
Information from the Russian Federation for the report of the Secretary-General to the seventy-third session of the General Assembly on progress made in implementing the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

The Russian Federation takes a holistic approach to combating international terrorism. Legislation and law enforcement practices are constantly updated. It is also developing counter-terrorism cooperation with interested States and international and regional organizations. This work requires unconditional respect for the norms and principles of international law and implementation of key international agreements and resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

At the heart of the Russian legal and regulatory architecture for countering terrorism and extremism are Federal Act No. 114-FZ of 25 July 2002 on counteracting extremist activities and Federal Act No. 35-FZ of 6 March 2006 on counter-terrorism, along with the framework for countering terrorism in the Russian Federation and the strategy for combating extremism in the Russian Federation for the period until 2025.

The activities of 30 terrorist and 73 extremist organizations are currently prohibited in the Russian Federation. In 2019, by order of the Moscow Regional Military Court, the terrorist group “Set” (Network) was added to the federal watch list.

Some 4,000 Russian nationals who have left the country to join illegal armed groups are currently being tracked by the law enforcement authorities. Federal wanted notices have been issued for more than 3,000 people and international wanted notices for 2,000.

Statistical analysis indicates a sustained downward trend over the past two years in the incidence of terrorism-related offences (such as abetting the carrying out of terrorist activities, publicly calling for such activities, publicly justifying terrorism, undergoing training to carry out terrorist activities or organize terrorist groups, organizing or being a member of such groups and taking part in acts of international terrorism).

The number of offences of this type had risen steadily each year to 2017. In 2018, it declined by 10.3 per cent, with a total of 1,679 offences. For the period from January to April 2019, a total of 644 offences were recorded.

Since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General, one terrorist act claiming victims has been carried out in the Russian Federation. At the same time, the prevention of such

attacks by the law enforcement authorities has been highly successful, with more than 30 stopped at the threat stage, in preparation or in the attempt. In none of those cases were the terrorists able to carry out their criminal intentions.

In the course of 2018, 487 persons were convicted and sentenced for terrorism-related charges under the relevant articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, which were the most serious charges made against them.

In all, the number of persons convicted of terrorist offences fell by 13 per cent compared with the previous year. Of those convicted, 83.2 per cent received prison sentences. A further 2.9 per cent received suspended prison sentences, 12.9 per cent were fined and 0.4 per cent were subjected to control orders. Three of the convicted persons either were not sentenced or had their sentences dropped. In addition, 109 persons were convicted of terrorist offences in conjunction with other more serious offences.

Furthermore, 1,056 persons were charged with administrative offences under the counter-terrorism legislation of the Russian Federation in 2018.

During the reporting period, the Russian Federation intensified its efforts to close off the terrorists' diverse supply sources. The nationwide risk assessment regarding the financing of terrorism carried out by the Russian Financial Monitoring Service, the Federal Security Service (FSB), the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and other government authorities, identified key current weak spots in the Russian Federation.

In May 2018, the President of the Russian Federation approved a plan to develop a national system to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, thereby laying the foundation for the further development of relevant institutions.

The extrajudicial freezing mechanism has proven especially effective in suppressing the financing of terrorism. The Inter-Agency Commission on Preventing the Financing of Terrorism, the membership of which includes representatives of the Russian Financial Monitoring Service, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FSB and Ministry of Internal Affairs, has led the way in that regard.

As a result of the Commission's work, more than 1,600 individuals and six entities involved in terrorist activities have been denied access to the financial system.

As at the end of 2018, the Russian Financial Monitoring Service had shared data on more than 400 nationals of the Russian Federation wanted for terrorism-related offences with member States of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism, as well as with Belgium, Turkey and France, with a view to considering the imposition of targeted financial sanctions on those persons and the freezing of their funds and assets in those countries.

The Russian Federation works actively with the oversight bodies of foreign States to investigate terrorism-related offences and prosecute their perpetrators, including through the provision of legal assistance in such cases and by requesting the extradition by the competent authorities of foreign States of persons to face criminal prosecution or enforcement procedures against them.

Of 35 extradition requests sent to foreign States between July 2018 and May 2019 regarding persons wanted on criminal charges for terrorism-related offences, 13 were granted. Criminal proceedings are at the investigation stage.

The Office of the Procurator-General of the Russian Federation received eight extradition requests from the competent authorities of foreign States for persons wanted for analogous offences. The extradition of two of the persons concerned has been postponed and one person has been declared wanted. The case files for the remaining requests are still being examined.

Of 51 requests for legal assistance regarding terrorism-related criminal cases submitted in 2018 by the Office of the Procurator-General to the competent authorities of foreign States, 25 were complied with. Over the same period, the Office received 46 additional such requests from the competent authorities of foreign States. In all, the Russian Federation complied with 47 such requests in 2018.

Between January and May 2019, the Russian authorities submitted 22 requests for legal assistance concerning terrorism-related criminal cases to the competent authorities of foreign States, which complied with a total of 11. Over the same period, the Office of the Procurator-General received 23 such requests and complied with a total of 45.

In the course of 2018, work continued on the structural and technical refinement of the International Counter-Terrorism Database, which was set up by the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, and its users were joined by the intelligence services of six States and the General Secretariat of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Currently, 44 competent

agencies from 35 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America have access to the database, as well as seven specialized bodies of international organizations.

The database currently holds data on the activities of 185 terrorist organizations, information on more than 44,000 persons involved in terrorist activities, files on more than 10,000 terrorism-related offences, more than 30,000 photographs and videos, some 400 pieces of equipment used to carry out terrorist activities, special equipment and weaponry used by counter-terrorism units, 46 items relating to terrorist tactics, and more than 400 information and analysis papers on counter-terrorism issues and related legal texts.
