

Manchester Is a 'City of Mosques,' Says Russian TV

A misleading report serves as a cautionary tale against giving Muslims too much room to worship

By [Katie Marie Davies](#)

February 27, 2017



Pixabay, edited by The Moscow Times

Been to Britain lately? If you managed to take in the city of Manchester, perhaps you were startled to find that the skyline is now “nothing but mosques.” That, at any rate, is how one of Russia's flagship television news shows described Manchester on Sunday.

According to Irada Zeynalova, host of “Weekly Roundup” on the NTV network, “Coming into Manchester, you see so many minarets that, from afar, the whole place looks like it's nothing but mosques.”

She made this remark while introducing a report on British mosques working with the

government in a bid to counter extremism.

On social media, Manchester locals have ridiculed Zeynalova's description, calling it “hilarious.”

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[@Alexey__Kovalev](#) as a resident of Manchester that's hilarious

— Alex Roberts (@alexeroberts) [February 26, 2017](#)

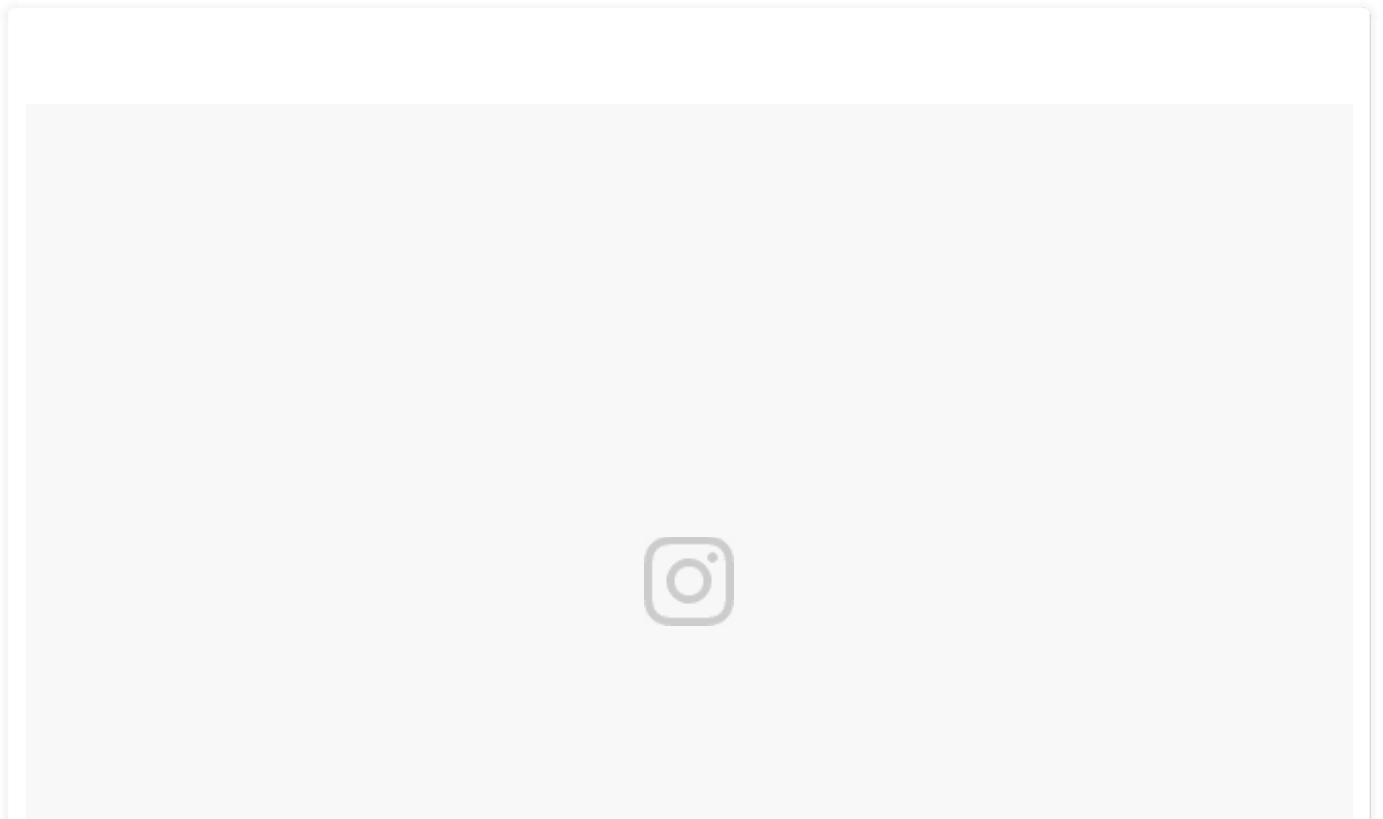
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[@Alexey__Kovalev](#) [@gerwyn](#) hahahaha. I think I might know 5 mosques, don't think i know any minarets. Countless churches. And a Sikh temple.

