



Discriminatory incidents in Russian football 2017 – 2018

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Imprint:

Published in May 2018, by SOVA Center for Information and Analysis, and the Fare network

Cover Photo: Fans during the 2017/2018 Russian National Football League match between Rotor Volgograd and Luch Energiya Vladivostok at Volgograd Arena Stadium. The stadium hosts the first test match ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

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Introduction

This is the fourth report prepared jointly by the Fare network and the SOVA Center for Information and Analysis on discrimination in Russian football. The scope of the study is racism, nationalism, homophobia and sexism during the period from June 2017 to May 2018.

We have employed the same methodology as we have in previous reports – which covered the six seasons from 2012 to 2017 - to analyse cases of discrimination and far-right activity in Russian football using public sources, closed discussion groups, and online fan forums as sources for the data. All of the incidents we list are done so on the basis that there is clear evidence of their existence.

We have limited the scope of our monitoring to professional competitions – Russian clubs in the UEFA Champions League and Europa League, the Russian Championship organised by the Russian Football Premier League (RFPL) and the Russian Football National League (FNL), the FNL Cup championships as well as those of the Professional Football League (PFL), and Russian Cup matches.

There is little chance of making an accurate count of discriminatory displays in amateur competitions, these events take place in multiple locations across Russia and photographic evidence of what is happening in the stands is almost non-existent.

The total number of discriminatory incidents we recorded during the 2017/ 2018 football season continued to decline. However, the picture is more complicated, these figures represent only the tip of the iceberg of the actual numbers of incidents.

FAR-RIGHT BANNERS

Especially notable was a decline in the number of **far-right banners** displayed. And although we estimate that the actual number of banners was potentially higher than we were able to record, the statistical change can be attributed to several factors. Credit must be given to the security operations at many clubs for being effective in stopping them from being brought into stadiums. This applies in particular to banners featuring “Teivaz”, “Odal”, “Zig”, “Algiz” and “Yr” runes, these were all symbols used in Nazi Germany and are unambiguously associated with far-right ideology.

We did notice that some banners were allowed into stadiums with runes partly covered with duct tape.

It also appears that the media services of some clubs, especially at smaller outfits, have avoided focusing on supporter banners in their photographic reports. This suggests that in stadiums in which fans persist in raising them the clubs are increasingly refusing to give publicity to the banners.

There are however examples of continuing disregard by some clubs. FC Chertanovo Moscow was fined for displaying a banner featuring runes and fans of the club were repeatedly witnessed displaying neo-Nazi symbols in the stands.

Notably this season we have not recorded a single banner bearing the Celtic Cross a very popular neo-Nazi symbol. However, it is still popular among fans – and is still, for example, widely seen in graffiti.

CHANTING

Following a relatively low number of **discriminatory chants** in the previous season, during 2017/18 the numbers of such chants have increased considerably. These include **monkey chants, neo-Nazi songs and anti-Caucasian** chants as well as the use of homophobic slurs. We report 19 cases this season compared to 2 last season and 10 the season before.

A particularly big case involved Spartak Moscow in which thousands of their fans were involved in a racist chant against the Brazilian-born Russia national team goalkeeper, Guilherme.

The rise of **homophobia** inside stadiums is new, we now see fans labelling opponents as 'gay' as a means of abuse more often than ever before. This is a practice that takes sustenance from state-led homophobia, but has been copied from leagues in western Europe.

These levels of discriminatory chanting indicate that xenophobic views remain deeply rooted among many Russian football fans.

We note that despite the attention of the media and efforts of the Russian Football Union, fans continue to direct **monkey chants** at black players regularly.

The Russian Football Union (RFU) anti-discrimination officer Alexei Smertin launched an observer system at domestic competitions this season, which has had a positive impact on recording and action taken by the RFU. Thanks to the RFU observers a significant number of chants on the terraces have been documented, and clubs have faced more disciplinary action than ever before. In general the issues are far higher up on the agenda for action.

VICTIM-BLAMING

However, following a trend from the previous season the RFU Disciplinary Committee has continued to punish **players and coaches who react to being abused by racist chants** with two-match bans, while ignoring the perpetrators, or applying inadequate fines. This practice amounts to a form of victim blaming and reflects an ignorance of the dynamics of racism. It is the wrong signal to send if one is serious about tackling the issue and leads to the victims of abuse feeling unprotected and isolated during matches.

