskomnadzor to block access to proxy services that do not restrict access to pages from the blacklist of websites.</p>	<p>Information resources that provide access to the Internet may not provide access to websites from the blacklist. They must notify Roskomnadzor of their activities and connect to a system containing updated lists of sites to be blocked.</p> <p>In case of a failure, access to the resource may be restricted.</p> <p>The Interior Ministry and the FSB are authorized to identify such resources</p>	<p>The law in the event of its full execution will make the VPN-services meaningless, since it actually forces them to control all users' traffic without any guarantees of privacy.</p>	<p>No data available yet</p>
<p><b>29.07.2017</b> <b>N 241-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the the Federal Law 'On Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection'</p>	<p>The law obliges instant messaging services to identify users</p>	<p>The owners of instant messengers are required to identify users by mobile phone number, block users on request of the authorities, and limit the sending of messages in cases determined by the Government</p>	<p>The law allows the Russian authorities to block services that refuse to identify users and cooperate with government agencies. The law aims to undermine online anonymity.</p>	<p>No data available yet</p>
<p><b>25.11.2017</b> <b>N 327-FZ</b></p> <p>Amendments to the Federal Law 'On Information, Information Technologies and Information Protection'</p> <p>and</p> <p>Law 'On mass media'</p>	<p>This law extends the status of a foreign agent established for NGOs to the media and individuals distributing information.</p>	<p>The law establishes an out-of-court procedure for restricting access to websites of 'undesirable' organizations.</p> <p>A legal entity registered in a foreign country or a foreign 'structure' without the legal entity that distributes information can be identified as a foreign agents by the decision of Ministry of Justice.</p> <p>In this case they shall bear all the duties provided for 'foreign agent' NGOs including reporting and labeling all material.</p>	<p>The law introduces unjustified restrictions on the activities of foreign media, and potentially creates the risk of spreading the status of 'foreign agent' to bloggers and users of social networks</p>	<p>Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty and it's Russian projects Idel.Real, Crimea.Real and others as well as Voice of America were labeled 'foreign agents'</p> <p><a href="https://www.rferl.org/a/rferl-voa-foreign-agents-russia-justice-ministry-rt/28897401.html">https://www.rferl.org/a/rferl-voa-foreign-agents-russia-justice-ministry-rt/28897401.html</a></p>



Additional information:

- FIDH Russia dedicated web-page :

<https://www.fidh.org/en/region/europe-central-asia/russia/>

- HRW report : Russia: Government vs. Rights Groups. The Battle Chronicle\_

<https://www.hrw.org/russia-government-against-rights-groups-battle-chronicle>

- List of organizations considered as « foreign agents » :

<http://unro.minjust.ru/NKOForeignAgent.aspx>

- Restriction on the Internet :

- Agora International group' report

- Internet Freedom 2015: Triumph of Censorship:

[http://en.agora.legal/fs/a\\_delo2doc/8\\_file\\_Agora\\_International\\_Internet\\_Freedom\\_2015\\_Triumph\\_of\\_Censorship.pdf](http://en.agora.legal/fs/a_delo2doc/8_file_Agora_International_Internet_Freedom_2015_Triumph_of_Censorship.pdf)

and

- Report of Agora International 'Internet Freedom 2017: Creeping Criminalisation' :

<http://en.agora.legal/articles/Report-of-Agora-International-%E2%80%98Internet-Freedom-2017-Creeping-Criminalisation%E2%80%99/8>

- Reports of the SOVA Center :

[Inappropriate Enforcement of Anti-Extremist Legislation in Russia in 2016 :](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2017/04/d36857/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2017/04/d36857/>

[Inappropriate Enforcement of Anti-Extremist Legislation in Russia in 2015 :](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/06/d34694/>

[Inappropriate Enforcement of Anti-Extremist Legislation in Russia in 2014:](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2015/06/d32083/>

[Monthly report of misuse of anti extremist laws :](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/news-releases/2016/06/d34906/>

[Today's Russia: Activating the Religion and Superiority of Civil Freedoms :](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/02/d33739/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/02/d33739/>

[Anti-Extremism in Virtual Russia, 2014–2015 :](http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/08/d35262/) <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/misuse/reports-analyses/2016/08/d35262/>



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