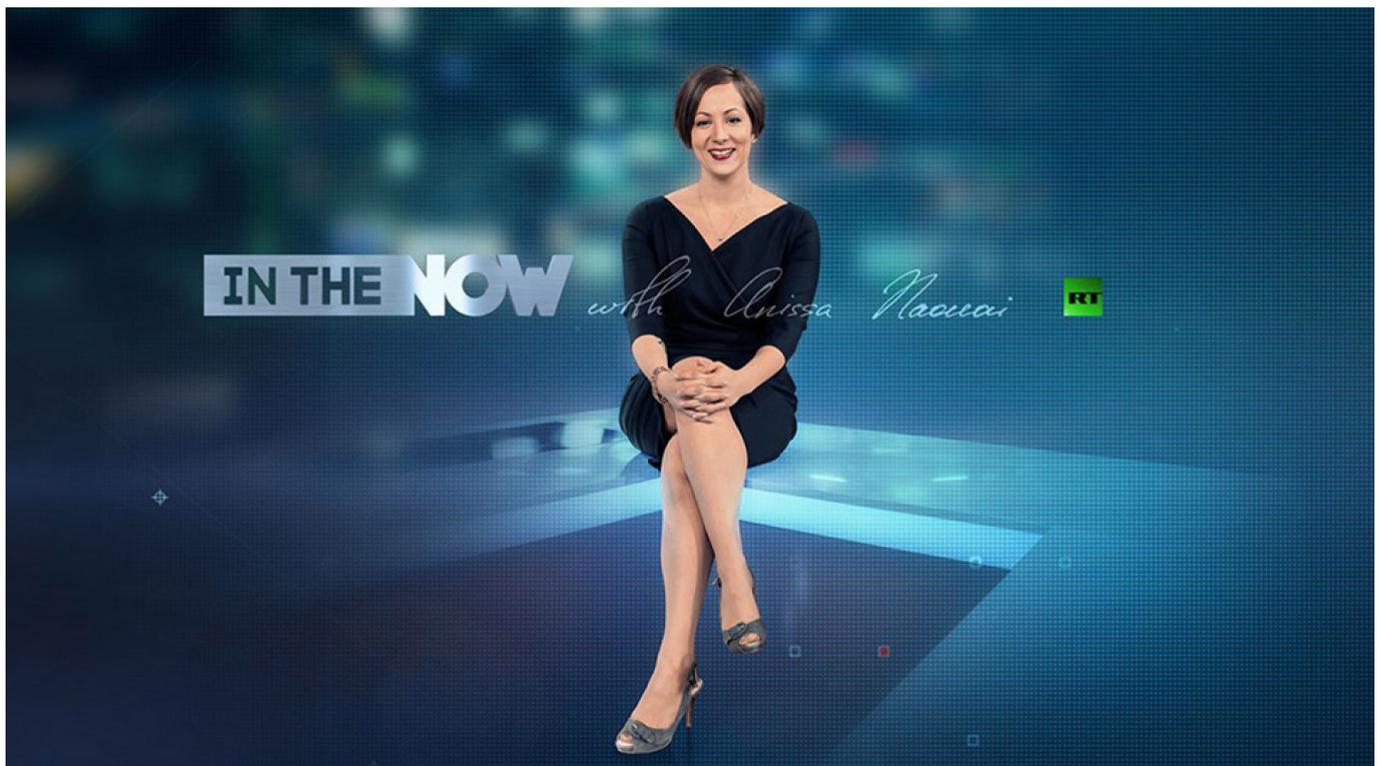


Facebook Blocks RT's Viral 'In the Now' Video Page

February 18, 2019



Anissa Naouai RT

Facebook has taken down the Kremlin-funded RT network's In the Now viral video page days after it was accused of hiding its ownership structure.

RT's American branch was ordered to register as a "foreign agent" in the United States after accusations that it had [interfered](#) in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. RT [ceased](#) broadcasting in the Washington area last April after its carriers had auctioned off two Virginia-based digital stations.

Related article: [RT Ceases Broadcasting in Washington After Being 'Thrown Out,' Chief Editor Says](#)

Facebook suspended the In the Now page, RT's editor-in-chief Margarita Simonyan said on Monday, linking the move to a CNN report published Friday that said the page had not disclosed that it was receiving financing from the Russian government.

“If the problem is that the project’s title didn’t clearly state that it was financed by Russian sources, [U.S.-funded] Radio Svoboda is doing the same,” Simonyan [tweeted](#) Monday.

“It’s no big deal; they keep on broadcasting. And it’s not just them,” she added.

Simonyan said In the Now’s Facebook page boasted 4 million subscribers and 2.5 billion views.

The Kremlin and Russian lawmakers [criticized](#) Facebook’s decision as a black stain on the social media company’s reputation.

Update: Facebook has now unblocked the In the Now page. The viral video channel was unblocked after providing a disclaimer about their funding on the page’s ‘about’ section, an In the Now journalist [tweeted](#) Monday.

Original url:

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/02/18/facebook-blocks-rts-viral-in-the-now-video-page-a6453>

5