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Moscow Vows Response After State Media Telegram Channels Blocked in EU

By AFP

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David Talukdar/ZUMA Press Wire

Authorities in Moscow vowed Sunday to retaliate after the channels of several state media outlets were blocked for EU-based users of the messaging app Telegram.

The Telegram channels of RIA Novosti, Rossiya 1, Channel One, NTV, Izvestia and Rossiyskaya Gazeta stopped being accessible within the EU earlier on Sunday, according to media reports.

Neither Telegram nor European officials have commented on the disruption, which Moscow was quick to call "an act of censorship."

"The systematic cleansing of all undesirable sources of information from the information space continues," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

Zakharova denounced what she called a "constant campaign of repression against Russian media in nearly all European Union countries," adding that "these attacks and similar ones

against our media will not go unanswered."

"We reserve the right to respond in the same manner," she said.

Earlier, the EU banned Russian state media outlets like RIA Novosti, Izvestia and Rossiyskaya Gazeta from being distributed in the bloc, charging them with disseminating propaganda.

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