



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 17, 2025 · 17 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1901630740002975785](#)

In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll introduce a Russian propagandist, Xenia Fedorova (@xfedorova). She's best known for running Russia's state propaganda media in France, and then writing a whole book to whine about how it got shut down by the EU after Russia invaded Europe.

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Xenia was born in 1980 in Kazan, Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, now Russia. She got an Executive MBA from the Berlin School of Creative Leadership in 2014, and did her whole career (since December 2005) at the Russian state propaganda outlet, RT.

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Xenia Fedorova ✓
@xfedorova
🏢 Média affilié à un État, Russie

Présidente et directrice d'Info de RT France. Contacts pour les médias:
[@Riccipsg](#) - Iricci@rttv.fr

📍 Paris, France 🔗 rtfrance.tv 📅 Joined October 2009

Follow

RT (previously “Russia Today”), established by Putin in June 2005, is active all around the world to spread vatnik narratives. Together with Sputnik, it is the main foreign propaganda outlet for Russian bullshit. Both outlets are led by the master vatnik Margarita Simonyan.

Russia's RT Network Working Directly With Kremlin To Spread Disinformation, U.S. Says



U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States has gathered new evidence that exposes cooperation between RT and four other subsidiaries of the Russia Segodnya media group.

WASHINGTON -- The United States on September 13 said the Russian news outlet RT is taking orders directly from the Kremlin and working with Russian military intelligence to spread disinformation around the world to undermine democracies.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States has gathered new evidence that exposes cooperation between RT and four other subsidiaries of the Russia Segodnya media group, and it intends to warn other countries of the threat of the disinformation.

In addition to RT, Russia Segodnya operates RIA Novosti, TV-Novosti, Ruptly, and Sputnik, but the announcement on September 13 focused largely on RT. The outlet, formerly known as Russia Today, has previously been sanctioned for its work to allegedly spread Kremlin propaganda and disinformation.



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PRESS RELEASE

Two RT Employees Indicted for Covertly Funding and Directing U.S. Company that Published Thousands of Videos in Furtherance of Russian Interests

Wednesday, September 4, 2024

For Immediate Release
Office of Public Affairs

Employees of Russian State-Controlled Media Outlet Deployed Nearly \$10 Million to Publish RT-Curated Content, Which Garnered Millions of Views, Through a Tennessee-Based Online Content Creation Company

Note: [View the indictment here.](#)

An indictment charging Russian nationals Kostiantyn Kalashnikov, 31, also known as Kostya, and Elena Afanasyeva, 27, also known as Lena, with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) and conspiracy to commit money laundering was unsealed today in the Southern District of New York. Kalashnikov and Afanasyeva are at large.

“The Justice Department has charged two employees of RT, a Russian state-controlled media outlet, in a \$10 million scheme to create and distribute content to U.S. audiences with hidden Russian government messaging,” said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland. “The Justice Department will not tolerate attempts by an authoritarian regime to exploit our country’s free exchange of ideas in order to covertly further its own propaganda efforts, and our investigation into this matter remains ongoing.”

At RT, Xenia was Simonyan’s protegee. As most of you know, Margarita has openly called for bombing Ukrainian civilian infrastructure & laughed about hoping for a famine in Ukraine.

If you’re interested in Simonyan, check out our video about her:



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/5ziFjCBgZgA>

Between 2014 and 2017, while Putin was already invading Ukraine, Xenia was still tweeting in Russian about “Banderites” and “Crimea Path to the Homeland” hashtag, spreading the Kremlin narratives justifying the invasion and promoting Putin’ militaristic speeches.

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Xenia Fedorova ✓ @xfedorova · 3 mai 2014

Очевидец: **Бандеровцы**, напавшие на людей, кричали «русские, горите!» <http://russian.rt.com/article/30369>



Xenia Fedorova ✓ @xfedorova · 16 mars 2015

Смотрим фильм @Andrej_Kond про #Крым по России 1. Очень интересно! #КрымПутьНаРодину



RT на русском @RT_russian · 18 juil. 2014

Владимир Путин считает, что ответственность за катастрофу малайзийского Boeing несет Украина russian.rt.com/article/41368

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Xenia Fedorova ✓

@xfedorova

“@RT_russian: Владимир Путин - ответственность за катастрофу малайзийского Boeing несет Украина russian.rt.com/article/41368”

An eloquent hashtag

One of the most effective methods to spread a tweet and to make it reach the Twitter trends accordingly is a hashtag prescription. In our selection, we found over 6200 different hashtags. What are they about?

