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Youth Group in Russia's Altai Region Labeled 'Foreign Agent'

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Arktika, a regional youth-oriented non-governmental organization, has▣ been added to the list of foreign agents, according to a statement on ▣the Russian Justice Ministry's official website.

Arktika — which currently has more than 50 permanent members — was ▣launched in 2012 in Russia's southern Siberian Altai region as an ▣organization to help young people and teenagers cope with domestic ▣mistreatment or conflicts with the law, the RIA Novosti news agency ▣reported.

According to an open letter published on the organization's website ▣Thursday, Arktika has voluntarily agreed to be included in the foreign ▣agents register.

Arktika has been consistently pressured to voluntarily accept the ▣status, or face "compulsory inclusion" which entails a fine of up to ▣500,000 rubles ($7,800) — a fine that would lead to a difficult ▣financial situation for the organization, Arktika's head Anatoly Lomakin▣ wrote.

"We are not going to stop our work. On the contrary, we will make ☒every effort to make at least some positive changes in young people's ☒lives," Lomakin wrote, adding that Arktika will not cancel multiple ☒sports and touristic events scheduled for this year.

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