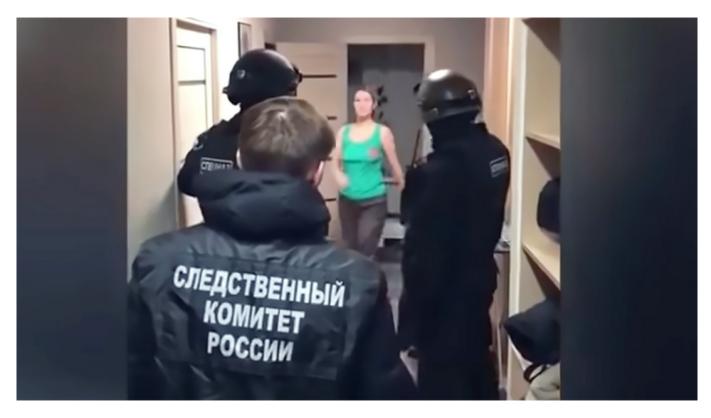


FSB Raids Jehovah's Witnesses Meeting Spots in Siberia

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jw-russia.org

Russian authorities raided the meeting spaces of Jehovah's Witnesses in Siberia and the country's Far East late last week, detaining five worshippers and holding two in pre-trial detention.

Russia <u>added</u> the group to its registry of extremist organizations in 2017, exposing Russia's estimated 175,000 Jehovah's Witnesses to mass raids and <u>forcing</u> at least 5,000 to flee the country.

Related article: <u>After Jailing of Jehovah's Witness, Human Rights Activists Warn of 'Wave' of</u> <u>Arrests</u>

Federal Security Service (FSB) officers and investigators raided at least 15 homes in Novosibirsk, Primorye region and Krasnoyarsk region, the Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia organization <u>said</u> in a statement on Monday. Five worshippers were detained, with two of them still held in pre-trial detention.

The Krasnoyarsk region's Investigative Committee <u>said</u> it petitioned for the arrest of an unnamed 28-year-old leader of the religious group on extremism charges. In Primorye region, a woman was taken into custody and a man was placed under house arrest on the same charges, investigators <u>said</u>.

The organization's website <u>says</u> 141 Russian Jehovah's Witnesses are under investigation on extremism charges, including 20 held in pre-trial detention or jailed. They include Danish citizen Dennis Christensen, who was <u>sentenced</u> to six years behind bars in February 2019, and Polish citizen Andrzej Oniszczuk, who has reportedly been <u>abused</u> while awaiting trial since October 2018.

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