

Translated from Russian

Information from the Russian Federation in connection with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session on progress in the implementation of the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

The Russian Federation consistently takes all necessary measures to counter international terrorism and eliminate threats of a terrorist nature. It is implementing the rules and principles of international law in combating international terrorism, the international counter-terrorism conventions adopted within the framework of the United Nations and the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is also fostering regional cooperation and improving the legislative framework within the national legal system of the Russian Federation.

In 2023, more than 2,000 terrorist offences were registered in the Russian Federation, of which 998 were recorded by internal affairs officers.

Offences related to participation in illegal armed groups and international terrorist organizations have accounted for a significant amount of terrorist crime in Russia over the past four years.

In terms of patterns, a significant proportion of terrorist offences (27.6 per cent) consisted of acts categorized under article 205.5 of the Criminal Code (“Organization of and participation in the activities of terrorist organizations”) – 387 crimes – and under article 208 of the Criminal Code (“Organization of or participation in an illegal armed group, and participation in an armed conflict or hostilities for purposes contrary to the interests of the Russian Federation”) – 272 crimes.

More than one third of terrorist offences (39.1 per cent) were categorized under article 205.1 of the Criminal Code (“Facilitating terrorist activity”) – 307 crimes – and under article 205.2 of the Criminal Code (“Public calls for terrorist activity, public justification of terrorism or promotion of terrorism”) – 624 crimes.

There was a decrease in the number of crimes categorized under article 205.3 of the Criminal Code (“Undergoing training for the purpose of carrying out terrorist activities”) – 104 crimes.

The number of crimes categorized under article 205 of the Criminal Code (“Terrorist act”) more than tripled – 410 crimes. Of these, 140 were suppressed at the preparation stage or point of attempt. This increase is primarily due to ongoing activities by radical forces aimed at engaging citizens in the commission of unlawful attacks against administrative buildings and infrastructure.

In the past year, there was a significant increase in terrorist offences committed at transportation facilities (39), of which 87.2 per cent (34) were categorized under article 205 of the

Criminal Code.

There was also an increase in the number of recorded crimes under article 281 of the Criminal Code (“Sabotage”) – 36 crimes, of which 3 were committed at transportation facilities.

Criminal cases were completed in respect of 1,158 terrorist offences, including 102 offences classified as terrorist acts. Nine hundred and sixty perpetrators were identified. Criminal case files on 1,102 offences were sent to court.

In 2023, the Russian Federation adopted the following changes to its counter-terrorism laws.

1. The procedure for establishing terrorist threat levels was clarified by Presidential Decree No. 48 of 31 January 2023, amending Presidential Decree No. 851 of 14 June 2012 on the procedure for setting the level of terrorist threat, including additional measures to ensure the safety of individuals, society and the State and the procedure approved by this Decree.

In particular, the provision that the terrorist threat level may be established for a period not exceeding 15 days was deleted.

In the event of a high (“yellow”) terrorist threat level, there may be increased monitoring of vehicle movement across the administrative borders of the region where that level was set, as well as vehicle inspections through the application of technical means for detecting weapons and explosives.

2. In accordance with Federal Act No. 8-FZ of 6 February 2023, amending the Federal Act on State genome registration in the Russian Federation and certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation, all categories of persons already convicted and serving a sentence of imprisonment, as well as persons suspected and accused of committing crimes and persons subjected to administrative detention, shall be subject to mandatory State genome registration.

Among other things, the concept of genomic information has been clarified, the bodies conducting mandatory State genome registration for various categories of persons have been defined and expert units of the Investigative Committee of Russia have been authorized to conduct mandatory State genome registration.

Provisions have been made to destroy the genomic information of persons suspected, accused or convicted of committing crimes, in the event that they become eligible for rehabilitation, and of persons subjected to administrative detention, should a ruling in the case of an administrative offence be annulled or amended with respect to the revocation of administrative detention, on the basis of an application from the person in respect of whom the annulment was implemented and an attached relevant court ruling that has entered into legal force.

3. Federal Act No. 57-FZ of 18 March 2023, amending articles 13.15 and 20.3.3 of the Code of Administrative Offences, introduced administrative liability for citizens, officials, individual entrepreneurs and legal entities for disseminating information in the media and online containing

instructions on the illegal manufacture of ammunition, except for information on methods and techniques for self-loading civilian long-barrel firearms.

Administrative liability is incurred if these actions do not present evidence of a criminally punishable offence.

4. Federal Act No. 58-FZ of 18 March 2023, amending the Criminal Code, introduced criminal liability for repeatedly trespassing on an important State facility, a communications structure or a special cargo that is protected by National Guard troops of the Russian Federation.

5. Federal Act No. 65-FZ of 18 March 2023, amending the Aviation Code of the Russian Federation, stipulates that from 1 September 2023 ultralight piloted civilian aircraft with a structural weight of 115 kilograms or less shall be subject to State registration.

