

How Internet censorship changed in Russia during the 1st year of military conflict in Ukraine



OOONI

2024-01-17 IAB BIAS Workshop - Simone Basso

“OOONI”

<https://ooni.org/>

About

Founded in 2012, the **Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI)** is a non-profit free software project that aims to empower decentralized efforts in documenting internet censorship around the world.

To this end, we work on:

- **Free software for measuring internet censorship.** Through our [OONI Probe app](#), you can measure the blocking of websites, instant messaging apps, and circumvention tools, and you can measure network performance. We aim to empower the public to independently detect information controls on the internet.
- **Real-time analysis and open publication of censorship measurements from around the world.** As soon as you run OONI Probe, your test results are automatically published as open data in real-time [OONI Explorer](#) and the [OONI API](#) enable the public to track censorship events around the world in real-time based on openly available measurement data that can potentially serve as evidence.
- **Research reports documenting censorship events around the world.** In collaboration with our [partners](#), we publish [research reports](#) documenting cases of internet censorship around the world. These reports share relevant OONI measurements and aim to enable human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and lawyers to use these censorship findings as part of their work.

2:55 [status icons]

OONI | Probe

Run

Last test: Oct 30, 2023

Websites
Test the blocking of websites

Instant Messaging
Test the blocking of instant messaging apps


Circumvention
Test the blocking of censorship circumvention tools

Performance
Test your network speed and performance

Experimental
Run new experimental tests

2:55 [status icons]

**Running:
Web Connectivity Test**



Estimated time left:
6m 05s

control for [http://www.kickassclassical.com/...](http://www.kickassclassical.com/)

Stop test

2:55 [status icons]

Test Results

Tests: **14** | Networks: **2** | Data Usage: ↓ 227.6 MB / ↑ 51.4 MB

Filter Tests: All Tests

DECEMBER 2023

Websites	0 blocked 4 tested
Vodafone Italia S.p.A., IT (AS30722)	12/4/23, 14:55

OCTOBER 2023

Websites	0 blocked 20 tested
Vodafone Italia S.p.A., IT (AS30722)	10/30/23, 13:17
Instant Messaging	0 blocked 4 accessible
Vodafone Italia S.p.A., IT (AS30722)	10/30/23, 13:15
Experimental	51 measured
Vodafone Italia S.p.A., IT (AS30722)	10/30/23, 13:11

2:55 [status icons]

Websites

4 Tested | 0 Blocked | 4 Accessible

	https://www.jabber.ru/	✓
	http://www.kickassclassical.com/	✓
	https://www.facebook.com/	✓
	https://twitter.com/	✓

Uncover evidence of internet censorship worldwide

Open data collected by the global OONI community

Explore

<https://explorer.ooni.org/>

How Internet censorship changed in Russia during the 1st year of military conflict in Ukraine

Roskomsvoboda, OONI, 2023-02-24

Translation(s):

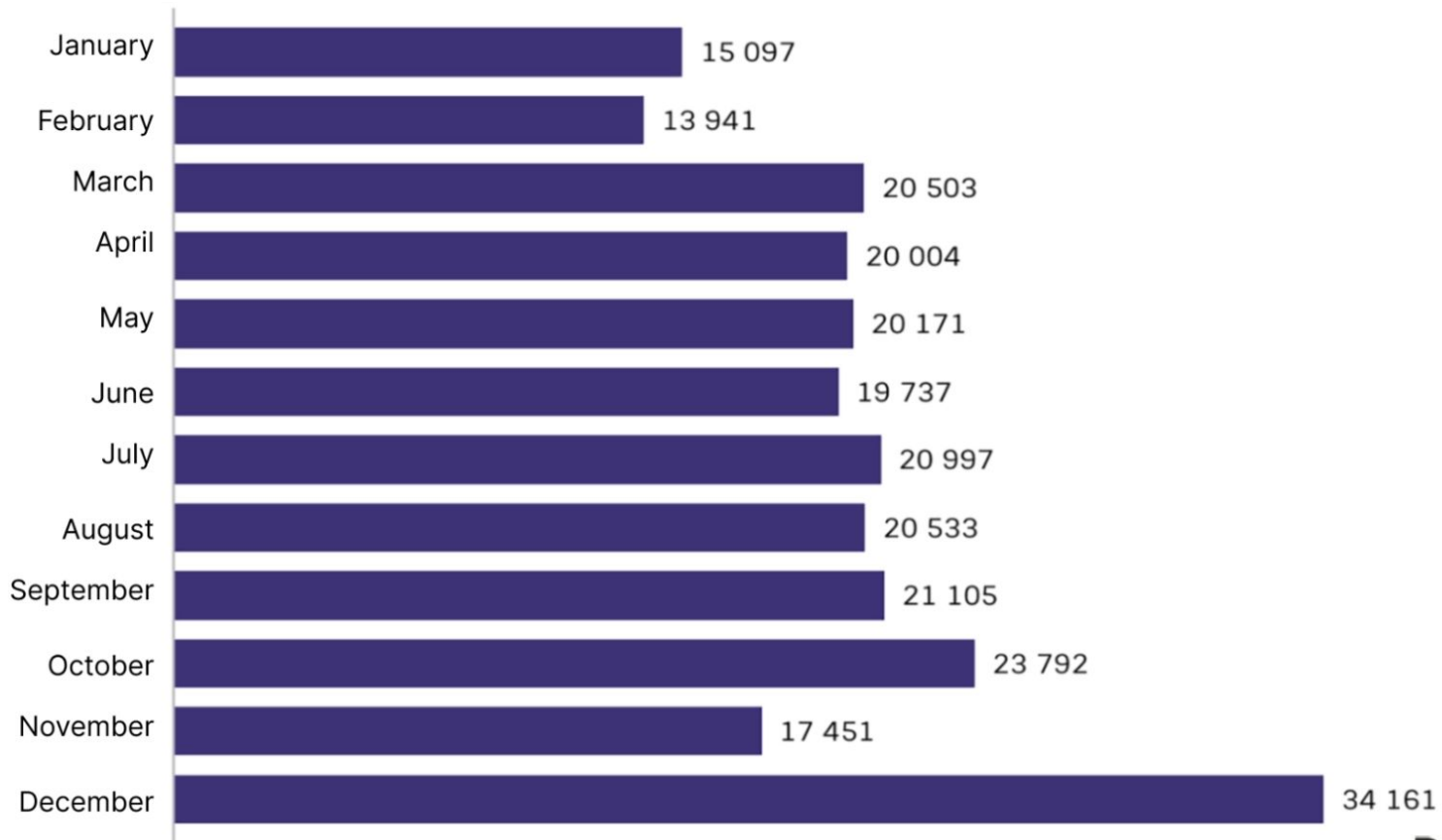
- [ru: Год военной цензуры в России](#)

Our analysis of [OONI Web Connectivity measurements collected from Russia](#) between January 2022 to February 2023 shows the **blocking of 494 domains**, 48 of which do not appear to be included in [Roskomnadzor's official blocking registry](#). Overall, the blocked domains fall under a wide range of 28 different categories, suggesting pervasive levels of internet censorship in Russia.

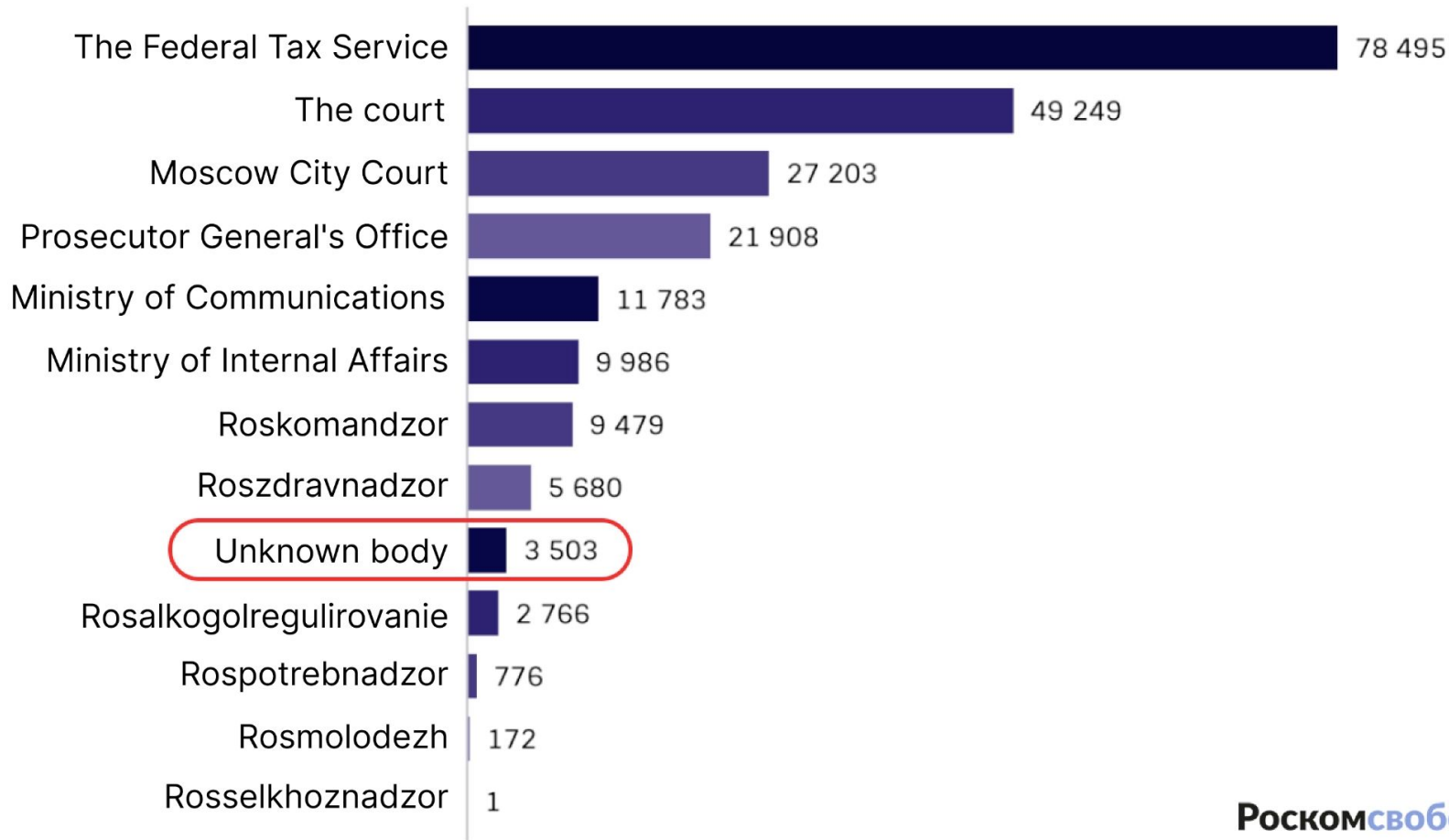
New blocks that emerged over the last year include:

- Blocking of **international human rights websites** ([Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#));
- Blocking of **Russian human rights websites** ([Moscow Helsinki Group](#));
- Blocking of **investigative journalism** ([Agentura.Ru](#)) and **independent news media** sites ([The Bell](#));
- Blocking of [Instagram](#), [SoundCloud](#), and [Patreon](#).

Access to the Tor Project's website was [temporarily unblocked](#) (between 15th to 28th July 2022), while several discontinued sites have been unblocked (possibly as part of a "blocklist cleanup").



Additions to Roskomnadzor's block list by month

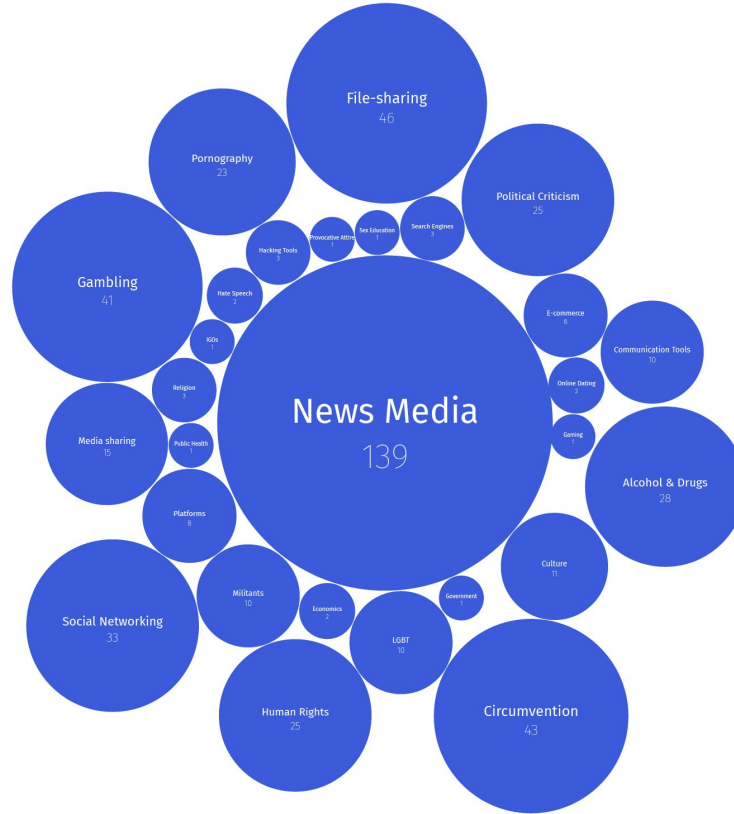


Blocked Websites*

*Based on fingerprinting and limited by our test lists composition

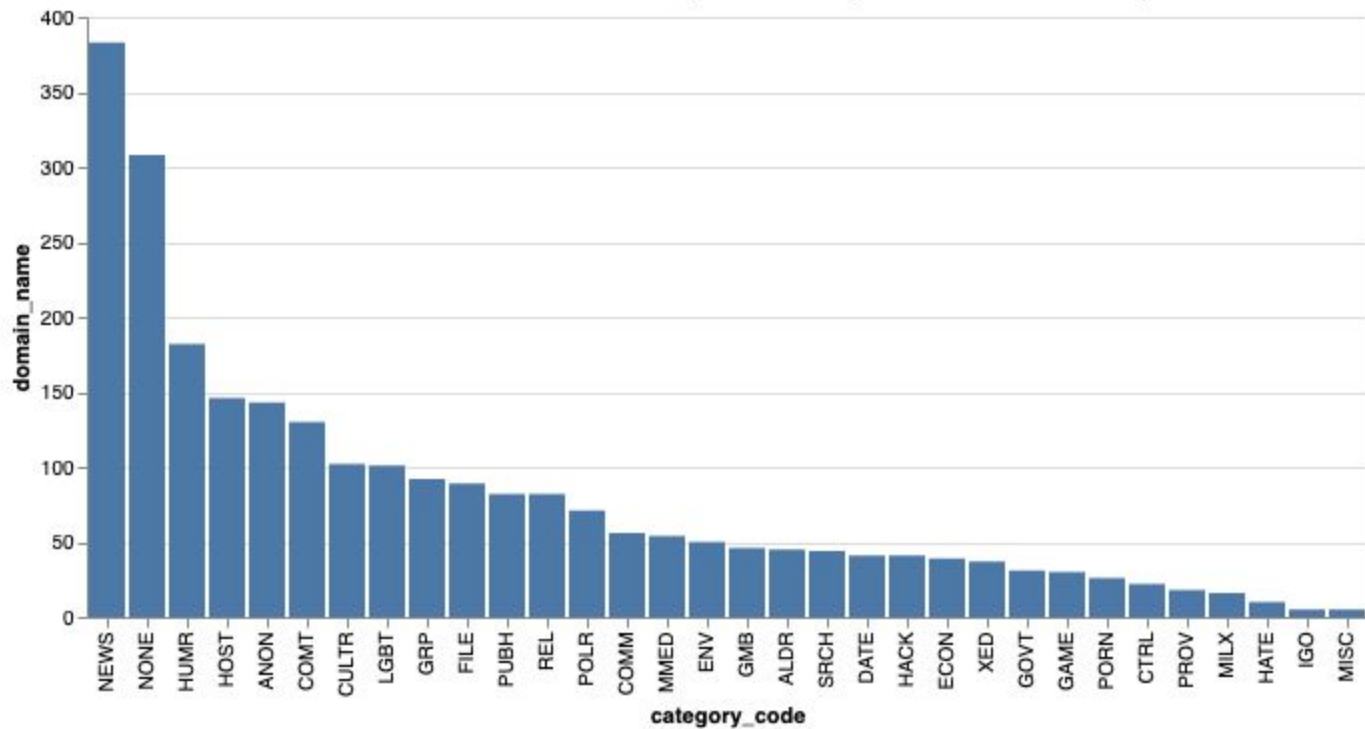
Categories of restricted content in Russia

Domains found to be blocked in Russia from January 2022 to February 2023 by category.



Source: OONI measurements from 1st Jan 2022 to 15th Feb 2023

Domains with sufficient coverage in Russia (2022-01-01 - 2023-01-20)



Notable changes in blocking over time

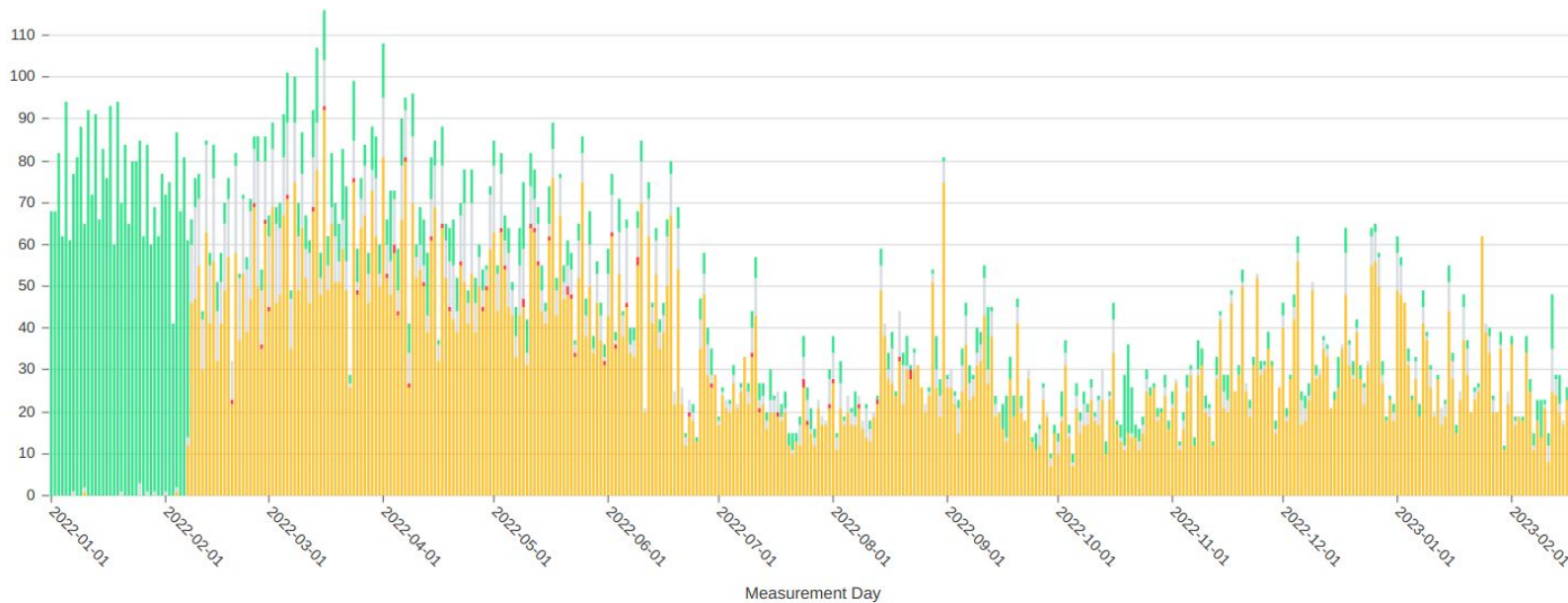
- Human Rights Watch
- Amnesty International
- Moscow Helsinki Group
- Argentura.ru
- The Bell news media website
- Hromadske.ua
- YouTube (potential block)
- SoundCloud
- Patreon
- Tor Project (temporary unblocking)
- Other cases of unblocking



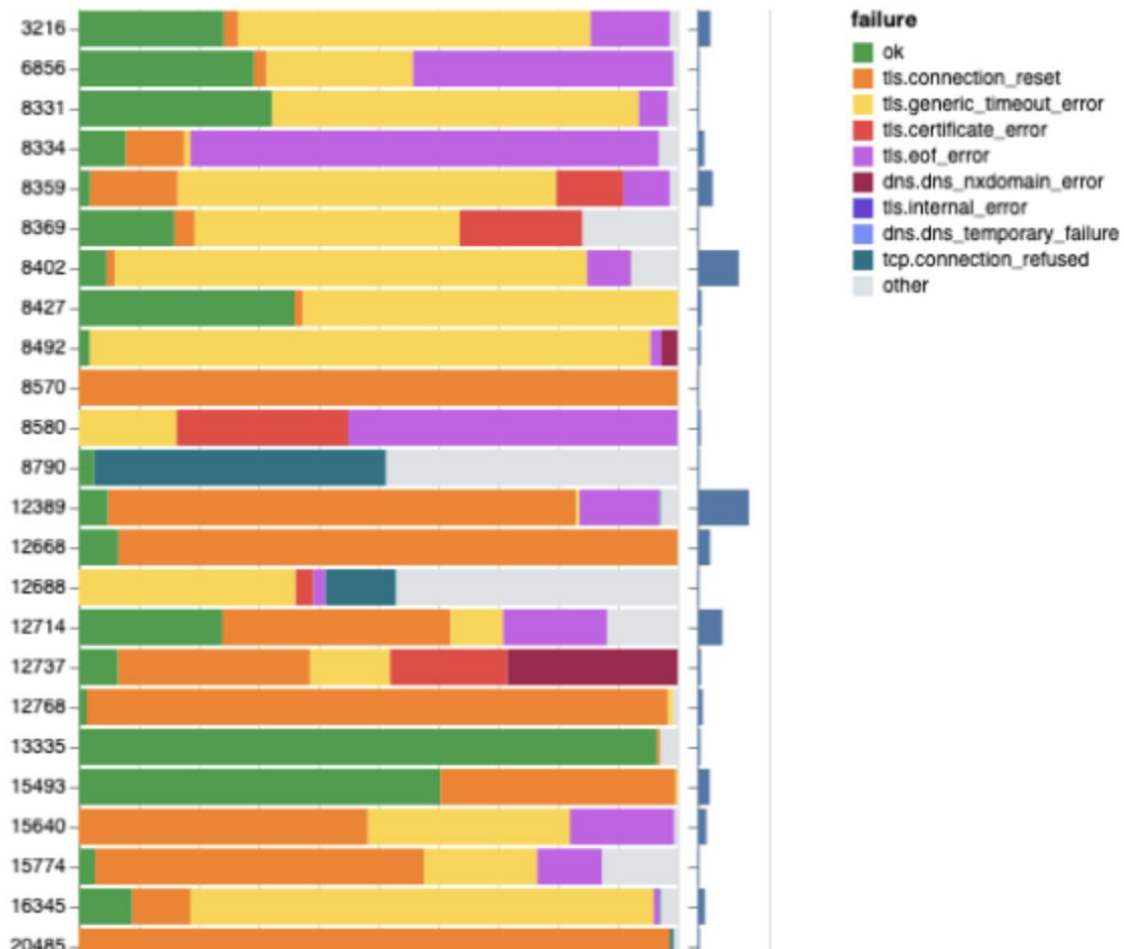
Russia

Web Connectivity Test, hromadske.ua

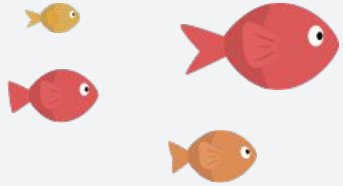
OK Count Confirmed Count Anomaly Count Failure Count



Failures for hromadske.ua in Russia by ASN
7th Feb 2022 to 18th Feb 2023



Thank you!



- <https://ooni.org/>
- simone@ooni.org

