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Russia Blocks Web Pages Linked to Ukraine Protests

By The Moscow Times

March 03, 2014



An announcement from the Federal Mass Media Inspection Service says that the material on a webpage has been blocked.

Russia's Internet monitoring agency has blocked 13 Internet pages linked to the Ukraine protest movement that helped oust the country's Russia-leaning president last week.

Roskomnadzor said in a statement published online Monday that it had been ordered by the general prosecutor's office to shut down the pages on Russia's leading social media website, Vkontakte. The agency said the groups "propagandized the activity of Ukrainian nationalist groups," and accused them of encouraging "terrorist activity" and "participation in unsanctioned mass actions."

The largest pro-demonstration group, which has more than 500,000 members, was not accessible to users in Russia on Monday.

While much of Russian media is state-controlled, the Internet has so far remained largely free from censorship and has provided an active forum for anti-government criticism.

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2014/03/03/russia-blocks-web-pages-linked-to-ukraine-protests-a32616