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NEWS

Watchdog presses for ban on Jehovah's Witnesses magazines



Tags: Extremism, Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Russia, Moscow

CONTEXT

Regional head of Jehovah's Witnesses appeals extremism case sentence

Court finds regional head of Jehovah's Witnesses guilty of extremism

Court finishes investigating Jehovah's Witnesses extremism case

Married couple of Jehovah's Witnesses to stand trial for extremism

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12:41 17/11/2011

MOSCOW, November 17 - RAPSI, Alyona Yegorova. A watchdog contested the commercial court's judgment quashing the ban on the distribution of the Awake! and Watchtower magazines published by Jehovah's Witnesses, a court told the Russian Legal Information Agency (RAPSI) on Thursday.

Jehovah's Witnesses is an international religious organization. It has often been characterized as a totalitarian pseudo-Christian sect by mainstream religious representatives.

As of August 2009, the organization counted about seven million members.

On April 6, 2010, the Federal Service for Supervision of Communications, Information Technology and Mass Media cancelled the magazines distribution license issued by the State Committee for the Press in 1997. The reason was that Russian courts declared some of their stories extremist.

The Moscow Commercial Court invalidated the watchdog's order because it prohibited the distribution of all magazines, while only part of their stories were found extremist.

Wachtturm Bibel and Traktat-Gesellschaft, Deutscher Zweig, e.V, which obtained the license, and the Jehovah's Witnesses management center responsible for the distribution contested the orders.

Jehovah's Witnesses alleged that the orders are unlawful because press publication and distribution are its core economic activities and its rights have been violated by disputable orders.

The watchdog argued that the organization's business is conducted beyond Russia and is not subject to Russian law.



TOP NEWS

NLMK wins lawsuit against MAXI-Group head Nikolai Maximov in Amsterdam



17:19 18/11/2011 An Amsterdam court has held in favor of a Russian iron and steel corporation to dismiss a businessman's lawsuit.

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Infographics: Bribes and punishments

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14:55 18/11/2011 The State Duma adopted in the second reading a government draft law proposing to imprison individuals registering firms on third parties to commit crimes in addition to those establishing fly-by-night companies.

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10:35 18/11/2011 Yevgeni Tenenbaum, who headed Sibneft's financial department, described at London High Court of Justice, where the \$5.5 billion dispute between exiled oligarch Boris Berezovsky and billionaire Roman Abramovich is being heard, the Russian market's specific character and how Sibneft's value was assessed.

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