

Court Fines Sakharov Center NGO for Violating 'Foreign Agents' Law

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A Moscow court on Wednesday fined the Sakharov Center human rights organization for failing to mark an article it posted online with a "foreign agent" warning, state news agency RIA Novosti reported.

The center said it had added the label to a post about a debate club on its website after receiving a warning from the Justice Ministry, RIA Novosti reported.

However, the Tagansky District Court found the NGO in violation of the "foreign agents" law and ordered it to pay a fine of 400,000 rubles (\$6,000), the report said.

The Sakharov Center was included on the "foreign agents" registry — a list of NGOs that receive foreign funding and are engaged in loosely defined "political activities" — in December last year, and was fined 300,000 rubles in March after failing to register under the label.

The center is named after physicist Andrei Sakharov, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 for his opposition to the abuse of power and his work on human rights.

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