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**LIST of REPRESSIVE LAWS  
adopted by the State Duma  
of the Russian Federation  
under Vladimir Putin's  
presidency**

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**October, 2014**

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## Introduction

This list includes the most important laws that restrict the rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation.

**Most of them** are intended to criminalise the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, freedom of association and other freedoms, or to increase punitive sanctions for the use of these rights.

**Some of them** are intended to strengthen the state control over citizens and civil society, and, in particular, to create conditions for state surveillance of expression on the Internet and to hamper the functioning of NGOs and opposition organizations.

Finally, the **third group of laws** is formally aimed at combating terrorism and “extremism”. In reality, however, in the absence of an independent judiciary, these concepts gain a broader interpretation and these laws can easily be used against persons who do not have any terrorist or extremist intentions, and are only exercising their right to freedom of expression or freedom of religion.

### 1

**Federal Law dated 08.06.2012 N 65-FZ “On amending the Russian Federation Code of Administrative Offences and the Federal Law “On assemblies, meetings, demonstrations, processions and picketing”**

**The law restricts the right to freedom of assembly and increases penalties for various violations during meetings and demonstrations.**

- (1) The right of certain persons to be official organizers of meetings and demonstrations is limited. It is forbidden to apply for organizing public street actions for persons who have been convicted for crimes against the constitutional order, as well as for those who were two or more times brought to administrative responsibility for violations during public actions.
- (2) The participants of the public actions are prohibited to use mask or hide their face otherwise. One cannot have items that can be used as weapons, for example, plastic bottles of water.
- (3) Penalties for violations of order during meetings and demonstrations are toughened. The

fines for citizens are increased 10-fold to 20 thousand rubles. The mandatory works are also imposed as punishment. The period of limitation for prosecuting violations is increased to 1 year.

## 2

**Federal Law dated 20.07.2012 N 121-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation in part of regulating activities of non-governmental organizations which perform the functions of foreign agents”**

**This law restricts the right to freedom of association, forcing NGOs receiving grants from foreign donors, to register as “foreign agents.” For failure to comply with the requirements of the law criminal liability is imposed with the sanction of up to two years imprisonment.**

- (1) The law introduces the concept of “foreign agents”. These are NGOs engaged, according to government agencies, into political activities and receiving grants from foreign foundations and private persons. Such NGOs are obliged to indicate on all their materials that they are “foreign agents” and are required to provide reports that should meet more stringent requirements. Such NGOs may be subject to unscheduled audits by the prosecution.
- (2) They all should be registered in a special register of “foreign agents”.  
The Criminal Code introduces a new Article 330.1, punishing noncompliance with the requirements of the law on “foreign agents” with imprisonment up to 2 years.

## 3

**Federal Law dated 28.07.2012 N 139-FZ “On amending the Federal Law “On the protection of children from information harmful to their health and development” and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law limits freedom of expression on the Internet, allowing to block Internet websites extrajudicially.**

- (1) In contravention of Article 29 of the RF Constitution, which prohibits censorship, the law requires the establishment of a Register of websites, “which contain information prohibited for distribution on the territory of the Russian Federation by federal laws”
- (2) After inclusion of the website in the Register, access to it is blocked by Internet service providers throughout the territory of the Russian Federation.

## 4

**Federal Law dated 28.07.2012 No. 141-FZ “On amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law restricts freedom of speech and is especially aimed against those who unmask the corruption. It imposes criminal penalties for “defaming” officials with the sanction of a fine of up to 5 million rubles.**

- The law restores Article 128.1 of “Slander and Libel” excluded in 2011 from the Criminal Code.
- (1) Slander which is contained in a public statement and Libel posted on the Internet or in the media, is punishable by a fine of up to 1 million rubles; “libel” accusations of committing serious crimes, such as bribery, are punishable by a fine in the amount of up to 5 million rubles.
  - (2) The law introduces a new Article of the Criminal Code 298.1 “Defamation of a judge, juror, prosecutor, investigator, a person conducting the inquiry, the judicial police officer” with the sanction also of up to 5 million rubles.