— Savage Houtkop (@SavageHoutkop) [February 27, 2017](#)

The description could lead discerning viewers to wonder if any of the show's reporters had visited Manchester at all.

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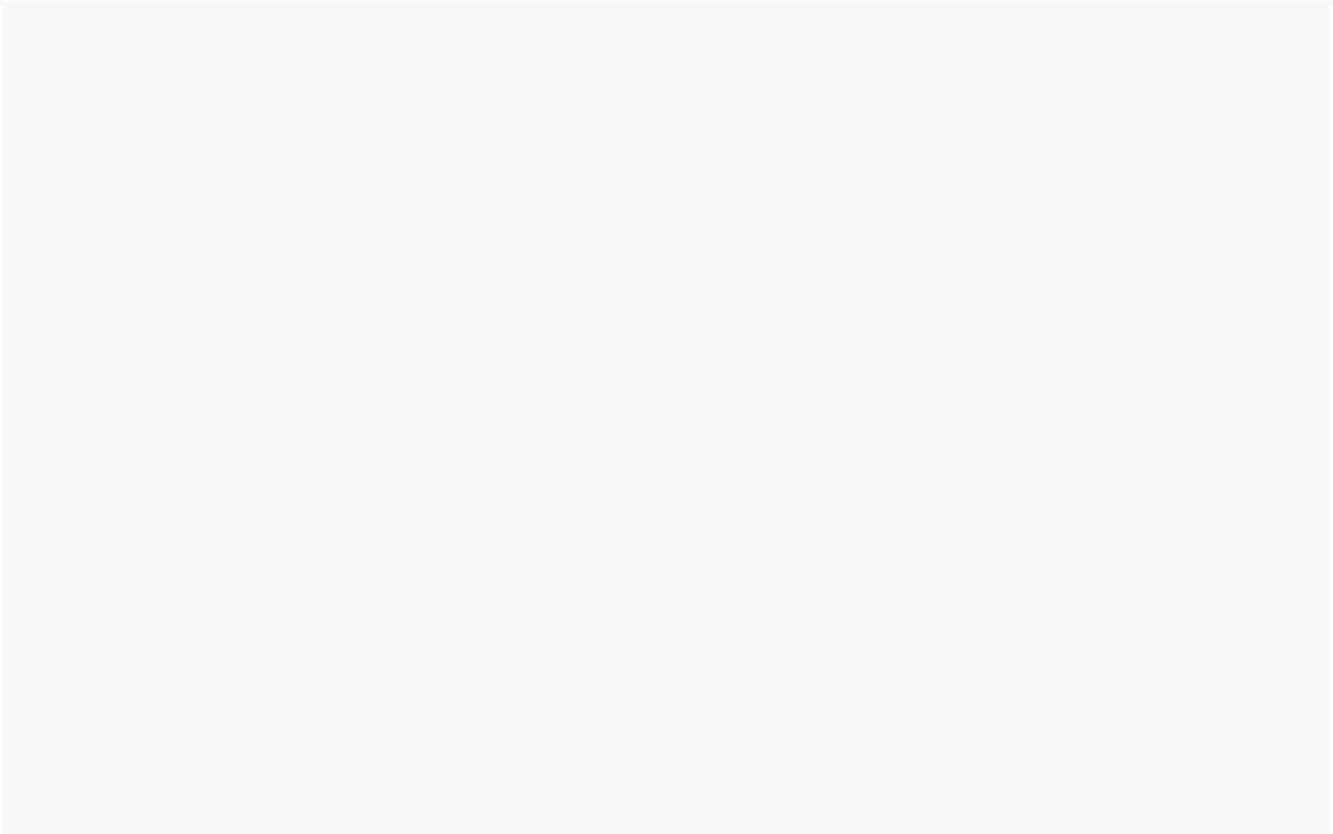


A post shared by Workspace Design & Build (@workspacedesignbuild) on Feb 27, 2017 at 1:19am PST

Of course, there's always a chance that visiting journalists merely confused Islamic minarets with some of Manchester's other great sights, including the soaring steeples of beautiful Gothic churches.

