

Internet Monitoring Action Project (iMAP) 2023 Internet Censorship Reports

IAB Workshop on Barriers to Internet Access of Services (BIAS): Censorship

Wednesday, 17 January 2024
UTC 1500
Webex

About iMAP

Internet Monitoring Action Project 2021-2025

Objective:

To establish regional and in-country networks that will monitor network interference and restrictions to the freedom of expression online in Cambodia, Hong Kong (China), India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.



Centre
for Internet
& Society



EngageMedia.org



OONI



Overview of iMAP

Contribution of data and information	Movement Building	Capacity Building
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Increase the collection of OONI Probe measurements● Strengthen censorship monitoring by improving country specific test lists● Produce annual country reports on the state of internet censorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Foster the development of regional and national network of digital activists● Establish in-country networks that will monitor network interference and restrictions to the freedom of expression online	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Build the capacity of the iMAP network to understand internet censorship testing● Equip members with skills to carry out monitoring of internet censorship and to improve the existing test-lists containing URLs under monitoring

iMAP Ongoing Activities

Country reports on the state of censorship in 2022, 2023 & 2024

- Burma, Cambodia, Hong Kong (China), India (except 2022), Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste (2023) and Vietnam.

Local Partner Workshops in each country

Translation of OONI Probe App & Country Reports

Updating & Reviewing **country-specific test lists**

Thematic reports

- Anonymization & Circumvention Tools
- Freedom of expression

Form a **Community of Practice**

Methodology and coverage

Countries coverage:

10 countries:

- Cambodia
- Hong Kong (China)
- India
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Vietnam

Period:

1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

Analysis

1. Confirmed blockings

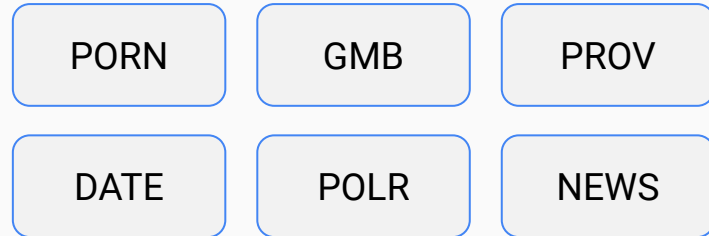
- Confirmed by OONI (existing blocking fingerprints)
- Confirmed by heuristics (based on heuristics i.e. new blocking fingerprints)
- Confirmed by news reports

