The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

NBC Universal Chief Blacklisted by a Retaliatory Russia

July 14, 2016



The Russian Defense Ministry has confirmed Jeff Shell, the head of U.S. broadcasting agency NBC Universal, had been denied entry into Russia, the ministry said in an online statement Wednesday evening.

The New York Times had reported earlier that Shell had been denied entry into Russia.

Shell had traveled to Russia on a business trip, but was detained at the airport for several hours. He was then escorted onto a flight to Amsterdam after being forced to sign a document stating he was barred from entering Russia.

“The reason that Shell was recently included on the 'blacklist' is that the Russian side has repeatedly stated that it is enlarging the list in response to Washington's far-fetched reasons for visa sanctions against Russian citizens” the official ministry statement said.

The ministry called Shell an organizer of “wide-ranging, lying anti-Russian propaganda, financed by the American government.”

As well as heading NBC Universal's motion picture unit, Shell also serves as the chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, a U.S. governmental agency which supervises the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe media outlets.

According to the Russian Defense Ministry statement, such radio stations relay U.S. propaganda.

This follows several diplomatic disputes between Russia and the United States, including an unfriendly move
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