

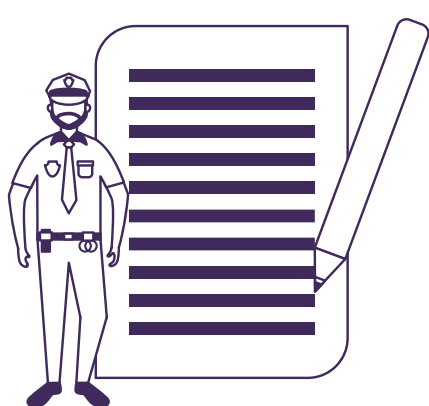


**fidh**

— the banner says: "Save the Internet, save Russia"

## ON THE WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2019 FIDH CONDEMNS THE CRACKDOWN ON THE LIBERTY OF EXPRESSION IN RUSSIA

Between March and May 2019, Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed three new laws amplifying censorship on the Internet and further suffocating freedom of expression in Russia. Internet users have already come up with accurate descriptions of such laws: on indecent behavior on the Internet, on "fake news", and on the "Sovereign Internet". FIDH explains why the consequences of implementation of these laws is no laughing matter.



18.03.2019 N 31-FZ

ON AMENDING ARTICLE 15-3 OF THE FEDERAL LAW "ON INFORMATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INFORMATION SECURITY"

### LAW ON « FAKE NEWS »

The law imposes penalties for the dissemination of "unreliable socially significant information" in media and on the Internet if it puts in jeopardy public health or public order.

The problem is, it is not clear from the text of the law what "unreliable information" and "socially significant information" mean.

Not every Internet user has sufficient competence to distinguish fake information from reliable information. The absence of clear language in the law allows the authorities to interpret them too broadly and to use them arbitrarily to silence independent voices.



18.03.2019 N 30-FZ

ON AMENDING THE FEDERAL LAW "ON INFORMATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INFORMATION SECURITY"

### LAW ON DISRESPECT TOWARDS RUSSIA (INDECENT BEHAVIOR ON THE INTERNET)

The amendment sanctions public statements, including on the internet, expressing in an indecent form 'obvious disrespect' for society, the State, official state symbols of the Russian Federation, the Russian Constitution and government officials.

The law directly limits the freedom of speech for unregistered media outlets and any social network users.

Ambiguity in the wording of the law, in particular, terms like 'indecent form' and 'disrespect' permits various subjective interpretations at the hands of the executive authorities enforcing the law. The mechanism for the protection of State and government officials from insults could effectively be used by the authorities to institute legal proceedings against anyone critical of the government.



01.05.2019 N 90-FZ

ON AMENDING THE FEDERAL LAW "ON COMMUNICATIONS" AND THE FEDERAL LAW "ON INFORMATION, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES AND INFORMATION PROTECTION"

### LAW ON THE ISOLATION OF RUNET (THE "SOVEREIGN INTERNET" LAW)

The law, which comes into force on November 1, 2019, enables the Russian authorities to block access to parts of the Internet in Russia—from particular Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to the Internet throughout Russia.

The law gravely undermines the rights to freedom of expression, access to information and media freedom both of commercial and private users.

It cedes control over Internet network routing to the state regulator for Telecommunications, Information Technologies and Mass Communications, Roskomnadzor. The law also requires Internet providers to start using the national domain name system (DNS). Forcing ISP's to use the national DNS will give Russian authorities the ability to manipulate the results provided to the ISP outside the ISP's knowledge and control.



**15 THOUSAND PEOPLE**

**MARCH 10, 2019 MORE THAN 15 THOUSAND PEOPLE CAME TO SAKHAROV AVENUE IN MOSCOW TO RALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE FREE INTERNET**

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