

Investigation

Russia, PMC Wagner Allegedly Support US-based Independence Movements

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Logically.

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Executive Summary

In February 2023, Logically published an investigation into the individuals behind [Russosphere](#). Logically has since identified those same individuals continuing influence campaigns promoting the Russian Federation.

These campaigns involve:

- Alleged partnerships with the Russian government, including USD \$300b of Russian government financial support for independence movements in the US
- Alleged partnership with PMC Wagner
- Gold buying and mining investment opportunities in Central African Republic
- The creation of anti-NATO organizations

As the US presidential election approaches in November 2024, Logically assesses that these campaigns are highly likely to attempt to grow in influence, and that further US-based independence movements will be created, potentially with the backing of PMC Wagner.

Logically also assesses that these campaigns are part of a broader transnational effort to increase Russian influence not just in the US, but also in Francophone Africa.

Background

A Logically investigation conducted from December 2022 - February 2023 uncovered a French-language Russian disinformation campaign entitled “Russosphere”, involving prominent members of an organization entitled the Eurasian Observatory for Democracy and Elections (EODE), which oversaw the 2014 Russian-backed referendums in Crimea and Donbas, as well as a separate affiliated independence movement in Detroit, Michigan spearheaded by Ramzu Yunus. Additionally, these individuals created

the North Atlantic Peace Organization (NAPO) and Yunus later launched a separate independence movement in Jackson, Mississippi.

This investigation covers developments related to Ramzu Yunus, NAPO, and additional efforts uncovered in the year since the initial investigation was conducted.

North Atlantic Peace Organization (NAPO), Travels to Russia, and Alliance with PMC Wagner

Co-chaired by Luc Michel and Ramzu Yunus, NAPO (North Atlantic Peace Organization) is self-described as a political and military alliance and alternative to NATO. In July 2023, NAPO announced the appointment of Alexander Tronin, founder of the Wagner PMC youth organization Wagnerenok—also known as Leader—as director. According to a website run by Yunus, this partnership granted Tronin and Leader “a footing within the United States from which they can lawfully launch a campaign against the United States government.”

The article goes on to state that previous “[i]nfluence campaigns to cause dissent within the United States (...) ended up causing indictments against Ionov, Progozhin (sic), and a number of American citizens,” but that the new partnership allows Wagner and Russia a “legal way to interfere in the United States via the Afrodescendants struggle for self-determination” and that “the Russian youth have used human rights law to put Russia back on the ground within enemy territory with the ability to lawfully use violence if necessary.” Referencing a previous Logically report on Russian influence operations spearheaded by Luc Michel and himself, Yunus claimed that “the powerful nation of Russia [is now] legitimizing [their] struggle for independence”.

Yunus claimed to have traveled to Russia in September 2023 where he was allegedly photographed “teaching and mobilizing Russia’s youth” alongside Tronin and other members of Wagner youth group Leader, whose past guest lecturers include convicted Russian operative Maria Butina. Yunus also claimed to have met with “Russian officials and stakeholders” to secure a \$300 billion pledge to help African American independence and reparations movements within the U.S. via an alleged trade deal that would allow Yunus and NAPO “the ability to trade Russian petroleum products” in the U.S.

On a separate social media account tied to him, Yunus created a poll asking African American followers whether they would be willing to “declare independence from the United States in order to receive \$300 billion from Russia and \$15 trillion in community assets”—91% of the 36 respondents answered favorably.