The Act also mandated investigations into accidents or incidents involving aircraft used for civil aviation purposes that are not registered (accounted for) in accordance with the established procedure.

6. Since 15 July 2023, the procedure has been established for the formation, maintenance and use of a databank of extremist materials (Ministry of Justice Order No. 69 of 19 April 2023, approving the procedure for the formation, maintenance and use of a databank of extremist materials; Russian Ministry of Justice registration No. 73101 dated 20 April 2023).

Access to the information contained in the databank is restricted and is provided to officials of the bodies engaged in countering extremist activity, in accordance with their competencies as established by federal laws and regulatory legal acts of the President and the Government.

7. Rules were approved for posting information on the official website of the Federal Financial Monitoring Service (Rosfinmonitoring) and for publishing information in official periodicals concerning the listing and de-listing individuals and entities associated with terrorism or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with Security Council decisions (Government decision No. 666 dated 26 April 2023).

Information on listed and de-listed individuals and entities will be posted on the official website of Rosfinmonitoring immediately after the adoption of the relevant decisions, but no later than four hours after information on such decisions has been posted on the official websites of the Security Council or of bodies specially established by decisions of the Security Council.

The document in question also establishes the procedure for Rosfinmonitoring to report information on listed individuals and entities to State authorities and organizations.

8. Federal Act No. 214-FZ of 13 June 2023, amending article 104.1 of the Criminal Code, provides for the confiscation of money and property obtained as a result of cybercrime. It supplements the Criminal Code with a provision expanding the list of crimes for which property may be

confiscated.

Such crimes now include creating, using and distributing malicious computer programs, unlawfully impacting the critical information infrastructure of the Russian Federation, violating the operating rules for the storage, processing or transmission of protected computer information or for information and telecommunication networks and terminal equipment, and violating the rules for accessing information and telecommunication networks, resulting in the destruction, blocking, modification or copying of computer information, if the violation resulted in or threatened to cause grave consequences.

Confiscation is also provided for unlawful access to computer information if the crime caused major damage, was committed out of self-interest, by a group of persons who conspired together, by an organized group or by a person using his or her official position. Property and money may also be seized in the event of grave consequences from the crime committed or the threat of such consequences arising.

9. Administrative liability for the mass distribution, production and storage of extremist materials included in the published federal list of extremist materials has been extended to other materials classified as extremist, in accordance with federal laws (Federal Act No. 231-F3 of 13 June 2023, amending the Code of Administrative Offences).

Amendments to article 20.29 of the Code of Administrative Offences provide for liability, including for the mass distribution of extremist materials referred to in article 1, paragraph 3, of Federal Act No. 114-FZ of 25 July 2002 on countering extremist activities, or for their production or storage for mass distribution, except in the cases provided for in article 13.15, paragraphs 4.1 and 6, and articles 13.37, 20.3 and 20.3.2 of the Code of Administrative Offences, if these actions do not present evidence of a criminally punishable act.

10. The criteria for evaluating information on methods and techniques for the improvised manufacture of explosives and explosive devices, weapons and ammunition for classification as information whose dissemination is prohibited in the Russian Federation was updated by Order No. 443/277/220 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Security Service and the Federal National Guard Troops Service dated 23 June 2023, approving criteria for evaluating information on methods and techniques for the improvised manufacture of explosives and explosive devices, the illegal manufacture or modification of weapons, the main parts of firearms, as well as the illegal manufacture of ammunition, except for information on methods and techniques for self-loading civilian long-barrelled firearms. Such information is needed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Security Service and the Federal National Guard Troops Service to take decisions that are grounds for the inclusion of domain names and (or) the URLs of Internet website pages and network addresses

in a unified automated information system: “The unified registry of domain names, URLs of Internet website pages and network addresses that help to identify Internet websites containing information whose distribution is prohibited in the Russian Federation” (Ministry of Justice Registration No. 74090 of 30 June 2023).

Order No. 463/319/206 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Security Service and the Federal National Guard Troops Service dated 27 June 2022, by which similar criteria were approved earlier, has been superseded.

11. Since 1 September 2023, updated criteria have been applied for the inclusion of sites containing prohibited information in the register of prohibited sites (Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technologies and Mass Media (Roskomnadzor) Order No. 25 of 27 February 2023, approving the criteria for the evaluation of materials and (or) information required for the adoption by Roskomnadzor of decisions that are grounds for the inclusion of domain names and (or) the URLs of Internet website pages and network addresses in a unified automated information system: “The unified registry of domain names, URLs of Internet website pages and network addresses that help to identify Internet websites containing information whose distribution is prohibited in the Russian Federation” (Ministry of Justice Registration No. 73053).