## 5

**Federal Law dated 12 November 2012 N 190-FZ “On amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation and to Article 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation”**

**The law limits the freedom of dissemination of information, in particular, the disclosure of information relating to abuse, violations of law and human rights, may be punished as “disclosure of state secrets”.**

**The concept of “state treason” is expanded and the criminal liability for disclosure of information constituting state secret is strengthened.**

- (1) The concept of state treason is expanded from the transfer of secret information to a foreign state to its transfer to any international organization (such as Amnesty International).
- (2) The concept of state treason includes not only transfer of information, but also providing financial, material, technical, advisory or any other assistance to a foreign state, international or foreign organization”.
- (3) In the Criminal Code a new Article 283.1 is included: “Illegal receipt of information constituting state secrets”, which envisages punishment in the form of imprisonment up to 8 years for illegal obtaining of classified information, even if the purpose of its transfer to

third parties is not proven.

(4) Article 283 of the Criminal Code (“Disclosure of state secrets”) envisages liability for the disclosure of classified information in the form of imprisonment up to 7 years not only for those persons who had access to it, but also for those who could obtain it in any way, so also by accident.

## 6

**Federal Law dated 12 November 2012 N 192-FZ “On amending the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offences”**

**The law de facto blocks the activities of NGOs which receive grants from foreign donors. The law introduces administrative responsibility for NGOs and their officials for failure to register as a “foreign agent”, or for late reporting.**

- (1) For failure or late quarterly reporting NGOs recognized as “foreign agents” shall be punished by a fine of up to 300 thousand rubles, and their officials - up to 30 thousand rubles.
- (2) For failure to register NGOs as “foreign agents” the officials working at those NGOs can be fined up to 300 thousand rubles, and the NGOs - up to 500 thousand rubles.
- (3) NGOs, recognized as “foreign agents” can be punished for any publication, including publication on the Internet, in which there is no indication that this NGO is a “foreign agent”, by a fine of up to 500 thousand rubles.

## 7

**Federal Law of December 25, 2012 N 255-FZ “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”**

**The law limits freedom of expression by prohibiting the wearing, publication and use of particular political symbols.**

**The law punishes public showing of attributes or symbols of “extremist organizations” with arrest for the term up to 15 days.**

Article 20.3 of the Code of Administrative Violations is expanded from “showing of Nazi symbols” to “public showing of symbols of extremist organizations.” (this includes the symbols

of banned political parties, and nationalist organizations of Ukraine and other former Soviet republics)

## 8

**Federal Law dated December 28, 2012 N 272-FZ “On measures on persons involved in violations of fundamental rights and freedoms, rights and freedoms of citizens of the Russian Federation”**

**“Dima Yakovlev Law”. This law violates the rights of orphan children, especially of children with disabilities, who are unable to obtain the needed care and treatment in the Russian Federation.**

The law prohibits the adoption of Russian orphans by citizens of countries that legalized same-sex marriages (including the USA, Canada, France, Sweden, Netherlands etc).

## 9

**Federal Law of June 29, 2013 N 135-FZ “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”**

**The ban of “homosexual propaganda”.**

**The law directly violates the rights of members of the LGBT community, limiting their freedom of expressing their views.**

The law punishes the dissemination of information about the “social equivalence of traditional and non-traditional sexual relations”. Citizens can be punished by a fine of up to 5 thousand rubles, organizations - up to 1 million rubles (or their activities may be suspended for 3 months). If the information had been disseminated through the mass media or the Internet, the amount of the fine for citizens increases to 100 thousand rubles.