2. Percentage of blocked or likely blocked by category

- OONI measurements which showed Confirmed blocked + Anomaly + Failures

Key findings

General Observations



IN, ID, KH, MY, PH, TH, VN



HK
MM

Methods of blocking

DNS tampering

Centralised censorship
using specific ip

- 175.139.142.25 for MY
- 121.1.49.100 for PH

Countries:
MY, PH



Access to this page has been ordered **BLOCKED** by the

**National
Telecommunications
Commission
(NTC)**



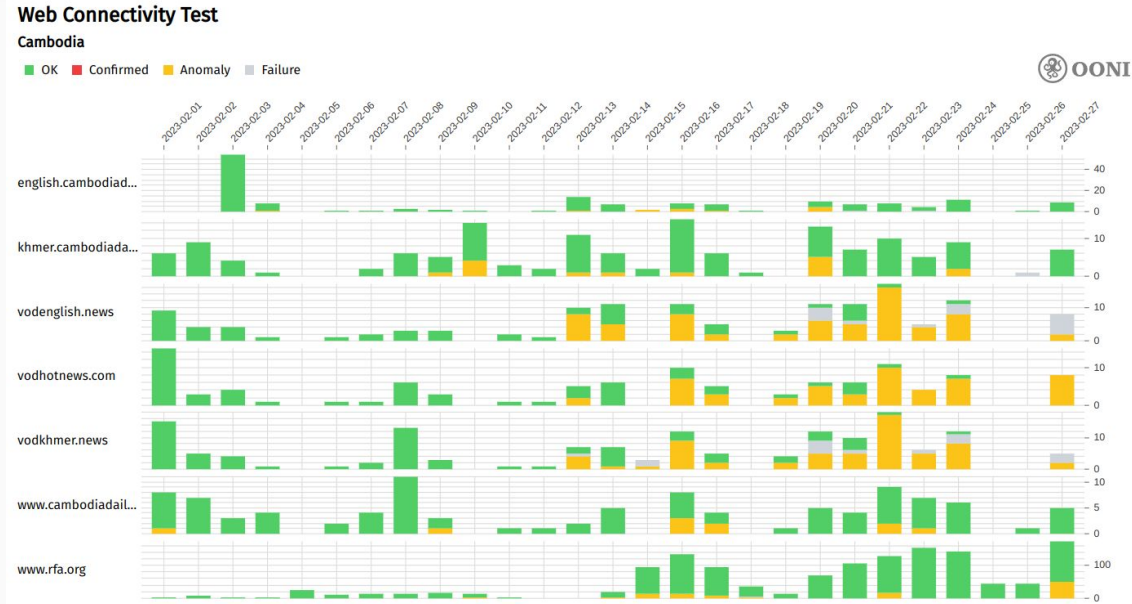
www.ntc.gov.ph

DNS tampering

Unconfirmed censorship to

- Bogon ip (127.0.0.1)
- Empty domain (nxdomain)

Countries:
HK, KH



DNS tampering (geo blocking)

Geo blocking of US
military websites

Countries:
HK

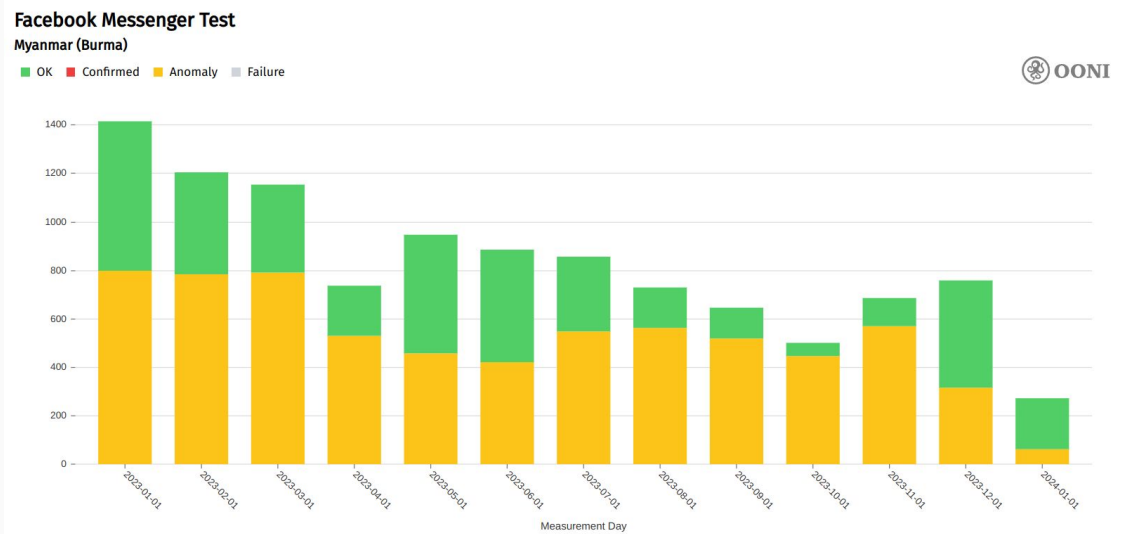
Input	Number of measurements	Percentage of blocked or likely blocked
http://www.sealswcc.com/	902	97.8%
http://www.jsf.mil/	983	96.8%
http://www.stratcom.mil/	972	83.1%
http://www.usafa.af.mil/	828	62.1%
http://www.navy.mil/	785	58.7%
http://www.pacom.mil/	823	60.4%
http://www.centcom.mil/	851	61.2%
http://www.uscg.mil/	868	61.4%
http://www.southcom.mil/	846	60.5%
https://www.af.mil/	850	61.4%
https://www.army.mil/	788	56.6%
http://www.socom.mil/	1114	54.6%
https://www.darpa.mil/	773	54.9%
https://www.dia.mil/	604	56.8%