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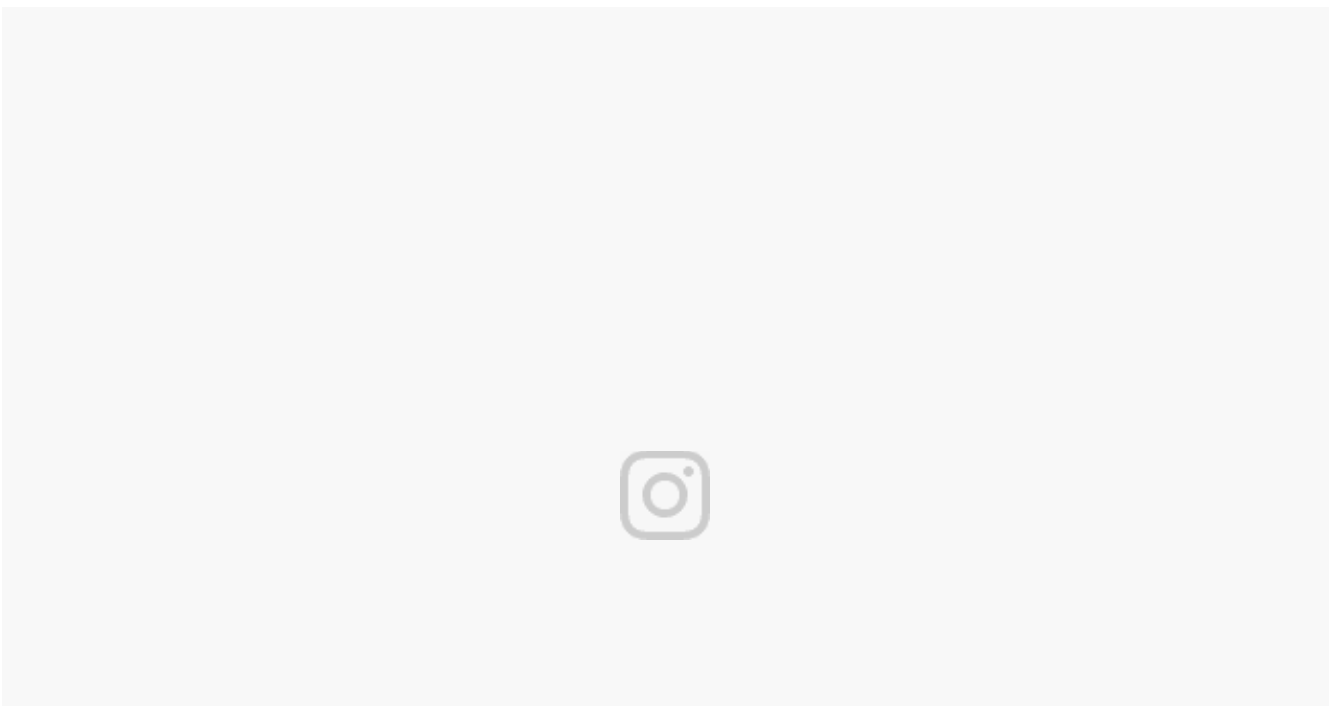


