

Russia Developing AI ‘Minority Report’ Protest Detector – Kommersant

November 30, 2021



Moskva News Agency

Russia is developing special AI-powered software that will be able to detect and prevent mass unrest as soon as next year, the Kommersant business daily [reported](#) Tuesday, citing the Emergency Situations Ministry.

The futuristic technology uses machine learning to carry out a “multi-factor, comprehensive analysis of the likelihood of riots and unauthorized public events,” according to a draft methodology cited by Kommersant.

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The software will also analyze news reports, social media and smart video surveillance and public transport data to foresee upcoming riots, evoking the 2002 Hollywood blockbuster “Minority Report.”

When it fails to prevent one, the predictor is expected to “help prevent escalation” of the unrest, including through directing the crowd’s movements.

The industrial conglomerate Rostec’s data subsidiary “Natsionalny Tsentri Informatizatsii” (“National Center of Informatization”) vowed to roll out the AI riot predictor in 2022 as part of the Emergency Situations Ministry’s “Safe City” project.

According to Kommersant, the system will also be able to tell the difference between political and religious rallies, as well as anti-police protests.

The announcement follows what critics call a far-reaching Kremlin crackdown on dissent that started after the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny sparked nationwide protests this January.

At least one-third of Navalny’s regional coordinators have [fled](#) Russia — and his close aides resettled in the Baltics and the ex-Soviet republic of Georgia — since authorities banned his political and activist networks this summer.

At least one ex-coordinator [faces](#) up to nine years in prison on retroactive charges of creating an “extremist” organization.

Protests in Russia have become increasingly restricted in the decade since the anti-Kremlin rallies of winter 2011-2012. Today, any rally larger than one person must obtain prior authorization from the authorities, but many opposition-leaning rallies are denied this.

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