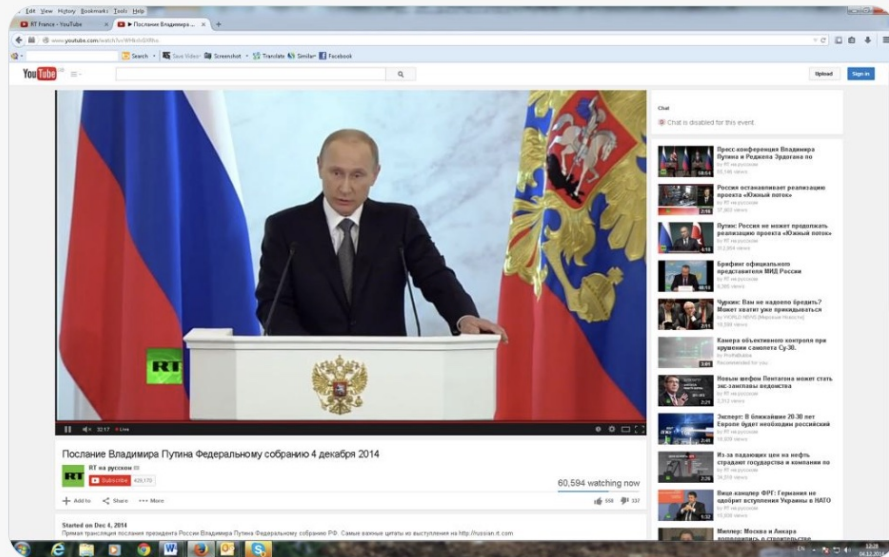
The most popular hashtags in tweets related to Ukraine became #ПровокацияКиева (#KyivProvocation with 22,3 thousand references), #КиевСбилБоинг (#KyivShotDownBoeing with 22,1 thousand) and #КиевСкажиПравду (#KyivTellTheTruth with 21,9 thousand). They appeared exactly on days after MH-17 catastrophe — on July, 18-20. 327 accounts participated in the campaign that promoted these hashtags. Taking into consideration that these are depersonalized accounts, we try to figure out their behavior in the period from July 18 till July 20, 2014.

Hashtag	Amount of mentions
(KyivTellTruth)	21978
Украина (Ukraine)	20640
БитваОлигархов (OligarchsBattle)	10004
новости (news)	8688
Россия (Russia)	8121
СекторБезГаза (SectorWithoutGas)	6882
Крым (Crimea)	6089
КрымПутьНаРодину (CrimeaWayToHome)	3000



Xenia Fedorova ✓ @xfedorova · Dec 4, 2014

Уже 60 тысяч зрителей! “Для защиты нашей свободы у нас хватит и сил, и воли, и мужества” <http://russian.rt.com/article/62728>



But at the same time, she was also working as the CEO for a “cool” new Russian-state owned media company, Ruptly. The company was based in Berlin, and it tried to attract a younger left-leaning demographic by promoting its content on social media.

Ruptly, a voice of Russian propaganda to international audience



Analysis, Europe, Russia, Russia's war | July 4, 2023

Xenia Fedorova

Managing Director, Ruptly GmbH

Xenia Fedorova has more than 15 years of experience in international journalism. Starting her career as a freelancer at the age of 18, she worked her way to executive position at RT – a global multilingual television news network broadcasting from studios in Moscow and Washington. Over 7 years of her professional path within RT Xenia was an executive producer for news and headed RT media projects. She launched and managed several ambitious projects including an online video news agency RT Freevideo.

Xenia is currently the CEO of Ruptly, a full-service video news agency based in Berlin. Ruptly provides HD news footage on-demand along with real-time LIVE-streaming of news events.

In 2016, Ruptly surpassed AFP and Reuters with over 200mn hits on YouTube. This year the video agency launched an innovative UGC app, Ruptly Stringer, breaking the barrier between citizen journalism and traditional newsgathering. Xenia has completed an MBA program at Berlin School of Creative Leadership MBA.

