

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**As the Threat from White Supremacy Continues to Rise Globally,  
a New Report Examines the First Such Group Sanctioned by the United States**

*Against the backdrop of a growing transnational white supremacist threat, the U.S. Department of State designates the Russian Imperial Movement as a terrorist organization in an unprecedented move against the group.*

**LINK TO REPORT**

**(New York, NY – 23 April, 2020)** Following the U.S. Department of State’s designation of the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM) as a terrorist organization, a new report by The Soufan Center examines the significance of this unprecedented move. Against the backdrop of a growing white supremacist threat, the new report *Inside the Russian Imperial Movement: Practical Implications of U.S. Sanctions* underscores the reality that violence stemming from increasingly transnational white supremacist and ultra-nationalist groups poses an equivalent, or perhaps even greater, threat to that of Salafi-jihadist groups like the Islamic State and al-Qaeda, to the U.S. homeland today.

On April 6, 2020, the State Department designated the Russian Imperial Movement as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) and designated three of the group’s leaders – the first time the U.S. government has taken such measures against a white supremacist group. In a critical assessment of these efforts, the new report concludes that the actions taken by the State Department present both a major symbolic milestone and a practical step in U.S. and international efforts to counter violent white supremacy and its broader transnational network.

The new report sheds light on the ambitions and activities of the Russian Imperial Movement, an ultra-nationalist and paramilitary group based in Saint Petersburg, Russia. The Russian Imperial Movement and the Imperial Legion, the group’s military wing, have been responsible for training white supremacist terrorists and cooperating with U.S.-based white supremacist groups and individuals. The report underscores the need for the United States and its allies to continue collecting and analyzing intelligence on the transnational nature of white supremacy extremist groups like the Russian Imperial Movement, as this will help map out connections and overlap between the groups that comprise this movement. These violent organizations frequently take advantage of overseas conflicts and destabilizing events to connect, engage in battlefield training, and share knowledge.

Since 2017, The Soufan Center has [documented](#) the existence of a global network of white supremacist extremist groups that stretches across North America, Europe, Australia and beyond.

## **Global Threat, Global Tools**

“Designating a violent white supremacist organization is an unprecedented and welcome move which will afford U.S. law enforcement, intelligence, and financial authorities an expanded set of tools to counter the white supremacist threat, many that have been used for combatting the threat from Salafi-jihadist organizations, including monitoring communications and sharing intelligence with allies. Now that the U.S. has designated one violent white supremacist group, there lies a precedent for our government to go after other like-minded groups and individuals,” remarks Ali Soufan, founder of The Soufan Center.

## **ABOUT THE SOUFAN CENTER (TSC)**

Based in New York, The Soufan Center is a non-partisan strategy center dedicated to serving as a resource and forum for research, analysis and strategic dialogue related to global security issues and emergent threats. Please contact **Stephanie Foggett** with any inquiries or interview requests: [stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org](mailto:stephanie.foggett@thesoufancenter.org).

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