## 10

**Federal Law of the Russian Federation dated 29 June 2013 No. 136-FZ “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”

**The law limits the right of citizens to freedom of expression of opinions which contradict the so-called “traditional Russian religions”, and creates for the latest incentives in the form of a special legislative protection . The law introduces criminal responsibility for “insulting the religious feelings of believers” punishing such actions by imprisonment for the term up to 3 years (Art.148 of the Criminal Code).**

- (1) The criminal code introduces a new Article 148 “violation of the right to freedom of conscience and religion” which punishes “public actions realised in order to insult the religious feelings of believers” with fines, and imprisonment for the term up to 1 year. The same actions committed in places of worship are punishable by imprisonment for the term for up to 3 years.
- (2) Article 5.26 of the Code of Administrative Offenses, “Violation of legislation on freedom of conscience, freedom of religion and on religious associations” now punishes public desecration, damage or destruction of religious or liturgical literature, objects of religious worship, signs or emblems by a fine of up to 50 thousand rubles (it was 1 thousand rubles).

## 11

**Federal Law dated November 2, 2013 N 302-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**Under the pretext of fighting terrorism the law imposes severe penalties for members of organizations, which are declared “terrorist”, and also just for training, if its purpose can be interpreted as “terrorist”. In the absence of independent courts this law can 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.**

**The law introduces criminal responsibility for training in terrorist activity, establishing of and participating in a terrorist organization.**

- (1) The Criminal Code introduces a new Article 205.3. “Training for terrorism” with the sanction of up to 3 years imprisonment.
- (2) A new Article 205.4. “Establishing of a terrorist community and participation in it” introduces punishment by imprisonment up to 10 years for participation in a terrorist organization, or for the provision of services, material, financial or any other assistance to this

organization.

- (3) A new Article 205.5. “Establishing of a terrorist organization and participation in the activities of such an organization” introduces punishment of up to 20 years imprisonment.
- (4) The law also applies to members of terrorist organizations in foreign countries, if they pursue goals that “contradict the interests of Russia”.
- (5) The law introduces property liability of relatives of terrorists for any claims for compensation for damage caused by terrorist actions. The relatives of the terrorists must prove the legality of the origin of their property, otherwise it will be confiscated by the state.

## 12

**Federal Law dated December 21, 2013 N 369-FZ “On amending the Federal Law “On operational-investigative activities” and Article 13 of the Federal Law “On the Federal Security Service”**

**The law is intended to limit the right to freedom of expression on the Internet by facilitating the possibility of spying bloggers and controlling private e-mail correspondence. The powers of the FSB to conduct “operational-investigative activities” are expanded and now cover also the Internet.**

- (1) The powers of the FSB in conducting of operational-investigative activities are expanded to “crimes against information security”, i.e. on the Internet.
- (2) The procedure for spying on the Internet through the installation of special equipment of the FSB in the offices of service providers to monitor users is simplified.

## 13

**Federal Law of the Russian Federation dated December 21, 2013 No. 376-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law is aimed at restricting the right to freedom of movement of citizens and foreigners within the Russian Federation. The law introduces tough new rules of registration at place of residence and temporary residence of citizens in the Russian Federation.**

- (1) The law introduces the strengthened administrative responsibility for violation of the rules of registration of citizens. For residence without registration citizens can be fined up to 3 thousand rubles.
- (2) The law introduces the criminal punishment for fake registration (Article 322.2 of the

Criminal Code). Registration at the address at which the person actually does not live, can be punished with imprisonment up to 3 years.

(3) The Criminal Code introduces a new Article 322.3, which punishes citizens who fictitiously register foreign citizens at their address by imprisonment up to 3 years.

## 14

**Federal Law dated December 28, 2013 N 433-FZ “On amendments to the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation”**

**The law is intended to limit the right to freedom of expression, in particular, of public debate about the possibility of a greater autonomy within the Russian Federation or the secession from the Russian Federation.**

**The law introduces criminal responsibility for public expression of “separatism”, including on the Internet.**

The law introduces in the Criminal Code 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.

## 15

**Federal Law dated February 3, 2014 No. 4-FZ “On amending Article 443 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation”**

**The law is intended to limit the rights of citizens who are recognized irresponsible in regards to illegal acts committed by them. The law allows to send persons declared mentally incompetent to compulsory treatment, even if they have committed a minor offense.**

If previously the court was obliged to discontinue criminal proceedings against persons who have committed minor offenses, now they can be sent for compulsory treatment in psychiatric hospitals.

