

Russian Search Engines to Label Wikipedia as ‘War Fakes’ Spreader

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Russia’s Kremlin-friendly Safe Internet League said this week it has uncovered 16.6 million messages spreading “fakes” about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on platforms including Wikipedia. **EPA/SASCHA STEINBACH**

Russian search engines will be required to inform Wikipedia users that the online encyclopedia spreads “fake news” about the country’s invasion of Ukraine, the state communications regulator Roskomnadzor [said](#) Wednesday.

Roskomnadzor demanded in May that Wikipedia delete “unreliable information” about what Moscow refers to as its “special military operation” in Ukraine, entering its fifth month.

“Due to the American nonprofit organization Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.’s failure to remove illegal information, Roskomnadzor decided to apply a coercive measure of internet search engines informing [users] that the foreign entity violates Russian legislation,” it said in a statement.

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messages spreading “fakes” about Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on platforms including Wikipedia.

“This happens on YouTube, Twitch, TikTok and Wikipedia,” said the nonprofit’s head, Yekaterina Mizulina, daughter of prominent conservative Russian senator Yelena Mizulina.

“Children go in to watch harmless videos and they’re met with a barrage of videos with violence and cruelty, fakes about the special operation, flat out lies about our country,” Yekaterina Mizulina said. “This kind of content is dangerous for children’s psyche.”

Russian officials have long sought to develop a domestic alternative to Wikipedia over what they deemed to be bias by the online encyclopedia.

Concerns that Russia could block Wikipedia have grown amid the country's unprecedented crackdown on dissent to its invasion of Ukraine.

The Wikimedia Foundation nonprofit has been fined a total of 5 million rubles (\$91,000) by Russia since the invasion started on Feb. 24.

Wikipedia remains accessible within Russia 10 years after it was added to a government registry of prohibited websites.

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