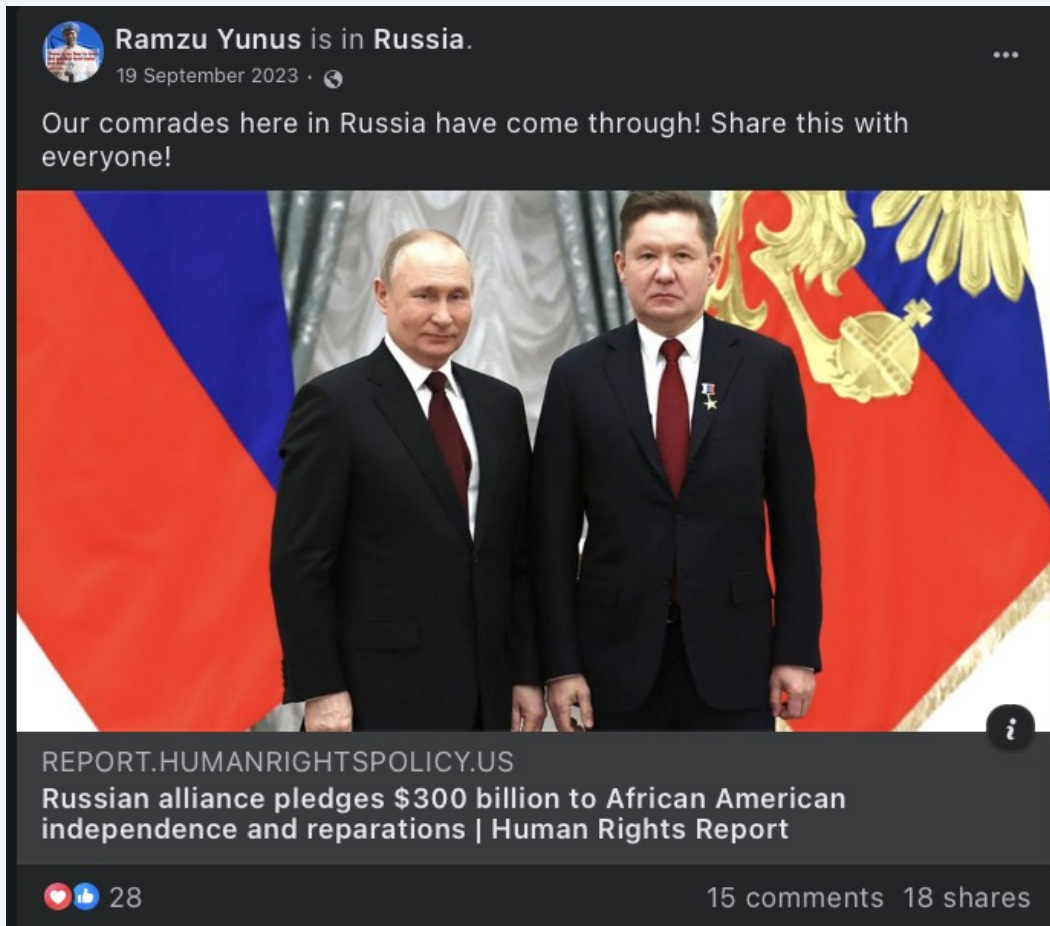


Fig. 1 Ramzu Yunus post on Facebook linking to humanrightspolicy.us



Fig. 2 Article on humanrightspolicy.us

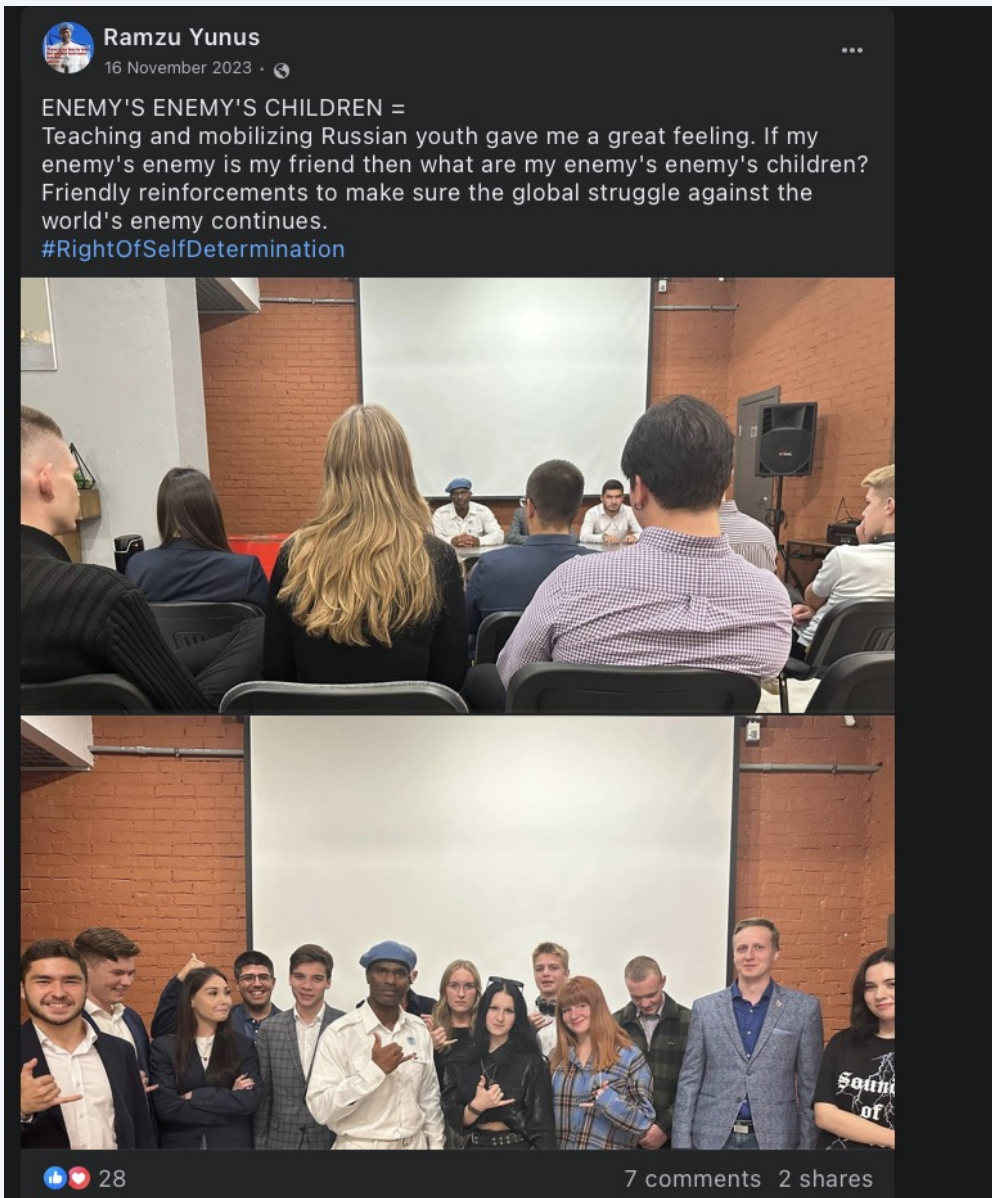


Fig. 3 Alleged photos of Ramzu Yunus in Russia with Wagner PMC youth group Leader



Fig. 4 Alleged photos of Ramzu Yunus in Russia with Wagner PMC youth group Leader

Afrodescendants Russia Association

The parent organization of NAPO, the Afrodescendants Russia Association (ARA) has a self-stated goal of “balancing the world” by establishing relations between “Afrodescendants” in the United States and Russia. Founded by Ramzu Yunus and Luc Michel, both previously reported on by Logically, the organization states that the current priority is “self-determination” within the United States, as has been seen by the Republic of Detroit and Republic of Jackson movements, and preservation of that self-determination¹.

Stated on their website, the ARA believes that it offers Russia the opportunity to establish relations with allies in North America, primarily through supporting independence movements within the US². On the whole, ARA claim this will give Russia a significant opportunity to counter NATO influence and the “unipolar” US international order.

In 2014, Luc Michel, co-chairman of the ARA, through his Eurasian Observatory for Democracy and Elections, provided legitimacy to independence referendums in Crimea, Donetsk, and Luhansk.

Through a three step plan of action, the ARA claims to pursue “a secure world”. The first step being to secure economic and military support from the Russian Federation, the second being to pursue “self-determination” for Afrodescendants in the US, and the third being to establish “proper structures for human rights promotion and defense”.

The ARA also boasts “previous diplomatic missions worldwide” which include both co-chairmen meeting with leaders such as Former Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Former Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.



Fig 5. Afrodescendants Russia Association Three-Step Plan of Action



Fig. 6 Photos of Yunus with current and former world leaders that feature prominently on the ARA website

Reparations for US and Francophone Africa

Yunus also spearheads two separate movements for reparations, including one for Afrodescendants in the US which claims to “immediately credit your account with USD \$100,000 value” upon sign up. They also have an application which was once offered on the Google Play Store³, although the link to it is now dead. The website appears to have been last updated in October 2023.

Similarly, Yunus created a reparations app for Francophone Africa⁴ which claims to give users who sign up CFA 100,000⁵ and promotes Russia-Africa relations. The creation of the reparations app specific to Francophone Africa appears to follow a similar timeline to coups in Niger and Gabon in 2023 which saw French influence pushed out of the region and Russian influence increase.

