

Russia Adds Leftist Group to Terror List for Allegedly Plotting Election, World Cup Attacks

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Viktor Filinkov, Yury Boyarinov Yelena Lukyanova / Novaya Gazeta in St.Petersburg / novayagazeta.ru

Russian authorities have blacklisted an anti-fascist activist group whose members are on trial on charges of plotting to overthrow the government as a terrorist organization.

Federal agents opened a criminal case against Set — Russian for “Network” — in the fall of 2017, leading to the arrests of 11 people in St. Petersburg and Penza on terrorism charges. Investigators claim the group planned attacks during Russia’s March 2018 presidential election and the summer 2018 FIFA World Cup, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#).

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The FSB [added](#) Set to its list of terrorist organizations Monday based on a recently enforced court order. The group joins the likes of the Taliban, al-Qaeda and the banned Islamic State

terrorist organization.

Russia's state financial watchdog had added members of the left-wing group to its list of terrorists months earlier, the OVD-Info police-monitoring website [reported](#).

The jailed activists have accused security officers of torturing them into incriminating themselves, a claim that Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) [said](#) was a "professional necessity."

Ten members of the group now [face](#) up to 10 years of prison on terrorism charges.

The first member of the group, Igor Shishkin, was [sentenced](#) to 3.5 years in January after making a deal with the investigators.

Hearings for two of the suspects, Viktor Filinkov and Yuly Boyarshinov, have been [postponed](#) until Wednesday.

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