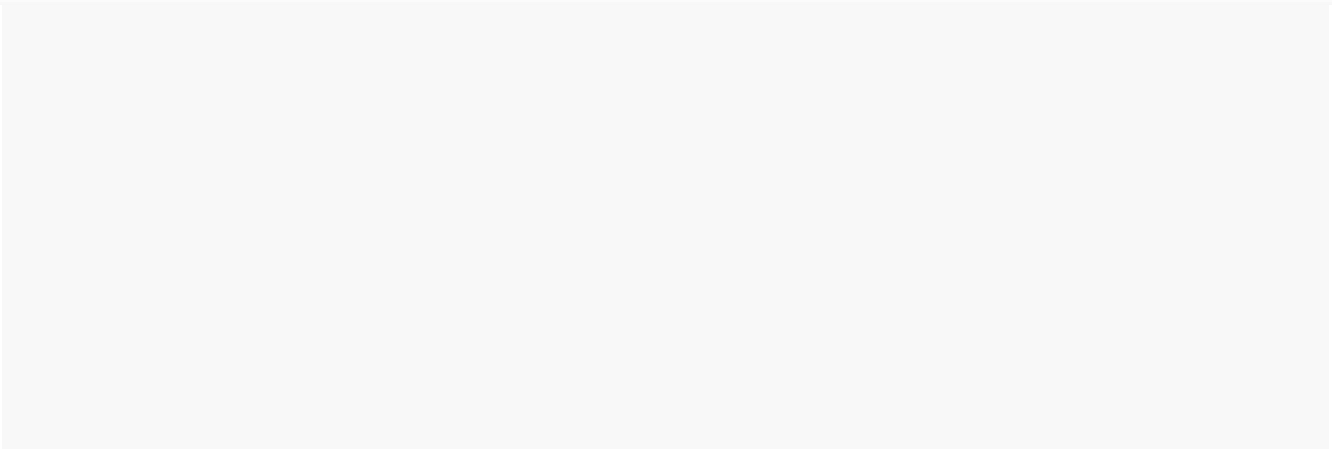


A post shared by Abbie (@travelcultureadventure) on Feb 26, 2017 at 4:47pm PST

Public buildings also have confusingly lofty towers (although perhaps the Union Jack flying from the roof may have given it away).

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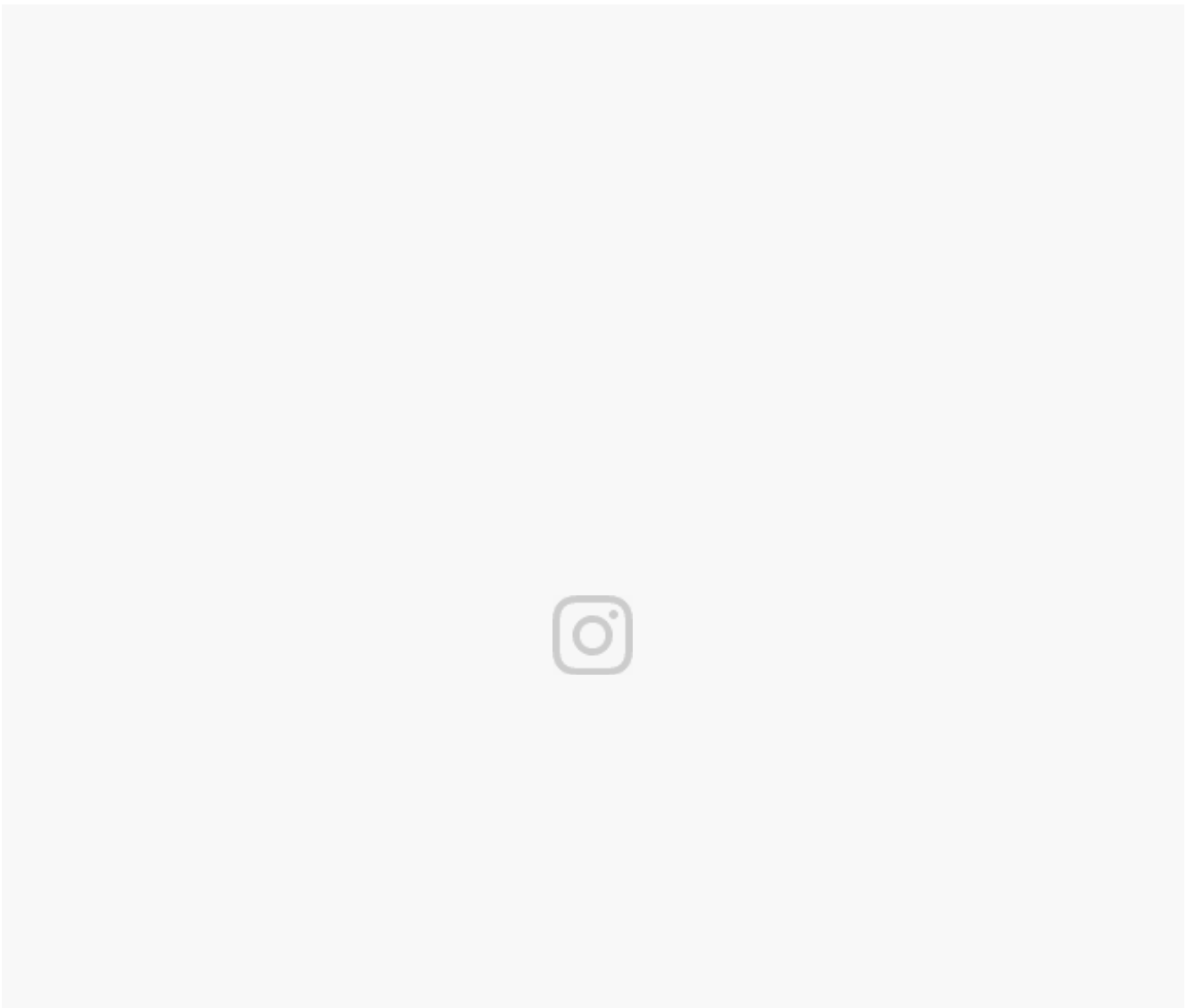