## 16

**Federal Law dated February 3, 2014 N 5-FZ “On amendments to the Criminal Code of**

**the Russian Federation and Article 31 of the Criminal Procedure Code of the Russian Federation**

**The law is intended to limit freedom of expression which is considered as “extremist”. The law increases penalties for certain “extremist” crimes.**

(1) In Article 280 “Public incitements to extremist activities” maximum penalty is increased from 2 to 4 years of imprisonment.

(2) In Article 282 “The incitement to hatred or hostility, and disparagement of human dignity” the maximum sentence is also doubled from 2 years to 4 years of forced labour.

(3) In Article 282.1. “Establishing of an extremist community” the maximum period of imprisonment is increased from 4 to 6 years.

(4) In Article 282.2. “Organising activities of an extremist organization” maximum penalty is increased from 4 to 7 years of imprisonment.

## 17

**Federal Law dated 05.05.2014 N 97-FZ “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”**

**The law is intended to limit the freedom of exchange of information, and in particular, it limits the ability of expression of opinions on political websites and blogs in social networks.**

(1) The law requires compulsory registration of all bloggers and website owners with more than 3 thousand visits per day.

(2) Internet providers and website owners are put under tighter state control. They are required to store data, correspondence and content of their blogs users for 6 months and to give them to the FSB on request.

(3) The law prohibits to store personal information of citizens of the Russian Federation on servers located abroad. 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.

## 18

### **Federal Law dated May 5, 2014 N 110-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law limits the rights of non-profit and political organizations to receive donations, and is also intended against independent candidates, limiting their ability to raise funds.**

**The law increases control over online payments and imposes restrictions on the amounts that can be transferred online.**

- (1) The law limits the maximum amount that can be transferred anonymously online or via the terminal to 15 thousand rubles.
- (2) To transfer the amount up to 200 thousand roubles per month a citizen must register with the passport and other documents.
- (3) NGOs are put under special control of financial institutions when obtaining on-line transfers amounting to more than 100 thousand rubles from foreign states, international and foreign organizations and foreign citizens.

## 19

### **Federal Law of May 5, 2014 N 128-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law is intended to limit the freedom of expression, in particular in political and academic discussions. Under the pretext of “combating the rehabilitation of Nazism” the law restores the notion of “deliberately false statement,” existed in the USSR, and prohibits criticism of the actions of the USSR during the Second World War.**

- (1) The law introduces Article 354.1 in the Criminal Code “Rehabilitation of Nazism” punishing “the dissemination of false information about the activities of the USSR in the Second World War” by imprisonment for a term up to 5 years. 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, the genocide in the occupied territories, political purges and terror against its own citizens during the war, etc.
- (2) The law introduces in the Code of Administrative Offences Article 13.15 punishing “the distribution of information expressing a clear disrespect for society, information about the

days of glory and memorable dates of Russia” by a fine up to one million rubles.

## 20

### **Federal Law dated May 5, 2014 N 130-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

**The law limits the right to privacy of citizens, giving the FSB the right to personal searches of citizens and checking their documents.**

**Simultaneously, the law introduces new offences of “extremist” orientation and tightens sanctions on the already existing offences. The new law simplifies proceedings in cases of “terrorist crimes”.**

- (1) The law expands the powers of the FSB of Russia. Now they can check documents, conduct personal searches and inspect personal belongings and vehicles.
- (2) The law increases the minimum and maximum terms of imprisonment under Article 212 “Mass riots” of the Criminal Code from 4 to 8 and from 10 to 15 years, respectively.
- (3) In Article 282.1 of the Criminal Code introduces criminal responsibility for “the recruitment of members of an extremist organization”, with sanction of imprisonment for up to 6 years.
- (4) Criminal cases on “terrorist” crimes should be transmitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of Moscow and the North Caucasus district military court. The defendants are denied the right to trial by jury. The cases will be considered by a panel of 3 military judges (“Troika”).
- (5) 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.