Ruptly was a highly sophisticated operation that mostly shared real, factual content but at times spread outright disinformation and Kremlin propaganda. This role has now been overtaken by the thousands of AI-generated “news sites” that spread fake news and deepfake content.



Artikkeli on yli 3 vuotta vanha

Ylestä

Emilia Seikkanen Worked in a Trendy Video Start-Up in Berlin – Tells All about the Kremlin's Global Information Operation

American in Finland, Emilia Seikkanen, 33, wants to make amends for having worked at Ruptly, Russian state media meddling elections and promoting extremism in the West.



Emilia Seikkanen worked in Ruptly in Berlin. Now she lives in Finland and wants to share what she witnessed. Kuva: Silja Viitala / Yle

JESSIKKA ARO

6.3.2021 8:24 · Päivitetty 31.3.2021 15:48

In 2017, Xenia departed Ruptly and was sent to France to create RT France, which she directed up until its closure in 2022. The channel was known for its “high-quality” reporting, such as the article titled “North Korea: The happiest people in the world.”



Under Xenia's leadership, RT France was pure propaganda, and one former employee described the editorial line as follows: "It always had to go along with the pro-Russian line, or at least we had to make sure that the Russians weren't attacked or couldn't be attacked."

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According to [FranceInfo](#), a former RT employee agreed to meet with their “True or False” team and describe the channel’s editorial line. *“It always had to go along with the pro-Russian line, or at least we had to make sure that the Russians weren’t attacked or couldn’t be attacked. Quite honestly, the way we sometimes treated the news was grotesque, as it either could harm the French government or highlight Russia and its people,”* he said.

On the morning of Russia launching their full-scale invasion in Ukraine, Fedorova instructed her employees to downplay the brutal war. According to one journalist, she checked absolutely every story while showing a “tremendous deal of interventionism.”

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In her report, the magazine reveals how RT France’s boss, Xenia Fedorova, lobbied her teams to defend the interests of Russia and Vladimir Putin in the cover of the war in Ukraine. A journalist from the television station agrees to testify anonymously: *“Xenia Fedorova had a return to her office, she saw absolutely everything that was being done. She showed interventionism... that I’ve never known so far, as important as that.”*

Fedorova denied the invasion of Ukraine, calling it a mere “special operation” in the Donbas. In a message to journalists, she warned: Be careful with videos & claims that Russia is attacking Ukrainian cities. This information is false. The operation is only in the Donbas.”

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TV

"Russia did not hit Kiev": When RT France's boss put pressure on her teams at the start of the war

Published on 27 October 2022 at 15:37

By **Florian Guadeloup** - Journalist

TRENDS

"She sent instructions downplaying Russian aggression"

According to the witness, the director of RT France wanted to verify that



"Please, no speculation"

"Beware of the videos and claims that Russia is attacking Ukrainian"



In Mar 2025, Xenia published a book titled "Banned: Freedom of expression under conditions". In it, she criticizes the Western democracies for "censorship". The book seems like a big joke, considering that she herself was censoring her employees while managing RT France.

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Now, I haven't read Xenia's book, but I bet there's not much talk about the killings and imprisonments of journalists, opposition figures and activists in Russia, either. Oh, and RT France sued @maximeaudinet because he dared criticize them.

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After all this, Xenia was hired by Canal+ in 2025, and promotes vatnik narratives regularly on CNews. Due to its promotion of French far-right ideas, along with the spreading of fake news and conspiracy theories, CNews has been compared to a French version of Fox News.

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CNews, along with Fayard, her book's editor, are all connected to French billionaire Vincent Bolloré. Bolloré's news outlets promoted the Union of the Far-Right alliance between members of The Republicans and the National Rally for the 2024 French election.

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To conclude, Xenia Fedorova is a 100% vatnik propagandist, who formerly worked for heavily censored and biased Russian state-media, but recently found a new home in the French version of Fox News. She's keen on criticizing the West for censorship, but stays quiet on Russia.

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This soup will soon be published in French and German, make sure to follow @vatniksoup_fr and @vatniksoup_de.

The 2nd edition of "Vatnik Soup — The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation" is officially out!

You can order your copy here:

<https://www.kleart.eu/webshop/p/vatnik-soup>

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