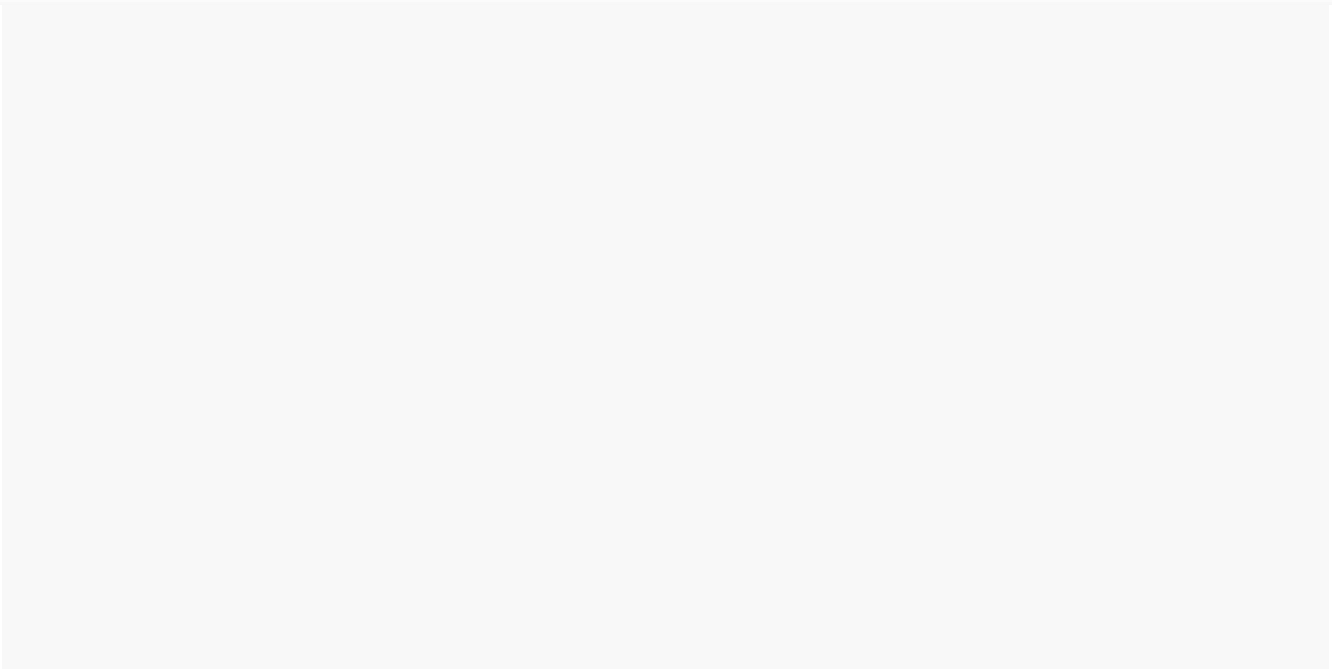


A post shared by clairesusanchapman Xx (@clairesusanxx) on Feb 27, 2017 at 1:20am PST

Skyscrapers are also a natural cause for confusion.

