



Homeland
Security

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

15 May 2020

(U) Counterterrorism Mission Center

(U//FOUO) Impact of US Terror Designation of Russian RMVE Organization

(U//FOUO) Scope. This *Intelligence Note (IN)* evaluates the potential implications associated with the Department of State's 6 April terrorist designation of the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM). Our analysis focuses on the limitations it will set for the group's ability to recruit, finance, and travel to the United States. This *IN* will also address the growing capabilities for information sharing between foreign partners and how some of our foreign partners have begun issuing terrorist designations to white supremacist extremist (WSE)^a groups. The information is current as of 29 April 2020.

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the DHS Intelligence Enterprise (DHS IE) Counterterrorism Mission Center (CTMC). Coordinated with USSS, USCG, CWMD, HSI, ICE, TSA, CBP, and CISA.

(U//FOUO) We assess the Department of State's 6 April terrorist designation of the Saint Petersburg-based RIM and three of its leaders will undermine the group's ability to recruit new members, raise funds, and send representatives to the United States. While US-based individuals have shown only limited interest in RIM, transnational communication between domestic terrorists^a and likeminded individuals increases the sharing of grievances, expertise, and other support to drive radicalization^a and incite violence.

- » *(U//FOUO)* RIM's designation as a specially designated global terrorist authorizes federal law enforcement to open investigations into US-based individuals suspected of providing material support to the group and denies RIM members access to the US financial systems, according to a Department of State press release.¹ Following the US designation, US-based social media platforms—including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—shut down pages associated with the group and Russia's national Internet censorship agency blocked the RIM's official website, according to media reporting.²
- » *(U//FOUO)* The designation also enhances our ability to prevent RIM members from traveling to the United States and classifies RIM members as known or suspected terrorists (KSTs), including them in the Terrorist Screening Center's (TSC) Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB).³ In 2017, a RIM representative traveled to the United States, and at least one US citizen has attended a seminar at a RIM facility associated with paramilitary training near Saint Petersburg, according to Western news reporting.⁴
- » *(U//FOUO)* In late 2016, two Sweden-based racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs)^a conducted a series of terrorist attacks against two refugee centers and a coffee house in Gothenburg, Sweden, according to a Department of State press release.⁵ Two of the attackers traveled to Saint Petersburg in August 2016 and underwent 11 days of RIM's paramilitary-style training. Following their arrests, Swedish prosecutors handling their case blamed RIM for radicalizing them and providing the training that enabled the attacks.

(U//FOUO) This is the first ever US designation of RMVE terrorists and the United States joins a short but growing list of Western countries who over the last year have applied counterterrorism authorities to designate RMVEs and white supremacist extremists. Such designations will enable formalized information sharing on RIM affiliates

^a (U) Please see "DHS Definitions" box on page 2.

IA-43904-20

(U) Warning: This document is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS and FBI policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know without prior approval of an authorized DHS official. State and local homeland security officials may share this document with authorized critical infrastructure and key resource personnel and private sector security officials without further approval from DHS and FBI.

(U) All US person information has been minimized. Should you require US person information on weekends or after normal weekday hours during exigent and time sensitive circumstances, contact the Current and Emerging Threat Watch Office at 202-447-3688, CETC.OSCO@HQ.DHS.GOV. For all other inquiries, please contact the Homeland Security Single Point of Service, Request for Information Office at DHS-SPS-RFI@hq.dhs.gov, DHS-SPS-RFI@dhs.sgov.gov, DHS-SPS-RFI@dhs.ic.gov

and other RMVE actors through HSPD-6 and PCSC agreements, dependent upon the foreign partner and their level of sharing. Information sharing between counties on RMVE groups and identities is often difficult as this issue is still in its infancy stages, so the designation provides an opportunity to share and collect information on its leaders, thereby giving us previously unknown insights as to its members and their associated networks.

- » (U//FOUO) On 21 June 2019, Canada added the first white supremacist extremist group to its list of designated terrorist organizations, neo-Nazi group “Blood and Honour” along with its armed branch, “Combat 18,” according to Western news reporting.⁶ The group is primarily based out of Europe, but has chapters throughout the world, with several American white supremacist extremist groups and individuals proclaiming an association with “Blood & Honour”.⁷
- » (U//FOUO) In 2016, the United Kingdom used its terror designation authorities against a white supremacist extremist group for the first time and in February 2020, London outlawed membership of a neo-Nazi group following the arrest of several members accused of plotting attacks against the British royal family, according to a US counterterrorism research institution and a British government press release.^{8,9}
- » (U//FOUO) By formally designating RIM, we have furthered our ability to track this group and its members as these entities may now be placed into designated DHS watchlisting programs. This has also allowed for increased information-sharing with our foreign partners regarding KST identities associated with RIM, thus significantly hindering its members’ and associates’ ability to travel to the United States, according to a DHS press release and the Terrorist Screening Center’s Watchlisting Guidance.^{10,11}

(U) DHS Definitions

(U//FOUO) A white supremacist extremist (WSE) is a group or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at the federal government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons.