VIOLENCE

Physical hate crimes committed by Russian far-right fans remain a problem. During the 2017/ 2018 season we noted an attack on a group of students from Iraq by fans in Orel and a fight between fans in Kirov and a mobilisation of anti-racists. A year earlier we also noted two similar acts of violence. It is clear to us that the levels of far-right violence and hate- motivated attacks will be higher than those reported.

ABUSE BY PLAYERS AND MANAGEMENT

We also saw this year that racist and xenophobic views are not only confined to fans. During the 2017/ 2018 season there were several cases of **racist comments by players, club management teams and the media**.

WORK BY THE RUSSIAN FA

Despite some efforts by the Russian government and football authorities to prevent discriminatory incidents involving fans in recent years, the in-stadium observer system, and more consistent penalties for clubs, the problem of racism and discrimination in Russian football is far from resolved.

In our view the Russian authorities began to show serious commitment to resolving the issue too late. Time that could have been spent on building a new model of relationships with fans and changing the culture has been missed.

WORLD CUP 2018

There are reasons to hope that during the 2018 FIFA World Cup the authorities will not allow serious violent incidents involving football hooligans to take place by using all the resources of law enforcement agencies and special services.

However, we do not have as much confidence in the prevention of non-violent racist incidents, despite the many well intentioned reassurances.

The atmosphere of the World Cup and the make-up and variety of fans in the stadiums will differ significantly from the environment in the domestic league. But if representatives of active fan groups are present in the stands and nearby to stadiums, the risk of racist and homophobic incidents will increase. We hope the preventive measures being taken by law enforcement agencies and the spirit that brings people together will keep those fans with provocative intentions off the World Cup and it will be held in the spirit of equality and understanding.

SUMMARY

- The total number of incidents continued to decline, in particular the number of far-right banners.
- No single banner featuring a Celtic Cross (the most popular far-right symbol) recorded this season
- A sharp increase in the number of discriminatory chants, including monkey chants, indicates deeply rooted issues and a lack of educational and preventative efforts by clubs
- The number of homophobic displays is on the rise, the result of widespread institutionalised homophobia in society, legitimised through legislation
- The Russian Football Union are to be commended for the implementation of the monitoring system by Alexey Smertin. He and his whose should be given credit for the number and nature of incidents they exposed and sanctioned through disciplinary measures
- Dangerous trend of sanctioning victims of racism with a two-match ban continues, players who become victims of racism remain unprotected

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

Racist, far-right, discriminatory displays in Russian football. June 2017 – May 2018

Type of action

Banners, other visual displays in the stands, graffiti	52
Discriminatory chanting	19
Attacks	2
Discriminatory utterances by players	2
Discriminatory utterances by management	2
Media	3
Total:	80

Type of discrimination

Far-right and neo-Nazi symbols and slogans	51
Anti-black racism	12
Against people from the North-Caucasus	1
Against Armenians	1
Against Iraqis	1
Anti-Semitism	1
Homophobia	12
Attacks on anti-fascists	1
Total:	80

BANNERS

July 15: During the match between FC Kuban Krasnodar and FC Khimki, Krasnodar fans displayed a banner reading “Korenovtsy” in runic letters including the Odal rune.



July 18: During the match between Dinamo Moscow and Spartak Moscow fans of Dinamo displayed a homophobic banner reading “Hello, pigs. Slaves of the gay”. On July 20, the RFU Disciplinary Committee fined Dinamo RUB 25000 for ‘displaying an unauthorised banner’.



July 19: During the match between FC Tekstilshchik Ivanovo and FC Chertanovo, away fans displayed a banner reading “Chertanovo Moskva” in runic letter, including the Odal and Tiwaz runes.



July 19: During the match between FC Saturn Ramenskoye and FC Dynamo Bryansk away fans displayed a banner reading “Krepysny” with an image of a warrior against the background of a ‘Kolovrat’.



July 21: During the CSKA Moscow v Lokomotiv derby a banner reading “Merry in life, fearless in battle” featuring Tiwaz and Odal runes was displayed by CSKA fans.



