

Kremlin Spokesman Still Uses Telegram Despite Ban

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Dmitry Peskov **Mikhail Metsel / TASS**

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he still uses the Telegram messaging service despite the state regulator's efforts to block it from being accessible in the country.

Regulator Roskomnadzor began enforcing a court ordered ban on Telegram on April 16 after the messaging app refused to grant the Russian security services access to users' encrypted messages. In its effort to block access to Telegram, Roskomnadzor has blacklisted almost 18 million Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, disrupting the work of hundreds unrelated online services.

Related article: [The Telegram Ban Is Forcing Ordinary Russians to Break the Law \(Op-ed\)](#)

Ordinary Russians [experienced](#) major disruptions with online payments, games, even so-called "[smart homes](#)" while Telegram lost an estimated 3 percent of its Russian audience.

“It works for me and there’s nothing to it,” the RBC business portal [cited](#) Peskov as saying on a conference call with reporters Thursday.

Regarding Telegram’s erratic accessibility, he urged users “not to dramatize or speak ironically” of Roskomnadzor’s efforts to take down the app.

His words echoed earlier comments by Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, who was [quoted](#) as saying by the state-run TASS news agency that Telegram “still works for me.”

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