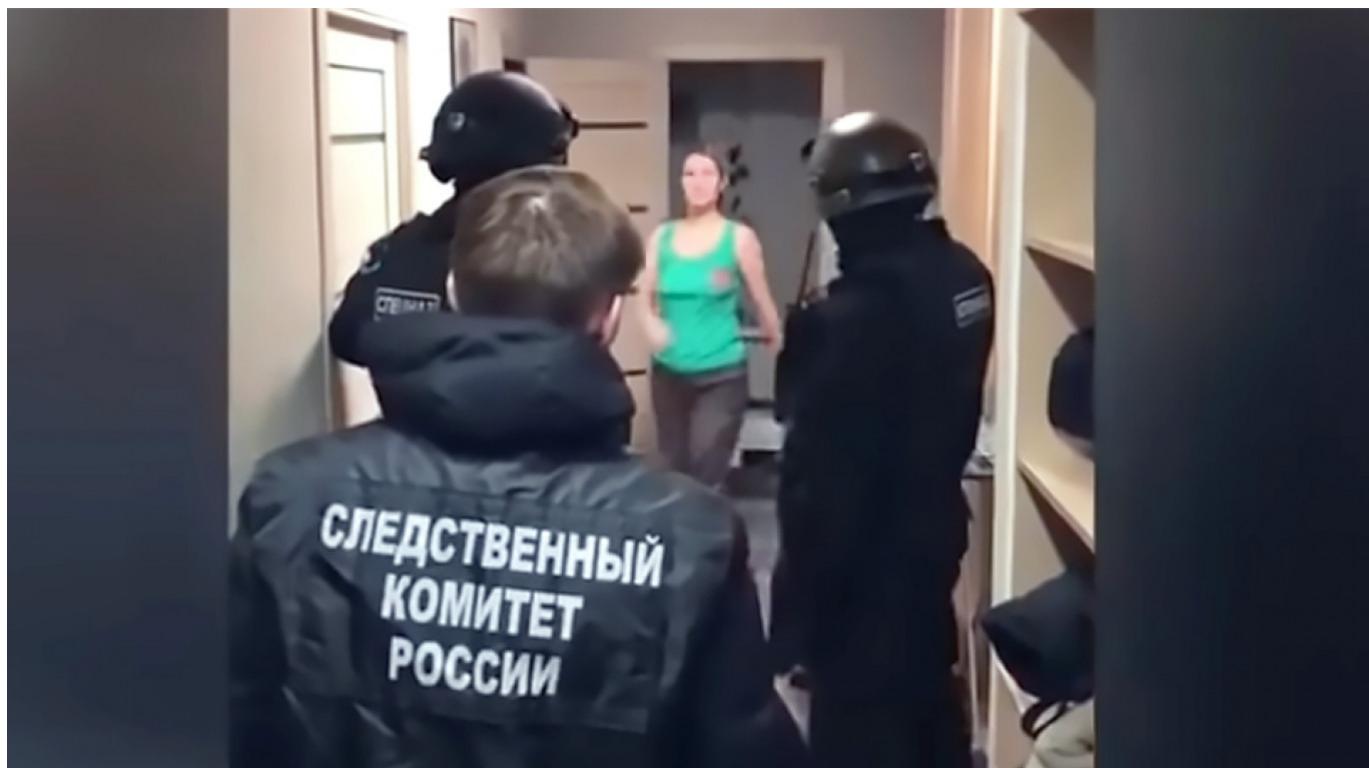


FSB Raids Jehovah's Witnesses Meeting Spots in Siberia

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jw-russia.org

Russian authorities raided the meeting spaces of Jehovah's Witnesses in Siberia and the country's Far East late last week, detaining five worshippers and holding two in pre-trial detention.

Russia [added](#) the group to its registry of extremist organizations in 2017, exposing Russia's estimated 175,000 Jehovah's Witnesses to mass raids and [forcing](#) at least 5,000 to flee the country.

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Federal Security Service (FSB) officers and investigators raided at least 15 homes in Novosibirsk, Primorye region and Krasnoyarsk region, the Jehovah's Witnesses in Russia organization [said](#) in a statement on Monday.

Five worshippers were detained, with two of them still held in pre-trial detention.

The Krasnoyarsk region's Investigative Committee [said](#) it petitioned for the arrest of an unnamed 28-year-old leader of the religious group on extremism charges. In Primorye region, a woman was taken into custody and a man was placed under house arrest on the same charges, investigators [said](#).

The organization's website [says](#) 141 Russian Jehovah's Witnesses are under investigation on extremism charges, including 20 held in pre-trial detention or jailed. They include Danish citizen Dennis Christensen, who was [sentenced](#) to six years behind bars in February 2019, and Polish citizen Andrzej Oniszczuk, who has reportedly been [abused](#) while awaiting trial since October 2018.

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