## 21

### **Federal Law of the Russian Federation dated June 4, 2014 N 142-FZ “On amending Articles 6 and 30 of the Federal Law “On citizenship of the Russian Federation” and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

The law limits the right of citizens to freedom of movement and the right to leave their country and return to it.

The law obliges the citizens of the Russian Federation to announce the availability of foreign

citizenship or residence permit in other countries. Failure to fulfil this obligation is punishable by a fine of up to 200 thousand roubles, or annual salary.

## 22

### **Federal Law of June 28, 2014 N 179-FZ “On amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation”**

#### **The law is intended to limit freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of conscience.**

- (1) The law introduces in the Criminal Code Article 282.3 “Financing of extremist activity” punishing the financing of any “extremist” crime by deprivation of liberty for up to 3 years.
- (2) 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.

## **Foundation Inostrannyi Agent – Human Rights Initiative for Russia**

In the summer of 2013 a group of former human rights activists, who had been active in the 1970s and 1980s on behalf of the dissident movement in the USSR, to establish the foundation ‘Inostrannyi Agent’. “Inostrannyi Agent” stands for “foreign agent”, a name that Russian authorities give to Russian non-governmental organizations that are politically active and receive financial support from abroad.

In practice the rubberstamp “foreign agent” means that the organization is put under intense scrutiny by governmental agencies such as the tax service and the secret police FSB. This usually leads to severe restriction in their activities and often to suspension or closure of the organization.

Although the Foundation Inostrannyi Agent became active under this name only recently, its history goes back to the 1970s and 1980s, when a committee was established in Amsterdam to obtain the release of Vladimir Bukovsky, at that time one of the most famous Soviet dissidents and political prisoners in the Soviet Union.

After Bukovsky’s release in 1976 the committee was changed into the Bukovsky Foundation, which saw it as its main task to defend Soviet political prisoners, campaign for their release and assist political prisoners and their families to the best of its ability.

As a result of the political developments in Russia the foundation was revived in the summer of 2013, initially with a small board consisting of former activists of the Bukovsky Foundation.

The new name, Foundation “Inostrannyi Agent” – Human Rights Initiative for the former USSR indicates that its interest goes beyond the borders of the Russian Federation. However, the quickly deteriorating human rights situation in Russia is its prime concern and supporting civil society in Russia the central goal of the Foundation.

Having part of its history in Soviet times, and having board members who were active participants in the campaigns in defense of human rights activists in the USSR in the 1980s and the democratization of former Soviet republics after 1991, very much helps the foundation to find adequate responses to events while they unfold in Russia. Of course, conditions have changed and means of communication are wholly different than twenty-thirty years ago. But many of the mechanisms are recognizable and the authorities’ responses to “ideological diversion” in society are basically the same. Understanding what really happens on the ground is a vital precondition when designing an adequate response to the challenges posed by a regime that increasingly resorts to old methods.



## Goals

The foundation has set itself the following goals:

- To document human rights abuses in the former USSR
- To inform the general public through publications, social media and public events
- To organize campaign in defense of human rights in the target region
- To support persons and organizations who have run into trouble as a result of their work in defense of human rights in former Soviet republics and who deserve our support.

## Board and Patrons

As indicated above, the board consists of persons who the board of the Foundation consists of a number of former associates of the Bukovsky Foundation/Second World Center who in the past have earned their mark.

A number of well-known people have agreed to lend their name to the foundation, thereby supporting its goals and at the same time adding their status to the organization's credibility.

## Finance

The foundation is fully dependent on donations from private donors, foundations and other sponsors. It is looking for alternative ways of fundraising to make its work more sustainable, such as crowd funding and fundraising through social media.

Donations can be transferred to the following bank account in The Netherlands:

**Bank: ING**  
**Account #: NL40INGB0006189840**  
**Account holder: "Foundation Inostrannyi Agent"**  
**BIC of the bank: INGBNL2A**

Checks drawn on a US bank can be made out to "GIP-USA" and sent to our Netherlands address. Our partner GIP-USA has 501(c) status and therefore donations are tax-deductible.

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