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Russian 'Terrorists' Training German Neo-Nazi Youth in Combat – Reports

June 05, 2020



Russian news reports have linked Partizan trainees to a terrorist attack in Sweden as well as the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine and war in Syria. **Jens Meyer / AP / TASS**

Young right-wing extremists from Germany are receiving combat training from Russian white supremacists whom the United States has blacklisted as terrorists, Germany's Focus news magazine reported Friday.

The U.S. State Department branded the Russian Imperial Movement as a foreign terrorist organization in April, saying it runs two paramilitary training camps in St. Petersburg that have pulled in neo-Nazis from across the Western world. Russia responded by saying that labelling the group as a terrorist organization does not aid in the fight against terrorism.

Related article: U.S. Labels Russian Far-Right Group as Foreign Terrorist Organization

RIM describes itself as an Orthodox Christian and national-patriotic organization tasked with protecting traditional Russian values and supporting Russian expansion. Russia hasn't added

the group to its list of banned terrorist organizations but has blacklisted some of its publications as extremist.

RIM provides training to youth-wing members of Germany's ultranationalist National Democratic Party and the minority neo-Nazi party The Third Path, Focus cited unnamed German intelligence sources as saying.

The Russian group reportedly trains the far-right German youth in weapons and explosive handling, as well as in close combat, at a camp called "Partizan" near St. Petersburg.

Russian news reports have linked Partizan trainees to a terrorist attack in Sweden as well as the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine and war in Syria.

German intelligence services are said to be aware of their activities but cannot ban their travel to Russia for legal reasons, Focus reported. German authorities also assume that President Vladimir Putin knows about the camps and "at least tolerates" their existence.

RIM is the first white supremacist group to be designated terrorists by the United States, according to the State Department.

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