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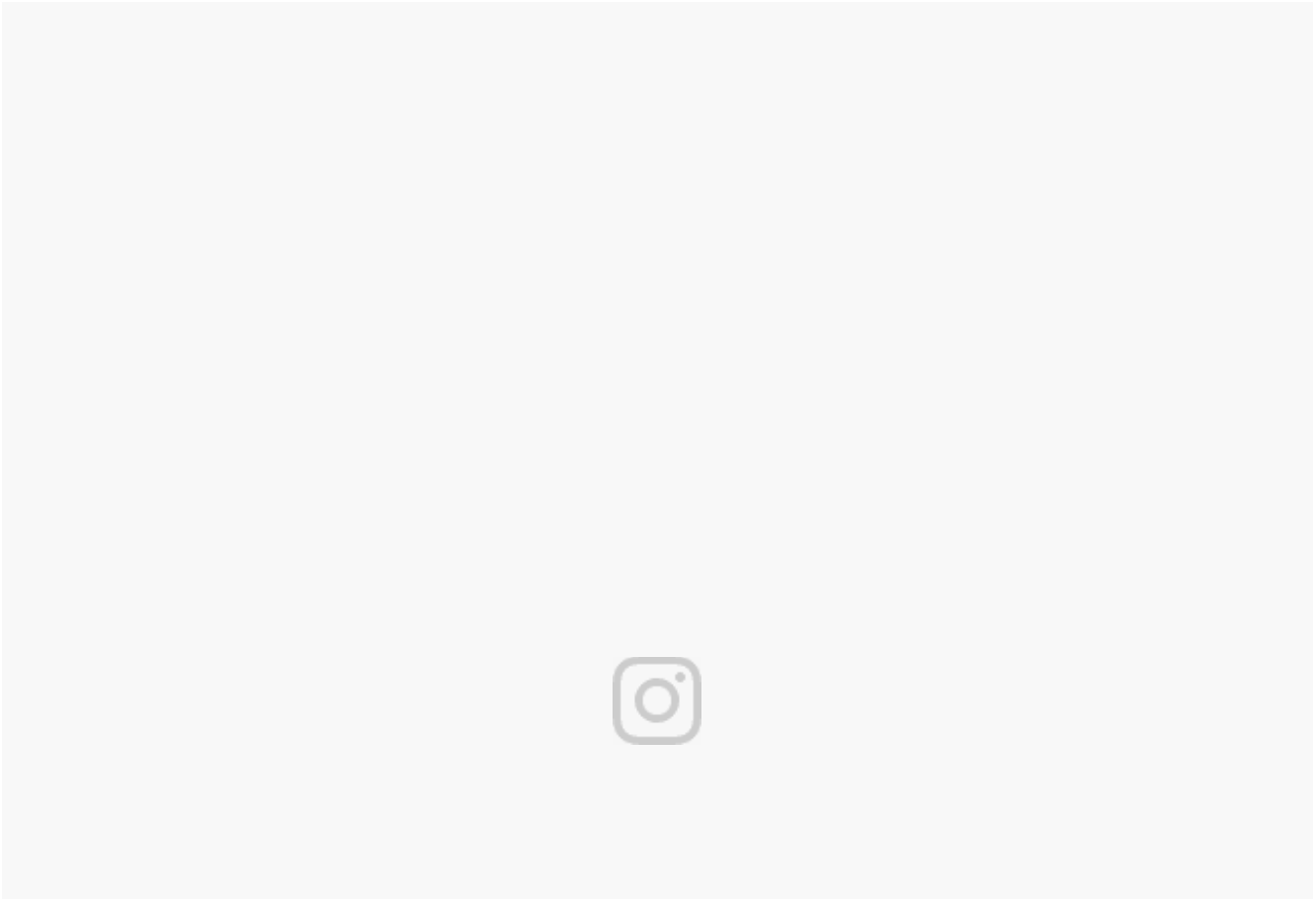




A post shared by MANCHESTER | TAG #THISISMCR (@manchester) on Feb 20, 2016 at 2:11am PST

And that's to say nothing of the cranes.

Embed:



A post shared by Ed Byrne - Manchester UK 🇬🇧 (@ed.m.byrne) on Feb 27, 2017 at 1:01am PST

There really are a lot of cranes.

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A post shared by Ed Byrne - Manchester UK 🌐 (@ed.m.byrne) on Feb 27, 2017 at 12:59am PST

Moscow itself has a Muslim population of roughly 2 million people. Many are migrants from Central Asia, but the number also includes ethnic minorities who have lived in Russia for centuries, such as Russian Tatars.

The capital still has only four mosques, forcing hundreds to pray in the streets outside on Fridays and during religious festivals.

Related article: [Moscow's Muslims Struggle to Find Place to Pray](#)

By far, this not the first questionable report aired on NTV, which is owned indirectly by state company Gazprom.

In June 2016, more than 100 regional newspapers throughout Russia warned their readers about the [“fake news”](#) that regularly appears on NTV.

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