

Russia-Sanctions-Gate: Trump Sanctions Three Russian Research Institutes

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, September 01, 2020

Region: [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Science and Medicine](#)

Russia won the race to develop a vaccine for COVID-19. On August 11, its Sputnik V was registered for use by the Russian Ministry of Health.

Development of the vaccine followed 20 years of research, what its scientists called another “Sputnik moment” — referring to Russia’s 1957 first ever “successful launch (of a) man-made satellite by the Soviet Union.

According to US funded Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty — part of its global propaganda media that broadcasts in 59 languages on radio, television, and online — the Trump regime “blacklist(ed) three Russian military and civilian scientific facilities, citing their alleged involvement in chemical and biological weapons research (sic),” adding:

Targeted facilities include a “Russian Defense Ministry facility that is involved in Russia’s attempts to develop the world’s first COVID-19 vaccine.”

The US Commerce Department said it’s blacklisting “60 entities in Russia, China” and elsewhere, falsely claiming:

Their activities are “contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.”

The Commerce Department’s action means that nations, businesses, other entities or individuals engaging in normal activities with blacklisted facilities risk US sanctions.

Russian ones were targeted for being first to develop and have available for use a COVID-19 vaccine that can compete with Big Pharma’s aim for maximum vaccine market potential with minimal foreign competition.

In response to the unacceptable Trump regime actions against Russian scientific facilities, its Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the following:

“We find it outrageous that three Russian scientific research institutes have been included on the American blacklist,” adding:

“A particularly disturbing fact is that these sanctions precisely affect those scientists and specialists who...have been tirelessly laboring on the development of a Russian vaccine against COVID-19.”

“It is not clear how the American government is going to explain to its citizens this attempt to punish the people who are working successfully on a remedy

against the disease, which has already taken the lives of over 180,000 US citizens.”

“We don’t believe that this is a step in the right direction in cooperating to fight the pandemic, the importance of which, we think, Washington cannot even deny.”

“Once again one gets the impression that the run-of-the-mill use of sanctions is a tool of pressure to thrust forward one’s own companies’ interests – right now pharmaceutical ones – which mirrors the continued push of its own natural gas into the European market.”

Russian research facilities and scientists involved in COVID-19 vaccine development are not involved in working on chemical and biological weapons of any kind, Zakharova stressed.

Unlike the US, Russia eliminated its entire CW arsenal in 2017.

“This is confirmed by the authorized international structure, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which includes 193 countries, among them the US,” she explained, adding:

“Russia continues to conscientiously carry out all of its responsibilities under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).”

“Washington...prefers to act not within the framework of international agreements, but at its own discretion” extrajudicially.

The US is the only CWC member-state that maintains an arsenal of banned chemical weapons.

Substances “are being patented in the US related to the use of full-fledged combat toxic substances, including nerve agents,” said Zakharova.

It operates facilities for the development and production of bioweapons.

“There are no grounds to assert that the activity of American biological labs fully complies with the provisions of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC),” Zakharova stressed.

Trump’s Commerce Department blacklisted facilities of the Russian Defense Ministry’s Central Research Institutes No. 33 and No. 48, along with the State Scientific Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology.

These facilities have no involvement in developing banned chemical or biological weapons as the Trump regime falsely claimed.

Blacklisting them is part of Washington’s war on Russia by other means, along with wanting to give corporate America a competitive advantage over foreign competition.

A Final Comment

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov called the Trump regime's blacklisting of Russian research facilities a "sanctions theater of the absurd," adding:

"This is a follow-up to (US) sanctions dependence" against targeted nations, entities and individuals.

Peskov called Washington's claim that targeted Russian facilities are covertly engaged in developing chemical and biological weapons "absolute nonsense," adding:

"(T)his another example of uncovered and rampant non-competitive struggle" by the US.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons below. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

Award-winning author Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. He is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG)

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Featured image is from Natural News

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2020

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."
<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at

1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca