

Russia fines TikTok over calls for minors to join protests

6 April 2021



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A Moscow court on Tuesday fined TikTok more than \$30,000 for failing to delete posts calling for minors to join unsanctioned protests in support of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny.

The court said on its Telegram channel that the video-sharing platform had been found guilty of failing to remove information that violates Russian law and sentenced to an administrative fine of 2.6 million rubles (\$34,000/28,000 euros).

The ruling comes as Russia ramps up pressure on foreign tech platforms, with a Moscow court also hitting Twitter on Friday with three fines totalling 8.9 million rubles (\$116,700/99,000 euros) for the same violation as TikTok.

In January, authorities accused foreign social [media](#) platforms including TikTok and Twitter of interfering in Russia's domestic affairs by not deleting calls to rallies in support of Navalny late that month and early February.

Russia's media watchdog Roskomnadzor said last month it would draw up protocols demanding the foreign social media platforms be fined for failing to delete the calls after it had warned them to do so.

Roskomnadzor described the calls to protests as "inciting teenagers" to take part in "illegal activities", or "unauthorised mass events".

Last month the media watchdog also began throttling the speeds of Twitter's services, accusing it of failing to remove content related to [child pornography](#), drug use and calls for minors to commit suicide.

On Monday, it gave the US tech giant an ultimatum of deleting the posts by mid-May or face a complete blockage in the country.

Moscow regularly fines foreign internet companies like Twitter, Facebook and Google for failing to comply with its legislation.

TikTok came into the view of the authorities more recently after videos on the [platform](#) in January calling for Russians to join rallies in support of Navalny garnered hundreds of thousands of views.

President Vladimir Putin that month complained about the growing influence of large technology companies that he said are competing with states.

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APA citation: Russia fines TikTok over calls for minors to join protests (2021, April 6) retrieved 2 July 2022 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2021-04-russia-fines-tiktok-minors-protests.html>

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