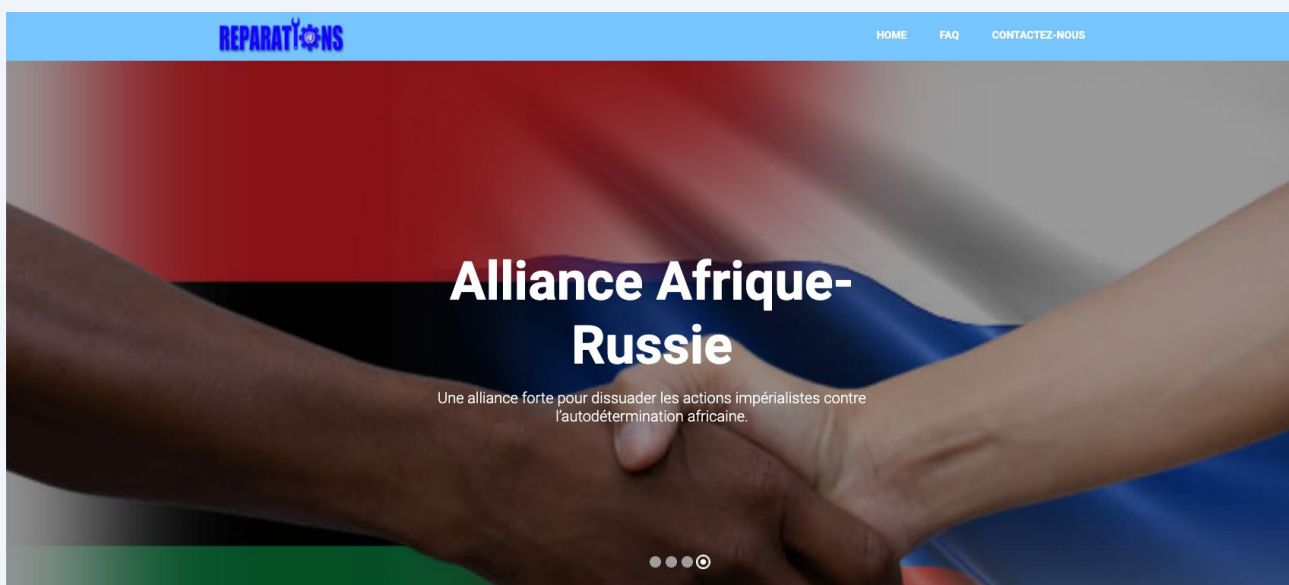


Fig. 7 The homepage of france.reparations.app

Citizenship, Gold Buying, and Cryptocurrency Partnerships with the Central African Republic (CAR)

Yunus also leads an effort called the “Central African Development Bank” which claims, among other things, to offer “African Americans the ability to have dual citizenship” with CAR, and that the Afrodescendants Central African Republic Association (ACARA), also run by Yunus is “seeking to register at least 1 million people who are interested in citizenship.”

The initiative also claims that “because CAR is directly involved in mining gold, you are able to buy the mineral at a below market price”⁶ through their organization.

Some of the offerings include discounts ranging from 5-15%, as well as the opportunity to invest \$1 million+ in mining, which can be facilitated by contacting the organization directly. The organization claims purchases start at a minimum of 50 grams, while investments start as low as USD \$60,000.

Additionally, Yunus announced the launch of a cryptocurrency program in partnership with the President of CAR Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

GETTING STARTED

We first of all encourage you to become familiar with gold buying and trading. It can take no more than an hour of reading material that you can find via internet search engines. You can also find places such as refineries that will buy your gold at a substantial markup from what you paid for it.

Do the same research to learn about letters of credit since that is the medium we accept in our gold buying or investment program. Your research will confirm that letters of credit provide a risk-free way of buying or investing in gold. You also have the choice of simply sending a bank transfer.

Both the gold buying and investing program can be profitable. The gold buying requires that you purchase a minimum of 50 grams while the investment minimum is \$60,000.

Once you are confident that this is a great opportunity, then simply fill out the inquiry form below and a sales clerk or investment agent will contact you promptly.



Is It Profitable?

It is profitable if you are buying to sell because you are purchasing at below market prices.



Is It Safe?

It is 100% safe as transactions will be performed by letters of credit. You are welcome to research the reputation of our banking partner.



Is It Humane?

Our company is a "citizens empowerment" company that dedicates net profits back into the community whose members all have beneficiary shares. We limit new mines development and focus on building the capacity of current artisanal miners.

Fig. 8 Details on the alleged gold buying opportunities in Central African Republic

Potential for Russian Foreign Influence

Logically's previous work on Russian foreign influence efforts in the United States has covered traditional disinformation campaigns, as well as previously identified independence movements facilitated in part by individuals with connections to the Russian government. This report highlights the ways in which these efforts have grown in complexity, and could pose a potentially significant existential threat in an election year.

Efforts identified in Jackson, MS and Detroit, MI are easily replicable, and the framework applied by the associated individuals, in combination with claimed support from PMC Wagner and the Russian government, have the potential to destabilize populations in the US.

As we near the election, Logically will continue to monitor for developments related to ongoing independence movements, something which saw recent amplification via a disinformation campaign uncovered by Logically in February 2024, as reported on by WIRED⁷.



Conclusion

Logically identified new influence campaigns, particularly related to promoting pro-Russian sentiments and US-based independence movements claiming to have support from PMC Wagner and the Russian government.

