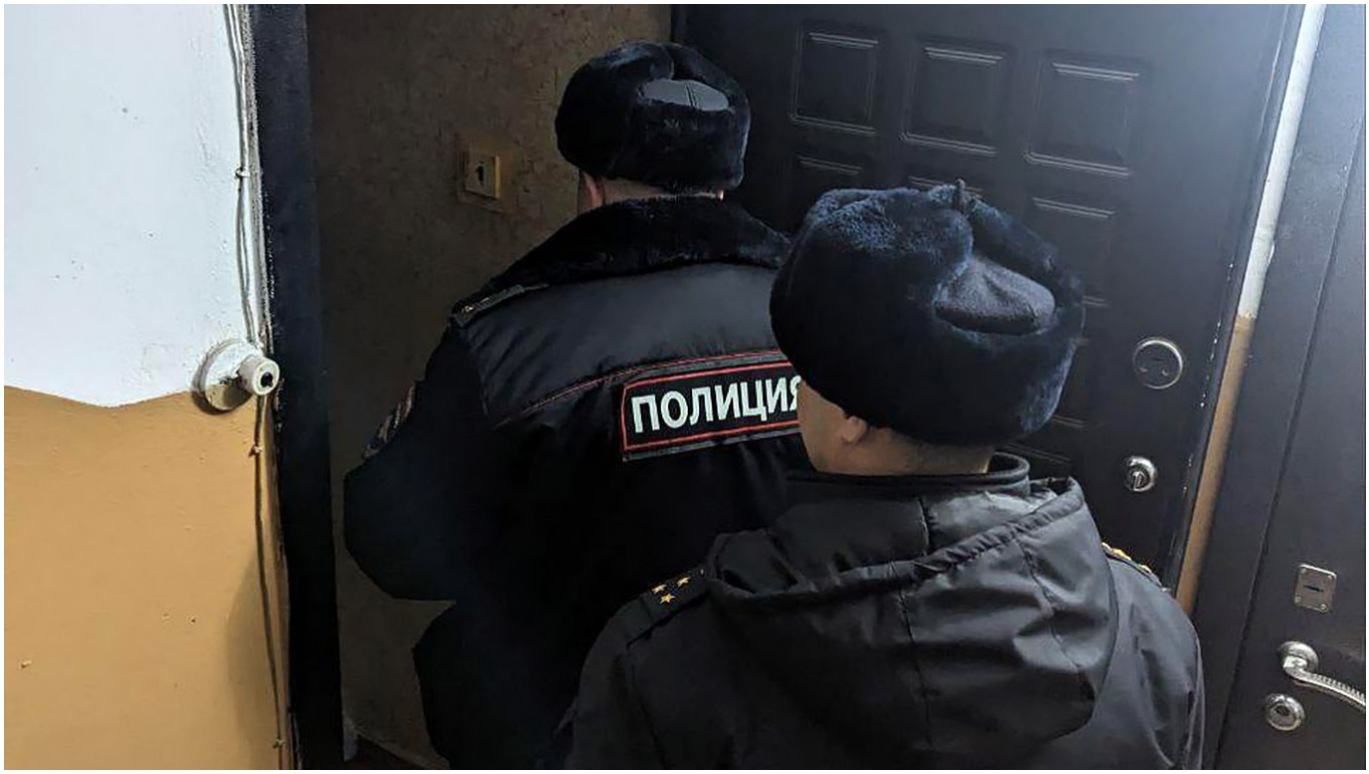
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Russian Police Search Homes of 'Undesirable' Opposition Politicians

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Social media

Russian law enforcement authorities carried out searches at the homes of four former opposition politicians in Moscow on suspicion that they have ties to an "undesirable" organization, state media reported Wednesday.

The former municipal deputies were named "founders and co-chairs" of an exiled association of anti-war local politicians called Deputies of Peaceful Russia, according to the news agency TASS.

Federal prosecutors banned the Berlin-based Deputies of Peaceful Russia last August on accusations that its founders are allegedly funded by Western intelligence agencies to carry out anti-Russian activities.

Last month, the Moscow prosecutor's office launched criminal proceedings against former municipal deputies Igor Glek, Ilya Azar, Yelena Rusakova and Sergei Vlasov over their involvement with the "undesirable" association.

According to TASS, investigators on Wednesday searched the apartments of Glek and Azar, as well as former municipal deputies Galina Filchenko and Nodari Khananashvili.

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The human rights watchdog OVD-Info reported that the searches were carried out at the homes of Azar's mother and Glek's relatives. Khananshvili's wife Polina Khananashvili was taken to a police station for questioning, according to OVD-Info.

Filchenko was released after questioning and named a witness in the criminal case, her lawyer Oskar Cherdzhiyev said.

Deputies of Peaceful Russia was established in the fall of 2023 with the aim of working toward ending Russia's war against Ukraine and representing the interests of exiled Russians.

The "undesirable" label effectively bans an organization from operating inside Russia and exposes its employees and affiliates to potential criminal prosecution.

Russia has used the "undesirable" designation to target opposition groups, foreign organizations and media outlets, including The Moscow Times, since introducing the law in 2015.

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