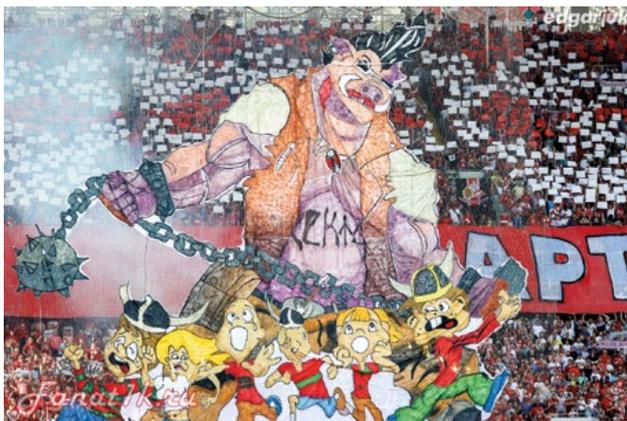
July 27: During the match between FC Luki-Energiya Velikiye Luki and FC Kazanka Moscow the home fans displayed a banner reading “Velikoluchane” in runic letters, featuring the Odal rune.



August 19: At the Spartak Moscow v Lokomotiv Moscow match a banner reading “Krasnogorskie”, with Odal runes partially covered by duct tape, was displayed by Spartak fans.



At the same game, Spartak ultras organised a tifo performance featuring the logo of the ‘Sekta’ hooligan group with the letter ‘T’ replaced by a Tiwaz rune.



August 27: During the match between FC Luki-Energiya Velikiye Luki and FC Torpedo Vladimir the home fans displayed a banner reading “Velikoluchane” in runic letters featuring the Odal rune.



September 2: At the FK Yenisey Krasnoyarsk match against Rotor Volgograd the home fans displayed a banner made up of two sheets featuring the motto of the Nazi SS troops – “Our Honor is called loyalty” in Russian.



September 8: During the match between Amkar Perm and CSKA Moscow the away fans displayed a banner reading “Votkinsk”, featuring Odal and Tiwaz runes.



September 9: In St. Petersburg during FC Tosno v Anzhi Makhachkala the home fans displayed a banner reading “Tosno White Boys”.



September 16: During a match between FC Pskov-747 and FC Luki-Energiya Velikiye Luki the away team fans displayed a banner reading “Velikoluchane” in runic letters, featuring the Odal rune.



September 16: during FC Chertanovo v FC Torpedo Vladimir the home fans displayed a banner featuring the Odal rune. The club was consequently fined RUB 50 000 by the RFU disciplinary.



October 28: During FC Khimki v Kuban fans of the Krasnodar club displayed a banner reading “Korenovtsy” in runic letters including the Odal rune.



November 4: During FC Volga Ulyanovsk v FC Ural-2 Yekaterinburg a banner reading “Simbirsk Ultras” featuring the Tiwaz rune was displayed by the home fans.



October 21: When FC Fakel Voronezh met FC Khimki a “Meteor” (Voronezh) banner featuring symbols styled after Zig runes was displayed.



November 19: In St. Petersburg during Zenit v FC Tosno the away fans displayed a banner reading “Tosno White Boys”.



November 23: During a UEFA Europa League fixture between Zenit and Vardar, St. Petersburg fans displayed a text banner reading “Ratko Mladic – the hero of Serbia”. On the same day, Zenit issued a statement condemning the display of the banner. The UEFA Disciplinary sanctioned Zenit with a partial stadium closure and € 10,000 fine.



November 25: During FC Fakel Voronezh v FC Tambov fans of Tambov once again displayed the Russian Imperial Flag featuring the Odal rune.



November 26: During Rubin Kazan v CSKA Moscow the away fans displayed a banner featuring the Odal and Tiwaz runes partially covered by duct tape and stickers.



November 27: During Spartak v Zenit the home fans displayed a banner reading “Yuri Budanov – Russian hero”. The RFU Disciplinary Committee fined Spartak RUB 25 000 rubles for the ‘display of an unauthorised banner’.



December 10: During the Spartak v CSKA derby Spartak fans displayed a banner featuring the Odal rune partially covered with duct tape.



At the same fixture, Spartak fans displayed a banner targeting CSKA goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev reading “We don’t need gay parades, we have Igor Akinfeev.”



In February, at the FNL Cup (an off-season friendly tournament taking place in Turkey), fans of FC Fakel displayed their “Meteor Voronezh” flag featuring Zig runes.



February 28: A “Tosno White Boys” banner referring to “white heritage” was displayed in St. Petersburg at the Russian Cup match between FC Tosno and Luch-Energiya.



March 10: During Luch-Energiya v FC Orenburg the away fans displayed a banner reading “Moloty”, featuring the Odal rune.



April 12: During the UEFA Europa League fixture between CSKA Moscow and Arsenal the home fans displayed a banner reading “Strakha net” with the letter “t” in the style of a Tiwaz rune, as well as a banner reading “Belka Front” featuring Odal and Tiwaz runes, which were partially covered by stickers.



May 5: At a game between Lokomotiv Moscow and Zenit St. Petersburg, away fans displayed a banner targeting Lokomotiv president Ilya Gerkus and the club's fans: "Gerkus is gay, like the whole movement. Yuri Palych – respect!". Zenit were fined RUB 25 000 by the RFU disciplinary for 'displaying an unauthorised banner'.



OTHER VISUAL DISPLAYS AT MATCHES

July 8: When FC Orenburg met FC Tambov, Orenburg fans displayed a T-shirt featuring the number "88", a reference to a neo-Nazi numerical code. Following a brief confrontation with the club's security service some fans left the stands.



August 15: Ahead of the UEFA Champions League play-off fixture between Young Boys and CSKA Moscow, two Russians appeared in a photograph with a Swiss policeman. One of the fans wore a T-shirt with Odal and Tiwaz runes and a Nazi SS slogan reading "My honour is loyalty" in Russian.



December 2: At Dinamo v Rostov a Dinamo supporter was photographed in the crowd wearing a scarf with a Celtic cross prominently displayed.

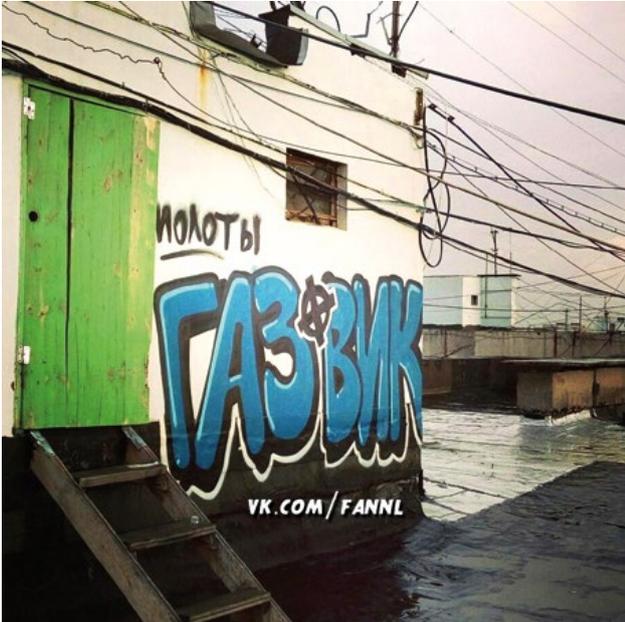


April 9: At the CSKA v Dinamo Moscow derby a CSKA fan displayed a T-shirt reading "Moscow brigadiers" in runic letters featuring the Odal rune.



LARGE IMAGES AND INSCRIPTIONS IN URBAN SPACES

In August, FC Orenburg fans published a photograph of their new graffiti featuring a Celtic cross.



In August, a photograph was published of graffiti by Dinamo fans that featured a Celtic cross. It was then painted over by Zenit fans, although the Celtic cross remained in place.



November 26: On the day Rubin Kazan played CSKA Moscow graffiti reading 'CSKA rules' along with a swastika appeared on one of the buildings in Kazan. On the same day, a criminal case under Art. 214 Part 1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (vandalism) was initiated, and a suspect, a 16-year-old CSKA fan and Moscow resident, was detained.

In November a picture of the repainted Zenit graffiti was published. The repainted version by FC Baltika Kaliningrad fans featured a rainbow flag reading 'Gay Pride'. In a homophobic worldview, labelling the opponents as 'gay' is considered an insult.



CHANTING

July 14: During the Russian Super Cup several thousand Spartak Moscow fans chanted a racist chant “Banana, banana-mama, why the f** our national team needs a monkey?” aimed at Lokomotiv Moscow’s Brazilian-born goalkeeper Guilherme Marinato, who received Russian citizenship and currently plays for the Russian national team. The incident was recorded by the Russian Football Union monitoring system, and Spartak were fined RUB 250 000.

July 15: During the FC Avangard Kursk v FC Tambov match Kursk fans were recorded by the RFU observers chanting neo-Nazi slogans. The club was fined RUB 50 000 by the RFU Disciplinary.

July 18: When Dinamo played Spartak, Dinamo fans imitated monkey noises and displayed explicit discriminatory gestures directed at Spartak’s black players. The incident was recorded by the RFU monitoring system observers and Dinamo were consequently fined RUB 250 000.

July 26: During Zenit-2 v FC Sibir Novosibirsk in the Football National League Zenit’s French midfielder Yohan Mollo was subjected to homophobic insults by his own team’s fans. The player reacted by raising his middle finger to the fans and was subsequently banned by the RFU Disciplinary for two matches. After the final whistle the player told *Sport Express* that the chants and gesture were a joke between him and the fans, refraining from further explanation. “It was just a joke – they were playing with me and I did the same. Sorry, but there is no point in discussing a problem that does not exist,” said Mollo.

The homophobic chants against Mollo come after the player posted a video on Instagram where he is kissed on the forehead by a man in bed. The post received a stream of homophobic abuse on the social media platform from fans of the club and was later deleted. The man in the video was later identified as Mollo’s father.

September 25: FC Ararat Moscow v FC Torpedo was marred by a series of discriminatory chants towards Ararat head coach Alexander Grigoryan and his players. At the end of the match the 50-year-old Armenian coach was visibly upset, raising the middle finger to the opposing team fans.

Video footage obtained by Fare shows Torpedo Moscow fans chanting racist and homophobic slurs

towards the coach and his players, including “black yellow f**gots” and “black asses”.

After the final whistle Grigoryan told the media: “Do you think I should keep quiet after being disrespected by chants like this, “black ass” and so on?”

Torpedo were fined RUB 50 000 by the RFU Disciplinary, while Ararat’s coach received a two-match ban for reacting to the abuse.

September 26: During the UEFA Youth League match between Spartak Moscow and Liverpool the Liverpool player of Nigerian origin, Bobby Adekanye, was subjected to racist insults (gestures and chants) by Russian fans when he was entering the game as a second half. The UEFA Disciplinary Committee sanctioned Spartak’s Under-19 team with a partial stadium closure, ordering them to display the “#EqualGame” banner with UEFA logo’s on the entire closed part of the stadium.

September 30: during FC Tyumen v Sibir fans of the Novosibirsk club chanted neo-Nazi slogans, as identified in the RFU Disciplinary ruling. Sibir were fined RUB 50 000 and given a warning.

November 25: At the Russian Cup match between Spartak Moscow and Spartak Nalchik the home fans were involved in discriminatory chanting. The RFU anti-discrimination officer Alexei Smertin sent a letter describing the incident to the RFU Disciplinary, which led to a RUB 100 000 fine imposed on Spartak and a partial stadium closure for one match, deferred for a probationary period.

March 4: Spartak fans repeated the same racist chant targeting Lokomotiv goalkeeper Guilherme Marinato. Following the report of the RFU anti-discrimination officer Alexei Smertin the Disciplinary Committee fined Spartak RUB 350,000 and ordered a partial stadium closure for one Russian Premier League home fixture, deferred for a probationary period until the end of the season.

March 15: During the UEFA Europa League fixture between Zenit and RB Leipzig, St. Petersburg fans chanted a verse from a song titled “They killed a nigr” by the Russian rock band “Forbidden Drummers” targeting Leipzig midfielder Naby Keita while he received medical treatment on the pitch.

March 27: In St. Petersburg during a FIFA friendly between the Russian and French national teams

several Russian fans were caught on TV aiming monkey chants at French national team players including Paul Pogba. In May, FIFA fined the Russian Football Union CHF 30,000. The RFU made a statement suggesting that the fans identified by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia should pay the fine.

FC Luch-Energiya fans launched a campaign against their own team coach Alexander Grigoryan, repeatedly chanting "Grigoryan is a rooster" and other insults at several matches. These incidents took place on March 10th during a home match against FC Orenburg, on April 7th during a home match against Yenisei and on April 15th during an away game at FC Fakel. In the latter case, fans of both teams were found to have engaged in the chanting. The chant is associated with the homophobic term in Russian criminal culture. The RFU Disciplinary Committee fined Luch RUB 50 000 for singing 'offensive chants aimed at humiliating human dignity' and ordered a partial stadium closure, deferred for a probationary period. FC Fakel received a RUB 10 000 fine for the same chanting.

April 15: At the same match against Luch, FC Fakel Voronezh fans chanted a neo-Nazi slogan "White Power". The club was fined RUB 50 000 by the RFU Disciplinary.

On April 12 during the UEFA Europa League fixture between CSKA Moscow and Arsenal a Reuters agency photographer reported hearing racist chanting towards several Arsenal players. No evidence of the incident is available; thus, the incident is not included in the statistical overview.

April 14: At Zenit v Anzhi the home fans were recorded chanting "Ziga-zaga" which is often used among far-right fans to substitute the Nazi greeting 'Sieg Heil'. The RFU Disciplinary Committee fined Zenit RUB 100 000 fine for racist chanting.

April 18: During the Russian Cup semi-finals, Spartak fans imitated monkey noises targeting FC Tosno's Cape Verdean midfielder Nuno Rocha. The incident was also recorded by the RFU monitoring system. Spartak were fined RUB 100 000 and ordered to close part of their stadium for their next home game in the Russian Cup.

During the same match, discriminatory chant featuring homophobic language against the referee was also recorded.

April 22: At the CSKA Moscow v Krasnodar match, CSKA Moscow fans aimed a similarly homophobic

chant at the rapper Basta (Vasily Vakulenko), with whom they had previously had conflict.

PHYSICAL ATTACKS

August 5: In Orel a group of fans celebrating the 21st anniversary of the "Orel Butchers" hooligan group marched along the central street in Orel chanting "Orel (is) a white city". They then assaulted three Iraqi students on the street. Following the incident, Russian police opened criminal proceedings. Based on this under Art. 213 Part 2 of the Criminal Code (group hooliganism), two fans, 19 and 20 years old, were detained.

In early January 2018 fans of FC Dinamo Kirov reported a fight with the 'antifa'. According to their report, a criminal case was opened and the attackers were detained.

OTHER CASES OF FAR-RIGHT ACTIVITIES

July 2017: A fund-raising campaign was launched on social media collecting money for a Dinamo Barnaul fan charged with Art. 282 of the Criminal Code (incitement to hatred). No further details of the case are available.

August 9: Three Lokomotiv Moscow fans were detained in Kazan ahead of the match against the local team Rubin. They were charged with several administrative offences including Art. 20.3 (public display of Nazi symbols).

STATEMENTS BY PLAYERS

On **August 10th** in Grozny during the match between FC Akhmat Grozny and Krasnodar, Brazilian-born Akhmat defender Rodolfo and Krasnodar midfielder Pavel Mamayev had a conflict on the pitch which later continued in the dugout. During the TV broadcasting of the game the footage caught a dialogue including phrases "Who is the monkey? You called me a monkey?!" - apparently addressed by Rodolfo to Mamayev during the half time break. After the game Mamayev extended his apologies to Rodolfo, and the latter accepted them. Therefore, FC Akhmat did not lodge a formal complaint, considering the matter closed. Due to no formal

complaints, the RFU Disciplinary did not open an investigation into the incident.

On **December 6th** Liverpool filed a complaint against the racist behaviour of Spartak Moscow youth team captain Leonid Mironov, after the English club's forward Rhian Brewster reported he was subjected to racist insults by Mironov during a UEFA Youth League fixture. UEFA's control, ethics and disciplinary body launched an investigation but later closed the proceedings, citing not enough evidence to sanction Mironov.

On **January 13th**, defender Georgiy Dzhikiya published a video on Spartak Moscow's official Twitter account featuring his three black teammates, alongside the caption "Look how the chocolates melt in the sun". In the Russian context such a video was not perceived as xenophobic, but it received wide coverage abroad and provoked a strong reaction from the international media. Spartak officially apologised for Dzhikiya's tweet. On January 23th the RFU Ethics Committee found Leonid Trachtenberg, director of Spartak's media department, responsible for the content of Spartak's Twitter feed. Trachtenberg was fined RUB 20,000 while Georgiy Dzhikiya was reprimanded¹.

