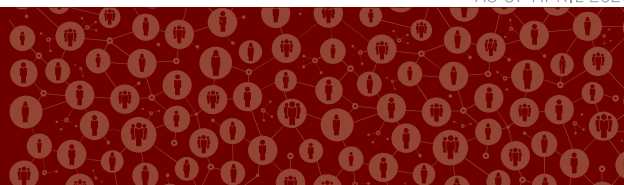


# ORGANIZATION FACT SHEET



## (U) Russian Imperial Movement



(U//FOUO) The Saint Petersburg–based Russian Imperial Movement (RIM) aspires to unite individuals across the West to resist globalization, multiculturalism, and liberalism. Its paramilitary arm, the Imperial Legion, has trained mostly Russian nationals and some Western racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs)—some of whom previously fought in Ukraine alongside Russian proxy forces—at camps in the Saint Petersburg area, although the group has not committed any known terrorist attacks.

RIM's outreach to individuals in the West probably furthers the Russian Government's goals of increasing societal tensions and undermining stability in Western countries, although the Russian Government has not publicly acknowledged any relationship with RIM.

**(U) Threat to the Homeland and US Interests:** RIM probably does not pose a direct threat to the Homeland or to US interests abroad, but its members have invited US persons who share its ideology to participate in its activities, highlighting the potential for the group to inspire or enable violent RMVE activity in the United States.

### ABOUT

**(U) Active Members:** Several prominent members have been publicly identified, and some of them have granted media interviews.

**(U) Establishment:** Established in 2002 by Russian national Stanislav Vorobyov, who has led the group since then.

**(U) Active Regions:** Most activity by RIM members probably takes place in the Saint Petersburg area. Imperial Legion fighters and individuals trained by the group previously engaged in paramilitary activity in eastern Ukraine.

**(U//FOUO) Associated Extremists Groups:** RIM probably has ties to other groups and individuals, which often share its ultranationalist views—only a few of whom are probably violent—in Europe and North America.

**(U) Designated a Terrorist Group:** The US Government designated RIM and three RIM leaders as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs) on 6 April 2020.

**(U) Headquarters:** Saint Petersburg, Russia

**(U) Ideology:** RIM lionizes the pre-Soviet czarist Russian Empire, advocates for monarchical rule in Russia and an expansion of the country's territorial control in Europe and Asia, and promotes an idealized ethnic Russian identity. RIM members also promote antiimmigrant and anti-Semitic views, are critical of Russia's former Soviet government, and claim that RIM defends Russian Orthodox and other traditional values against anti-Christian forces.

#### **(U//FOUO) Notable Attacks:**

- **(U//FOUO) January 2017:** Two Sweden-based RMVEs who had previously received RIM paramilitary training placed bombs—two of which detonated—at two refugee centers and a coffeehouse linked to a Swedish “left-wing” organization in Gothenburg, Sweden. We have no information indicating that RIM was aware of their attack plans.

<sup>a</sup>(U//FOUO) Racially or ethnically motivated violent extremism encompasses 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.

## NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER ORGANIZATION FACT SHEET

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### **| CAPABILITIES AND TACTICS**

**(U) Weapons/Equipment:** RIM's Imperial Legion trainers and at least some people they train have access to a variety of firearms and IED training.

**(U) Tactics:** We assess that RIM prioritizes promoting cooperation among ultranationalists and providing paramilitary training over engaging directly in violence. RIM organizes or participates in rallies and conferences; conducts outreach to non-Russian political parties; organizes social events in Russia; and provides support to the families of unspecified political prisoners and deceased Russian fighters.

#### **(U//FOUO) Recruitment/Training:**

RIM seeks to cultivate contacts with ultranationalists around the world and has helped recruit and train Russian fighters for the conflict in eastern Ukraine. RIM advertises and promotes its activities online, including the Imperial Legion's training courses, which can last for up to six weeks and include instruction on combat operations in urban settings, marksmanship, field medicine, and explosives training.

**(U//FOUO) Financing:** We have little insight into RIM's overall financing, although the group has assisted a Swedish RMVE group with financing. The Imperial Legion charges for at least some of the training courses they offer, probably providing at least a modest income stream.

### **| PROMINENT MEMBERS**



(U//FOUO)

**(U//FOUO) Name:** Stanislav Vorobyov

**(U) Role/Description:** Founder and current leader, whom the US Government designated as a SDGT

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(U//FOUO)

**(U) Name:** Denis Gariyev

**(U) Role/Description:** Leader of the Imperial Legion, whom the US Government designated as a SDGT

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(U//FOUO)

**(U) Name:** Nikolay Trushchalov

**(U) Role/Description:** A prominent RIM member, whom the US Government designated as a SDGT

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