(U//FOUO) Domestic terrorism is any act of unlawful violence that is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources committed by a group or individual based and operating entirely within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group. This act is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state or other subdivision of the United States and appears to be intended to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping. A domestic terrorist differs from a homegrown violent extremist in that the former is not inspired by and does not take direction from a foreign terrorist group or other foreign power.

(U//FOUO) Radicalization is the process through which an individual changes from a nonviolent belief system to a belief system that includes the willingness to actively advocate, facilitate, or use unlawful violence as a method to affect societal or political change.

(U//FOUO) Racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism (RMVE) are threats involving the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from bias—often related to race or ethnicity—held by the actor against others, including a given population group.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement. Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.8, HSEC-8.9

(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) We have **medium confidence** in our assessment regarding RIM's ability to recruit new members, raise funds, and send representatives to the United States. Our assessment is based primarily on official government press releases and Western news reporting, which include sociopolitical biases unintentionally presented by the reporters that could undermine the quality of information. The media reports underpinning our analysis cited RIM leadership or individuals with unknown reliability who claim to have direct ties to the group. Greater information sharing with foreign partners and any additional information indicating that RIM's recruitment, travel, and fundraising efforts are vulnerable to sanctions associated to with the US designation would increase our confidence.

- ¹ [STATE | 6 APRIL 2020 | Designation of the Russian Imperial Movement | <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-the-russian-imperial-movement/> | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ² [Washington Post | 13 APRIL | Inside white supremacist Russian Imperial Movement, designated foreign terrorist organization by US State Department | https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russia-white-supremacist-terrorism-us/2020/04/11/255a9762-7a75-11ea-a311-adb1344719a9_story.html | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ³ [FBI | FBI TSC WLG 2018 | | 2018 | | Terrorist Screening Center:2018 Watchlisting Guidance | | (UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO) | (UNCLASSIFIED//LES/SSI) |]
- ⁴ [Washington Post | 13 APRIL 2020 | Inside white-supremacist Russian Imperial Movement, designated foreign terrorist organization by U.S. State Department | https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russia-white-supremacist-terrorism-us/2020/04/11/255a9762-7a75-11ea-a311-adb1344719a9_story.html | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ⁵ [STATE | 6 APRIL 2020 | Designation of the Russian Imperial Movement | <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-the-russian-imperial-movement/> | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ⁶ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/27/americas/canada-neo-nazi-terror-organization-list-trnd/index.html>
- ⁷ [ADL | APRIL 2020 | Blood & Honour | <https://www.adl.org/education/references/hate-symbols/blood-honour> | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ⁸ [Counterterrorism Center | JANUARY 2019 | The Evolution of Extreme-Right Terrorism and Efforts to Counter It in the United Kingdom | <https://ctc.usma.edu/evolution-extreme-right-terrorism-efforts-counter-united-kingdom/> | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ⁹ [UK Home Office | 24 FEBRUARY | Government takes action to proscribe right-wing terrorist groups | <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-takes-action-to-proscribe-right-wing-terrorist-groups> | | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ¹⁰ [DHS | 7 JANUARY 2019 | | MYTH/FACT: Known and Suspected Terrorists/Special Interest Aliens | <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2019/01/07/mythfact-known-and-suspected-terroristsspecial-interest-aliens> | (UNCLASSIFIED) | (UNCLASSIFIED) |]
- ¹¹ [FBI | FBI TSC WLG 2018 | | 2018 | | Terrorist Screening Center:2018 Watchlisting Guidance | | (UNCLASSIFIED/FOUO) | (UNCLASSIFIED//LES/SSI) |]



Product Title:

All survey responses are completely anonymous. No personally identifiable information is captured unless you voluntarily offer personal or contact information in any of the comment fields. Additionally, your responses are combined with those of many others and summarized in a report to further protect your anonymity.

1. Please select partner type: _____ and function: _____

2. What is the highest level of intelligence information that you receive?

3. Please complete the following sentence: "I focus most of my time on:"

4. Please rate your satisfaction with each of the following:

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	N/A
Product's overall usefulness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's relevance to your mission	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's timeliness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Product's responsiveness to your intelligence needs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. How do you plan to use this product in support of your mission? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive planning and preparedness efforts, training, and/or emergency response operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate a law enforcement investigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observe, identify, and/or disrupt threats | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate your own regional-specific analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Share with partners | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate your own topic-specific analysis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allocate resources (e.g. equipment and personnel) | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop long-term homeland security strategies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reprioritize organizational focus | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not plan to use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Author or adjust policies and guidelines | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="text"/> |

6. To further understand your response to question #5, please provide specific details about situations in which you might use this product.

7. What did this product not address that you anticipated it would?

8. To what extent do you agree with the following two statements?

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A
This product will enable me to make better decisions regarding this topic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This product provided me with intelligence information I did not find elsewhere.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. How did you obtain this product?

10. Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up conversation about your feedback?

To help us understand more about your organization so we can better tailor future products, please provide:

Name: <input type="text"/>	Position: <input type="text"/>
Organization: <input type="text"/>	State: <input type="text"/>
Contact Number: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>



[Privacy Act Statement](#)