The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Here's What Happened at the Telegram Protest in Moscow

April 30, 2018

Anton Egorov / Instagram @roofdancer

Thousands of protesters gathered on Monday afternoon to show their support for the Telegram messaging service.

The anti-censorship demonstration, organized by the Russian Libertarian Party, was held on Prospekt Sakharova in central Moscow.

State media regulator Roskomnadzor began blocking websites en masse to enforce an April 13 court order to ban Telegram over its refusal to provide access to its users' private messages to Russia's security services.

The organizers behind today's protest demanded that Roskomnadzor restore access to Telegram and affected services. According to their Telegram statement, they are seeking the repeal of all "repressive Internet laws," and the dissolution of Roskomnadzor.

"Our rights regarding secrecy of correspondence, freedom of speech and conscience are

guaranteed by the Constitution and cannot be restricted either by law or by conscience," the statement said.

Free speech supporters brought paper planes — the messaging service's logo — of various sizes and placards bearing slogans against censorship. Over 12,000 people participated in the demonstration, according to the crowd-counting service White Counter.

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Публикация от Denis Dmitrievich Kamenkov (@guygud) 30 Апр 2018 в 5:31 PDT

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Публикация от Yuri Babochkin (@ranger1960) 30 Апр 2018 в 4:58 PDT

"Things have gotten so bad that even introverts are here"

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Публикация от Rinat (@renderr) 30 Апр 2018 в 3:59 PDT

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Публикация от Kachurina Elena (@elena.kachurina) 30 Апр 2018 в 4:21 PDT

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Публикация от Ivan Egorov (@ivan_egorov1) 30 Апр 2018 в 5:33 PDT

"We don't want television, We want Telegram"

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Публикация от Kuntsevo Msk (@kuntsevo.msk) 30 Апр 2018 в 4:30 PDT

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Публикация от Мифодий Ионов (@ya.mifodey) 30 Апр 2018 в 5:46 PDT

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