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Russian Court Fines Wikipedia Over Ukraine Content

By AFP

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Vladimir Medeyko, Director of Wikimedia RU. **Nikolai Galkin / TASS**

A Russian court on Tuesday fined Wikipedia 2 million roubles ($32,600) over articles related to Moscow's offensive in Ukraine.

A Moscow-based group that supports projects by Wikipedia's owner Wikimedia said it was fined by Moscow's Tagansky district court for refusing to remove two articles related to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine.

Vladimir Medeiko, director of Moscow-based Wikimedia RU, said the ruling would be appealed, adding that "no one will remove" the articles.

"I don't think Wikimedia Foundation will pay the fine," he told AFP.

Earlier this year Russian authorities said that Wikimedia should pay 5 million rubles ($81,300)

worth of fines for a number of similar violations.

Related article: Russia Fines Google $360Mln Over Ukraine Content

President Vladimir Putin's decision to send troops to Ukraine on Feb. 24 has deepened a clampdown on freedom of speech and media in the country and sparked an exodus of independent Russian journalists.

Criticism of Russia's military intervention in Ukraine has essentially been banned in the country and describing the operation as a "war" and or "invasion" outlawed.

Russian authorities have slapped Western companies including Google and Telegram with massive fines over Ukraine-related content.

In July, a Moscow court fined Google 21 billion rubles ($360 million) for failing to remove content concerning Russia's military intervention in Ukraine.

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