Additionally, affiliated individuals started initiatives to promote dual citizenship in the Central African Republic, a nation where it is widely known PMC Wagner operates on behalf of the Russian Federation, as well as investment opportunities in state-backed entities.

As the US presidential election approaches in November 2024, Logically assesses that these campaigns are highly likely to attempt to influence the domestic US population, as part of a broader strategy to undermine US sovereignty and integrity orchestrated by the Russian government.

Logically also assesses that these campaigns are part of a broader transnational effort to increase Russian influence not just in the US, but also in Francophone Africa.



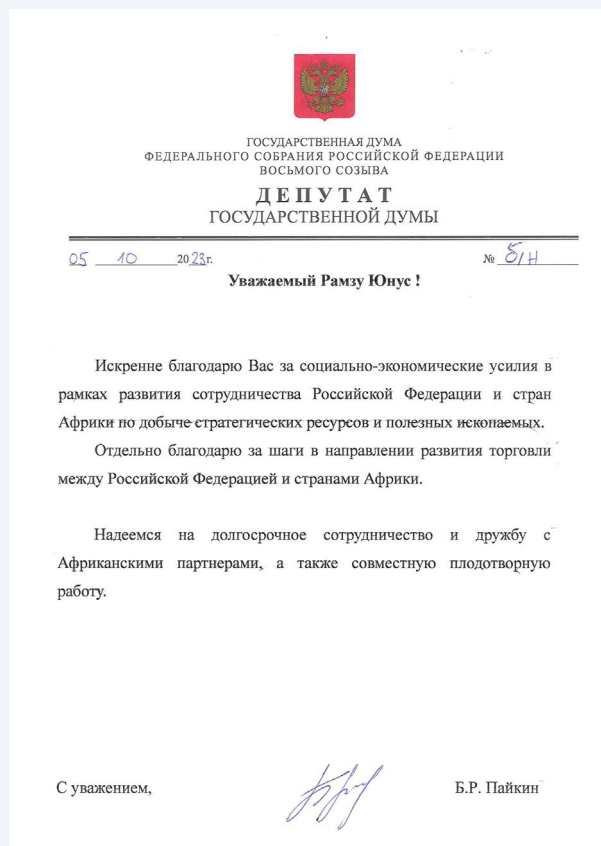
Reply by Ramzu Yunus

Logically offers the subjects of its investigations a Right of Reply. Below is the reply by Ramzu Yunus regarding this investigation:

Dear Logically,

Though I am sure you want to paint your own picture according to the United States government's agenda, I do have some comments.

- *I am not promoting that through my organization others have a footing to launch their own campaign against the United States, but am saying that they are supporting Afrodescendants' campaign for self-determination from which the Russians may find a way in which our campaign benefits them. This is similar to how the United States government sponsors and even launches campaigns of separatists in other countries because such serves "American interests".*
- *International law promotes "interference" against human rights abusers especially when the government is forcibly denying a people their right of self-determination. The violent repression including "illegal" defamation that the United States government used against Human Rights Policy Officers and the right of self-determination of people of Detroit is well documented. Because of that forcible denial, Afrodescendants can use violence if necessary and others are welcome to assist according to international law.*
- *Afrodescendants' pursuit to assert our right of self-determination is already legitimate though Russia "legitimizes" it by making people take it seriously because of their support or advocacy.*



- *Yes I did travel to Russia and engaged youth and officials some who were already engaged with NAPO through interactions with NAPO board member Andre Dembele. Also NAPO board member Fabrice Beaur is always on the ground based in Russia.*
- *The pledge was not money but business and trading such as petroleum from which the revenue can assist Afrodescendants in our quest for self-determination. The pledge includes Africa as well which led to the recent establishment of NAPO operations in Burkina Faso and other countries in Africa.*

Methodology

Logically utilized a suite of tools in combination with investigative methods to identify and analyze websites and social media accounts owned or affiliated to Ramzu Yunus and his organizations.

Logically then used these tools and methods to determine any further operations engaged in by the subject, particularly those focused on sharing propaganda and disinformation or related to U.S. independence movements, alliances with Russia, and the war in Ukraine.

References

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Logically combines advanced AI with human intelligence and expertise to tackle harmful and problematic online content at scale. The company's mission is to enhance civic discourse, protect democratic debate and process, and provide access to trustworthy information.

In 2021, Logically was named one of the world's most innovative artificial intelligence companies by Fast Company and won the Rising Star in Tech CogX Award. Logically has helped mitigate threats to elections in the United States, United Kingdom, and India since 2017.