

Information Note

on the risks of prosecution in the Russian Federation for individuals allegedly associated with the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK)

1. Purpose of the Document

This document has been prepared to provide a brief overview of circumstances that may indicate a risk of politically motivated persecution in the Russian Federation against individuals whom the Russian authorities may consider to be associated with the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and its projects, including employees, volunteers, supporters, or donors.

The document is intended to be submitted as explanatory material to foreign government authorities, employers, educational institutions, human rights organizations, and other parties who may need to understand the nature of the potential risks faced by the applicant in the event of returning to Russia, traveling to Russia, or otherwise coming under the jurisdiction of entities cooperating with Russian authorities.

2. General Context

In August 2021, following a decision by the Moscow City Court that entered into force, the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) was designated as an extremist organization in Russia. In March 2026, the U.S.-registered legal entity of FBK was also added by the Russian authorities to the list of terrorist organizations based on a closed decision of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation. In addition, in February 2026, the organization was included in the corresponding list maintained by the Russian state agency — Rosfinmonitoring. It is worth noting that FBK appears on this list immediately after META PLATFORMS INC, which owns Facebook and Instagram, further indicating the arbitrary and repressive nature of such designations.

In practice, Russian law enforcement applies legislation on countering extremism and terrorism not only to formal members of the organization, but much more broadly: to former employees, volunteers, donors, public supporters, as well as individuals whom security services, at their discretion, consider to be affiliated with prohibited organizations.

3. Activities That May Be Considered Grounds for Prosecution by Russian Authorities

Under current Russian law enforcement practice, the risk of criminal prosecution may arise in connection with the following:

- having worked for FBK or provided services under civil contracts;
- having participated in volunteer activities;
- having made donations;
- having shared or published materials, or publicly supported the organization's activities;
- having taken part in events, broadcasts, or other public activities;
- any other actions that law enforcement may interpret as assisting, justifying, promoting, or financing a prohibited organization.

In addition, third parties may also face risk if authorities determine that they were aware of another person's alleged involvement in the organization and failed to report it.

4. Severity of Potential Charges and Penalties

Since the organization was designated as terrorist, the potential charges have become significantly more serious.

Participation in an extremist organization is punishable by up to 6 years in prison. Participation in a terrorist organization carries a sentence of 10 to 20 years in a high-security penal colony. Financing a terrorist organization can lead to 8 to 15 years' imprisonment, and in some cases, life imprisonment. Charges of "justifying" or "promoting" terrorism carry penalties of up to 7 years in prison.

In practice, these laws are applied broadly and unpredictably. The classification of specific actions often depends on the discretion of investigators and expert witnesses. Cases of this kind are typically heard in military district courts, where non-custodial sentences are rarely imposed.

5. Additional Legal and Practical Consequences

The risks for individuals deemed to be associated with FBK are not limited to potential criminal prosecution. Such cases may also involve a range of serious additional consequences, including:

- a ban on leaving the Russian Federation;
- refusal to issue or renew an international passport;
- freezing of bank accounts in Russia;
- inclusion on the official list of extremists and terrorists;
- restrictions on the use or disposal of real estate;
- searches, detention, and other law enforcement measures.

These consequences can significantly affect a person's personal safety, freedom of movement, property rights, and financial situation.

6. International Assessment of the Nature of the Prosecution

The prosecution of individuals associated with FBK has been recognized at the international legal and political levels as unlawful and politically motivated.

On December 16, 2025, the European Court of Human Rights, in “Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and Others v. Russia”, found that the actions of the Russian authorities against FBK, its staff, and its regional offices were unlawful, politically motivated, and in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights.¹

1. European Court of Human Rights. (2025, December 16). Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) and Others v. Russia (Application No. 13 505/20 and others). <https://www.echr.coe.int/judgment-concerning-the-russian-federation-20>

On December 1, 2025, the European Union, through its diplomatic mission in the Russian Federation, stated that the designation of the U.S.-registered legal entity of FBK as a “terrorist organization” is an example of the misuse of Russian “terrorism” and “extremism” legislation to suppress opposition views and independent civic activity.²

In July 2025, the U.S. Department of State, in its Human Rights Report, also cited cases involving alleged participation in FBK as examples of politically motivated or fabricated charges.³

7. Conclusion

In light of current Russian legislation, its established enforcement practices, and the international assessment of these developments, individuals whom the Russian authorities may associate with FBK face a real risk of politically motivated prosecution.

This risk may arise not only from formal involvement in the organization’s activities, but also from other forms of association, including donations, volunteering, public support, dissemination of materials, participation in events, and other activities that Russian authorities may interpret broadly.

In case of returning to the Russian Federation, traveling through jurisdictions cooperating with Russian authorities, or otherwise coming within the reach of Russian law enforcement, such individuals may face criminal prosecution, restrictions on their freedom of movement, asset freezes, and other serious legal consequences.

For any legal inquiries or further information, please contact the Legal Team at pravo@navalny.com

2. The Delegation of the European Union to the Russian Federation. (2025, December 1). Statement on the designation of the Anti-Corruption Foundation (FBK) as a “terrorist organization” [Telegram post]. <https://t.me/EUinRU/1486>

3. U.S. Department of State. (2025). 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Russia. https://state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/624521_RUSSIA-2024-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf