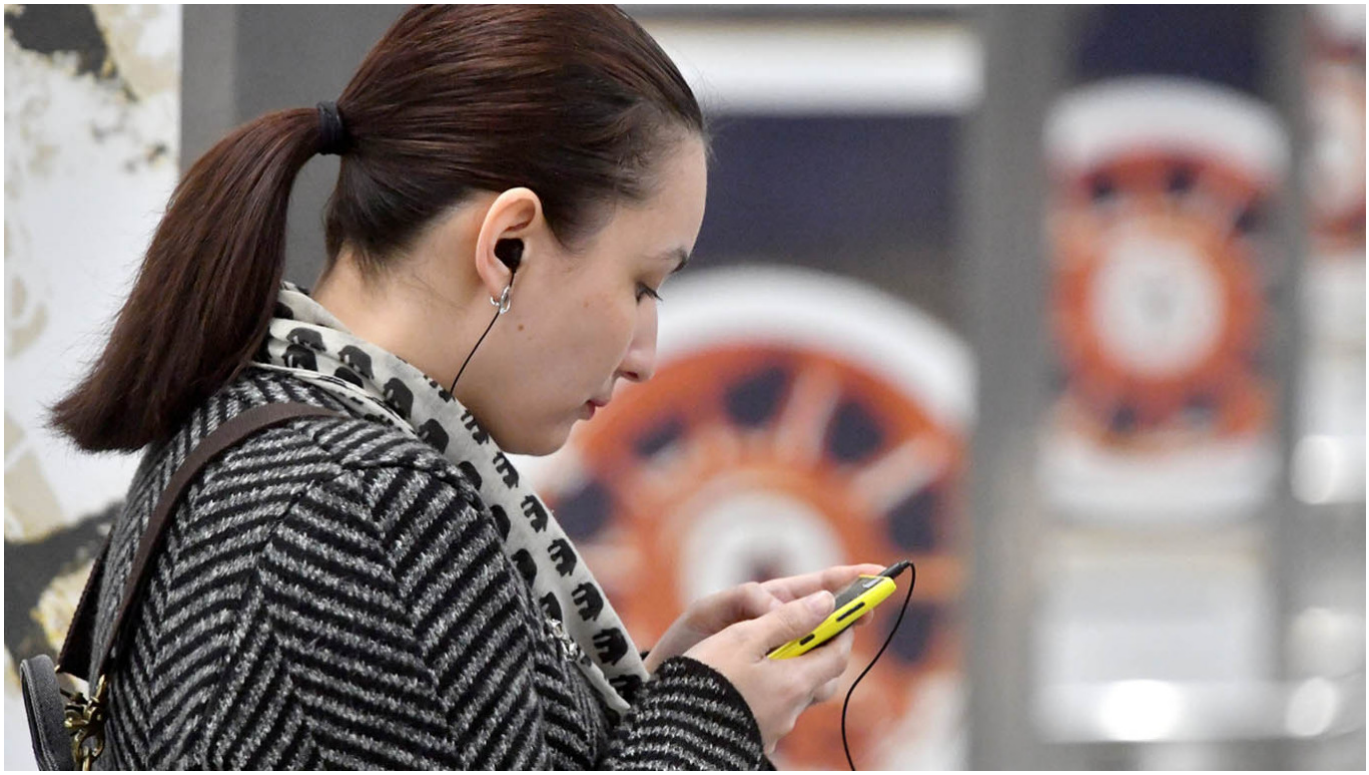
The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Russia Moves to Centralize Mobile Internet Shutdowns Amid Rise in Ukrainian Drone Attacks

July 15, 2025



Sergei Kiselev / Moskva News Agency

Russia is preparing nationwide regulations that would centralize the authority to shut down mobile internet access as outages due to Ukrainian drone attacks have become a regular occurrence across the country, the pro-Kremlin daily Izvestia reported Tuesday, citing government and telecom industry sources.

The Digital Development Ministry is reportedly in talks with telecommunications operators to streamline the shutdown procedure and designate a single state body responsible for managing mobile network blackouts.

Currently, a broad range of entities including regional authorities, emergency services and security agencies are authorized to request mobile internet shutdowns.

The result, one source told Izvestia, has been a surge in disorganized and often excessive

disruptions, especially in response to the growing number of drone attacks across the country.

"Due to the current security environment and a rise in drone attacks, the number of entities authorized to issue such shutdown orders has grown significantly," the source told Izvestia.

In many cases, requests are funneled from regional officials to Moscow for legitimacy checks, delaying action and sometimes leading to internet blackouts in areas that do not require them while failing to restrict access in more critical zones.

Embed:

Until recently, shutdown authority was primarily held by the security services and state communications watchdog Roskomnadzor and were typically reserved for major public events or counterterrorism operations.

But the past few months have seen a sharp uptick in regional orders, particularly since May, when Ukrainian drone attacks intensified and triggered widespread outages in several regions.

Russia experienced 655 mobile internet shutdowns in June alone, more than double the total number of shutdowns recorded worldwide during all of 2024, according to independent communications watchdog Na Svyazi.

The outages have disrupted a range of essential services, from emergency communications to online banking and transit operations.

Related article: Flight Disruptions and Internet Outages Bring Chaos to Russia's Regions

The Russian-based Internet Protection Society estimates that a single day of nationwide mobile internet shutdowns could result in financial losses amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars.

Karen Kazaryan, director of the Internet Research Institute, told Izvestia that streamlining the shutdown procedure could help protect users from unwarranted disruptions and reduce unnecessary work for operators. He added that appointing a single authority to issue such directives is a reasonable step.

Embed:

#mc_embed_signup{background:#fff; false;clear:left; font:14px Helvetica,Arial,sans-serif; width: 600px;} /* Add your own Mailchimp form style overrides in your site stylesheet or in this style block. We recommend moving this block and the preceding CSS link to the HEAD of your HTML file. */

Never miss the latest developments in Russia's regions with the Regions Calling newsletter

* indicates required
Email Address *

Subscribe

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2025/07/15/russia-moves-to-centralize-mobile-internet-shutdowns-amid-rise-in-ukrainian-drone-attacks-a89824