

U.S. Orders Sputnik News Agency to Register as 'Foreign Agent'

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The U.S. Justice Department / Wikicommons

The United States has ordered the Russian government-funded Sputnik news agency to register as a "foreign agent," the latest episode in a media war that has unfolded between the two countries in the past year.

U.S. intelligence agencies have [accused](#) Russian media organizations of participating in a propaganda campaign to influence the 2016 presidential election. The Kremlin-funded RT news network was forced to [register](#) as a foreign agent in November 2017 over the claims.

Related article: [What You Need to Know About RT's Pending Foreign Agent Registration](#)

The U.S. Justice Department has now instructed RIA Global LLC, the media company affiliated with Sputnik, to register under the same 1938 anti-Nazi propaganda law as RT, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency [reported](#) Wednesday.

"RIA Global's obligation to register arises from its political activities in the United States," RIA Novosti cites a Justice Department letter as saying.

RIA Novosti and Sputnik both operate under the "Rossiya Segodnya" company name after a 2013–2014 restructuring that was widely [seen](#) as a Kremlin attempt to tighten its grip on the media.

Russia immediately [retaliated](#) to RT's foreign agent registration with a "foreign agent" law of its own, slapping at least nine U.S. government-sponsored media outlets with a label that recalls Cold War era intrigues.

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