

# Russia Designates Reporters Without Borders ‘Undesirable’ Organization

August 14, 2025



**Robin Grassi/RSF**

Authorities in Moscow have designated Reporters Without Borders as an “undesirable” organization, Russian independent media [reported](#) on Thursday, though no reason was given for the move.

The organization, known by its French acronym RSF, is a Paris-based press freedom watchdog that monitors and advocates for the safety of journalists and unrestricted access to information worldwide.

Russia’s Justice Ministry added RSF to its “undesirable” list on June 27, but the designation appeared on the ministry’s website only on Thursday.

The designation bars RSF from operating in Russia. Under Russian law, individuals found to be affiliated with “undesirable” organizations face up to four years in prison, while organization leaders risk up to six years.

“By classifying RSF — an NGO that defends journalism — as an undesirable organization, the Kremlin's message is clear. It's continuing its crusade to gag all outspoken voices that expose its censorship and propaganda. But this will not silence us. We will continue to investigate and denounce its war against news and information, and to work to ensure that every Russian responsible for crimes against journalists, in Russia and Ukraine, is identified and prosecuted,” Thibaut Bruttin, RSF director general, [said](#) in a statement.

“In a way, being added to this list of some 250 organizations is an honor for RSF. The failure to give a reason suggests that the decision is a recognition of RSF's entire body of work, from the exfiltration of Russian journalists to the Svoboda satellite broadcasts,” Bruttin continued.

Russia introduced its “undesirable” law in 2015, using it to crack down on independent media, opposition groups and foreign organizations. Hundreds of organizations are currently blacklisted, including The Moscow Times, which was added to the list last summer.

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