The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Edward Snowden Aims to Become Dual U.S.-Russian Citizen

By AFP

November 02, 2020

Snowden was first granted temporary asylum in Russia in 2013. **Eibner Europa / Imago / TASS**

Fugitive U.S. whistleblower Edward Snowden said Monday he had applied for Russian citizenship but would keep his U.S. nationality.

The former American intelligence contractor, who revealed in 2013 that the U.S. government was spying on its citizens, has been living in exile in Russia since the revelations.

Snowden's tweet comes weeks after he was granted permanent residency in the country, and just days after his partner Lindsay Mills announced she was pregnant.

He tweeted: "After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I have no desire to be separated from our son."

The 37-year-old said that "in this era of pandemics and closed borders, we're applying for dual U.S.-Russian citizenship".

Embed:

> After years of separation from our parents, my wife and I have no desire to be separated from our son. That's why, in this era of pandemics and closed borders, we're applying for dual US-Russian citizenship. https://t.co/cCgT0rr37e
>
> — Edward Snowden (@Snowden) November 1, 2020

Moscow only recently relaxed its strict citizenship laws to allow individuals to hold Russian passports without rejecting their original nationalities.

In the short thread, Snowden emphasized that he and Mills would "remain Americans, raising our son with all the values of the America we love — including the freedom to speak his mind."

The former U.S. contractor is wanted in the U.S. on espionage charges after he leaked information showing that agents from the National Security Agency were collecting telephone records from millions of U.S. citizens.

Earlier this year, U.S. President Donald Trump said he would "take a look" at pardoning Snowden but has not made further comment on the matter.

A 2015 petition calling on then-president Barack Obama to pardon the whistleblower was rejected by the White House.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/11/02/edward-snowden-aims-to-become-dual-us-russian-citizen-a71926