CLUBS MANAGEMENT STATEMENTS

In October, in an interview with *Sport Express* newspaper, FC Amkar executive director, Denis Maslov, said he had not met and hoped not to meet any gays in Russian football, arguing against the "propaganda" of homosexual relations and "vowing" that Amkar players are all heterosexual. These statements were not included in the printed version of the interview but remained on record in a video version published on YouTube. Maslov's statements did not receive any response from the RFU.

On March 7th the acting governor of Primorsky Krai, Andrei Tarasenko, commented on local club FC Luch-Energiya's transfer policy, stating: "We would like to have players from Primorskiy Krai on our team, Russian players. There won't be any negroes here." The policy is openly supported by the regional authorities.

MEDIA

The Kaliningrad newspaper "New wheels by Igor Rudnikov" was noted for publishing two provocative headlines exploiting racial stereotypes. In August, the newspaper published an article titled "Negro Sirima Gafar has attracted interest from the police. An illegal migrant from Africa was found in FC Baltika", and in September: "A Negro's riot against the referee" mentioning FC Baltika's Ivorian player Senin Sebai. FC Baltika's management announced court proceedings against the newspaper and published a statement against xenophobia on their club website.

In October, the 'Eurosport' web-site released a piece about Asier Illaramendi, exploring anti-Semitic stereotypes in the headline.

¹ This incident is not included into our statistical overview.

About SOVA Center for Information and Analysis



SOVA Center was created in October 2002. Information about its activities can be found on <http://sova-center.ru>, with daily updated sections. The website's general principles are news, resumes of public debates and our own articles and reports structured thematically, with links provided to the majority of useful sources.

On the site you will see statistics of hate crimes as well as criminal law enforcement statistics – both legitimate and illegitimate – in the sphere of anti-extremist legislation and its application.

Subject-Specific Sections of the website:

“Racism and Xenophobia” – hate crimes and manifestations of nationalism and xenophobia, attempts by government and civil society to counteract it, and public discussions on this subject.

“Religion in Secular Society” – news and discussions relating to interfaith relations, and the varied conflicts between secular institutions and religious confessions.

“Misuse of Anti-Extremism” – a misuse of anti-extremism legislation in order to unjustly limit civic freedom.

You can also sign up to a daily newsletter for the entire site or for any individual section.

Since 2008, SOVA has published about 30 books, including collections of annual reports “Xenophobia, Freedom of Consciousness and Anti-Extremism in Russia”, in Russian and English; two issues of methodological recommendations “Aggressive Xenophobia Monitoring”; collections on Russian nationalism, the last one – “Russia is not Ukraine: contemporary accents of nationalism” (2014); a reference book “Radical Russian Nationalism: Structures, Ideas, Faces” (2009), a collection of translations “Racism: Modern Western Approaches” (2010), monographs “Political Orthodoxy” (2003), “Ethnicity and Equality in Russia: Specific Perception” (2012), “What Is Ethnic Discrimination and What can Be Done About It?” (2012), “State Policy regarding National-radical associations. 1991–2002” (2013), “Criminal Law in OSCE countries against hate crimes, incitement of hatred and hate speech” (2014).

On December 30, 2016, the Ministry of Justice forcibly included SOVA Center on the list of “non-profit organizations performing the functions of a foreign agent”. We disagree with this decision and have filed an appeal against it.

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About FARE

The Fare network is an umbrella organisation of 124 members from 39 countries. Members are NGO's, fans, ethnic minority organisations, LGBT+ groups and others.

At the heart of Fare's work is tackling discrimination in football, including racism, far-right nationalism, sexism, trans- and homophobia and discrimination against disabled people, and work on social inclusion initiatives using football.

Fare focuses on advancing the social inclusion of marginalised and disenfranchised groups, while engaging policy makers, governing bodies and the wider public in the process.

The annual **Football People** action weeks, is one of the largest social initiatives in sport with over 2,000 activities taking place in more than 60 countries in Europe and beyond.

In 2013 Fare developed and implemented an observer scheme at European level matches as part of its work to tackle and educate against discrimination, and challenge far-right extremism inside football stadiums. A similar system was adopted and implemented at FIFA 2018 World Cup qualifiers.

Fare works to promote a message of diversity at football mega events, including UEFA Euro 2004, FIFA World Cup 2006, UEFA Euro 2008, Euro 2012, Euro 2016 and FIFA Confederations Cup 2017 and the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

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