12. Federal Act No. 401-FZ of 31 July 2023, amending the Code of Administrative Offences, establishes administrative liability for the failure of a social network owner to fulfil the established obligations.

In particular, failure by the owner of a social network to fulfil the obligation to monitor the social network and (or) to take measures to restrict access to information that violates the requirements of the law, or failure to comply with Roskomnadzor’s demand to cancel measures taken by the owner of a social network to restrict access to user information, will result in the imposition of administrative fines ranging from 50 to 100 thousand roubles for citizens, from 200 to 400 thousand roubles for officials and from 800 thousand to 4 million roubles for legal entities.

The repeated commission of this offence will entail the imposition of administrative fines ranging from 100 to 200 thousand roubles for citizens, from 500 to 800 thousand roubles for officials and from 4 million to 8 million roubles for legal entities.

13. Since 1 July 2024, in accordance with Federal Act No. 398-FZ of 31 July 2023, amending the Criminal Code and article 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code, criminal liability has been established for violating the requirements to protect facilities (and their grounds) from terrorism.

If this act is committed by a person following repeated administrative charges for a similar act and the violation, by negligence, causes grave harm to be inflicted to human health or major damage, except as provided for in articles 217.1 and 263.1 of the Criminal Code, it shall be punishable by a

fine of up to 80 thousand roubles or in the amount of wages or other income of the convicted person for a period of up to six months, or restriction of freedom for a period of up to three years, or imprisonment for the same period with or without deprivation of the right to hold certain posts or engage in certain activities for a term of up to three years.

Criminal liability is also provided for when this act is committed by a person following repeated administrative charges for a similar act, if the violation, by negligence, causes the death of a person or two or more persons, except in the cases provided for by articles 217.1 and 263.1 of the Criminal Code.

14. Federal Act No. 440-FZ of 4 August 2023, amending certain legislative acts of the Russian Federation, supplements the powers of federal courier services, penal system officers, Federal Security Service agencies, the Internal Audit Service, State protection agencies and police officers, among others, to prevent the use not only of drones, but also of underwater and surface vessels and vehicles, driverless vehicles and other automated pilotless systems.

The Act also grants the right to suppress the operation of drones by a private security organization and private security guards.

15. In 2023, the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation recognized the following as terrorist organizations:

- The “Maniacs Cult of Killers” international movement (other names used are “Maniacs Murder Cult”, “Youth Who Smile” and “MKU”; decision No. AKPI22–1227S dated 16 January 2023, which entered into force on 21 February 2023)
- The “Freedom of Russia Legion” Ukrainian paramilitary association (another name used is the “Free Russia Legion”; decision No AKPI23-101S dated 16 March 2023, which entered into force on 25 April 2023)
- The Ukrainian nationalist “Aidar” battalion was recognized as a terrorist organization by Southern District Military Court decision No. 1-247/2023 dated 25 September 2023, which entered into force on 22 November 2023
- The “Russian Volunteer Corps” nationalist organization was recognized as a terrorist organization by Second Western District Military Court decision No. 2-255/2023 dated 16 November 2023, which entered into force on 2 December 2023

To date, a total of 50 organizations have been recognized as terrorist organizations under Russian Federation law. The relevant information is available on the official website of the Federal Security Service of Russia (www.fsb.ru).

The Russian Federation remains committed to global efforts to combat terrorism and its

financing in all forms and manifestations. Particular attention in 2023 was paid to cutting off terrorist financing channels. In the past year, law enforcement agencies uncovered 168 offences related to the financing of terrorism.

Russia is faithfully implementing the relevant universal conventions, Security Council resolutions and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations, as confirmed by the decisions and reports of specialized international organizations.

For example, the 2023 progress report of the Russian Federation was rated “largely compliant” in meeting the requirements in particular of FATF Recommendation 6 on the application of targeted financial sanctions related to terrorism or terrorist financing.

This rating was due to earlier measures taken to improve legislation, including Federal Act No. 115-FZ of 7 August 2001 on combating the legalization (laundering) of the proceeds of crime and the financing of terrorism, Federal Act No. 281-FZ of 30 December 2006 on special economic measures and coercive measures and Federal Act No. 195-FZ of 30 December 2001 of the Code of Administrative Offences. For example, the period in which monetary funds or other property are frozen (blocked), following the inclusion of individuals and entities in the list compiled by the Security Council for their association with terrorism or for the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, has been reduced to 24 hours. In addition, the requirements for the application of coercive measures for all individuals and entities have been specified, and liability for the failure to apply such measures has been strengthened.

An important element aimed at developing measures to combat the financing of terrorism in the Commonwealth of Independent States region is the work being carried out within the framework of the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence Units, as well as the launch of an international centre to assess the risk of money-laundering and terrorist financing. The agreement on the establishment of the centre was signed in Bishkek on 13 October 2023.

Combating the financing of terrorism also remains a focus of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism.
