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### Orenburg Jehovah's Witnesses suspected of extremism

Moscow, May 5, Interfax - The Investigations Committee department for the Orenburg Region has opened a criminal case against the religious organization *Jehovah's Witnesses* on the basis of extremist activities.

The religious organization has some 3,000 members, Vladimir Markin from the Investigations Committee told *Interfax* on Saturday.

According to the investigators, some Orenburg residents operated the local division of *Jehovah's Witnesses* in the period between June 1994 and April 2012.

"In this period, members of this religious community conducted mass religious events (public sermons) in Orenburg and the Orenburg Region, where statements fanned hatred and feud and belittled people's dignity based on religious affiliation," Markin said.

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