

# Russia's Foreign Agent Media Law

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, November 26, 2017

Region: [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#)

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE:

[stephenlendman.org](http://stephenlendman.org)

([Home - Stephen Lendman](#)).

Contact at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net).

In May 2015, **Vladimir Putin** signed Russia's Law on Undesirable Organizations.

*It targets foreign organizations posing a "threat to the constitutional order and defense capability or the security of the Russian state" - subversive groups no governments should tolerate..*

The law lets the Prosecutor General's Office and Foreign Ministry declare activities of "undesirable foreign organizations" illegal - ones considered a threat to Russia's security.

Non-compliance is punishable by administrative penalties. Repeated violations mandate imprisonment for up to six years. Russian citizens and organizations working with banned groups face fines only.

Russia's 2012 **Foreign Agents Law requires NGOs engaged in political activities** to register as foreign agents or face stiff fines. They're prohibited from supporting political parties - free to engage in other activities.

Many so-called NGOs are agents of foreign governments, notably America's State Department-funded National Endowment for Democracy - charged with subverting it in targeted countries.

Washington rejects democratic governance at home and abroad, falsely claiming it fosters what it opposes worldwide.

In response to the Trump administration requiring RT America to register as a foreign agent under the country's Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), Moscow promised tit-for-tat retaliation.

Earlier in November, Russian lower and upper house lawmakers passed legislation, designating media in the country receiving funding from abroad as foreign agents.

On November 25, Vladimir Putin signed it into law. Henceforth, media named foreign agents by Russia's Justice Ministry will face the same requirements and restrictions as NGOs labeled foreign agents.

Russian upper house Federation Council constitutional legislation and state construction committee chairman **Andrey Klishas** said the new law isn't about censorship.

It mandates certain obligations on media designated as foreign agents. Russian media aren't targeted.

Designated foreign ones must publish a notice, indicating they're functioning as foreign agents. They must report regularly on their activities, provide information on their financing and staff - requirements the same as imposed on RT America.

Russia's Justice Ministry said it notified the Voice of America, Current Time (supervised by the Broadcasting Board of Governors - overseeing all US foreign propaganda operations), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, and other unnamed media about their possible designation as foreign agents.

If any media fail to register as required, they'll fall under the 2012 Foreign Agents Law, required to report regularly on their finances, funding sources and activities. Annually they're audited for compliance.

Inspections can occur any time in response to complaints. Administrative or criminal liability may follow failure to comply with requirements. Their broadcasting signals may be blocked and web sites shut down.

Putin explained Russian laws on undesirable organizations, NGOs and foreign agents are necessary to prevent or limit other nations from interfering in Russia's internal affairs - America the lead offender.

VISIT MY NEW WEB SITE: [stephenlendman.org](http://stephenlendman.org) ([Home - Stephen Lendman](#)). Contact at [lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net).

*My newest book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: How the US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."*

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

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2017

---

[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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://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](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)