

Voice of America, Radio Liberty Respond to New 'Foreign Agent' Status

December 06, 2017



Pixabay / MT

U.S. media outlets Voice of America (VOA) and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) have said they are reviewing the Russian Justice Ministry's decision to add them to a new list of "foreign agent" news organizations.

The Justice Ministry on Tuesday [added](#) 9 U.S. news outlets to its new list of "foreign agent" media, including VOA, Radio Liberty and Current Time TV. Russian lawmakers said the move was a response to Kremlin-funded media being pressured to register under anti-propaganda laws in the United States.

Related article: [Russia Names 9 U.S. News Outlets 'Foreign Agents'](#)

"The Russian Ministry of Justice has indicated that the new status will imply greater restrictions on the work of Voice of America in Russia," VOA director Amanda Bennett [told](#) the

RBC business portal.

"But the extent of these restrictions is still unknown."

Tom Kent, president of RFE/RL [said](#) in a videotaped statement on the radio's website that, "So far, the nature of these limitations is not known. We will study carefully all communications from the Ministry [of Justice] and other official Russian organizations," he said.

Restrictions on U.S. news organizations operating in Russia have been increasing in the past five years.

RFE/RL [stopped](#) AM broadcasting in Russian in 2012, following a new law restricting media companies with majority-foreign ownership. It [continued](#) to broadcast on shortwave radio until 2016 when operations were moved to the internet.

Russia [pulled](#) VOA off the air in 2014, forcing the radio station to move online.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2017/12/06/voice-of-america-radio-liberty-respond-to-new-foreign-agent-status-a59821>