Table 5: Potentially blocked websites in the Government category

DNS tampering (messaging apps)

On Facebook Messenger

Countries:
MM

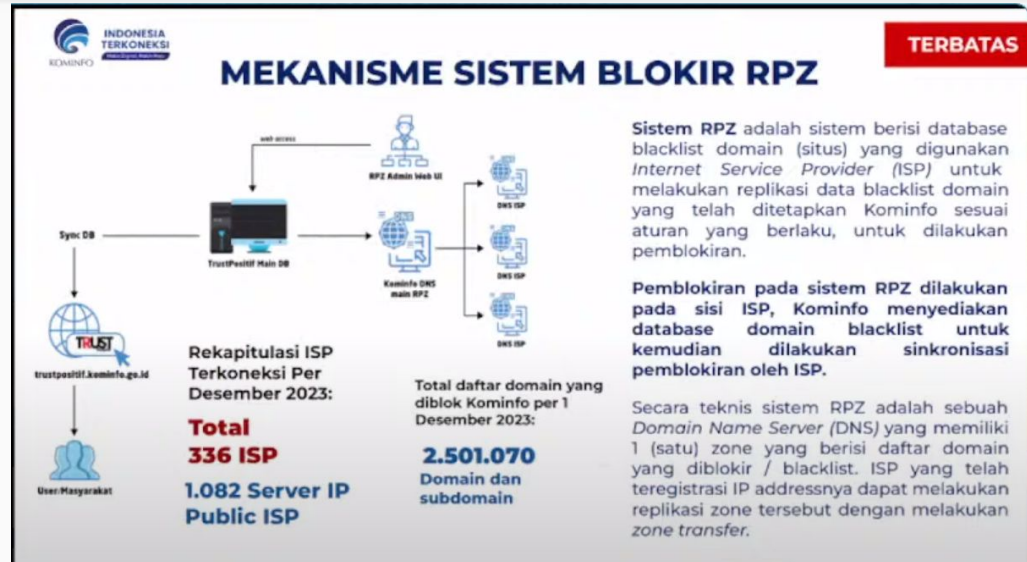


DNS+HTTP tampering

ISP blocks based on govt/
court block list

- DNS
- HTTP

Countries:
ID, IN



[Source](#)

HTTP tampering

Block page served on
HTTP

Countries:
ID, IN, TH, VN, MM



เนื้อหาถูกระงับ เนื่องจากมีความผิด
ตาม พ.ร.บ.ว่าด้วยการกระทำความผิดเกี่ยวกับคอมพิวเตอร์ พ.ศ. 2550
และที่แก้ไขเพิ่มเติม และ/หรือเข้าข่ายการกระทำความผิดตาม
พ.ร.บ.การพนัน พ.ศ.2478 และที่แก้ไขเพิ่มเติม

This content has been suspended
due to its illegal acts in accordance with
the Computer-related Crime Act 2007 (B.E. 2550) and additional amendments
and/or the Gambling Act 1935 (B.E. 2478) and additional amendments



กระทรวงดิจิทัลเพื่อเศรษฐกิจและสังคม
MINISTRY OF DIGITAL ECONOMY AND SOCIETY



National Cyber Security Center
Trung tâm Giám sát an toàn
không gian mạng quốc gia

⚠ CẢNH BÁO

Tên miền **103.192.236.94** đã bị chặn do vi phạm pháp luật (tấn công mạng, lừa đảo, vi phạm bản quyền, dịch vụ không phép...) hoặc chính sách của tổ chức.



Trung tâm Giám sát a...
62,313 followers
TRUNG TÂM GIÁM SÁT AN TOÀN
KHÔNG GIÀN MẠNG QUỐC GIA
Follow Page Share

HTTP tampering

Unconfirmed censorship
via vague block page

Countries:
VN, MM

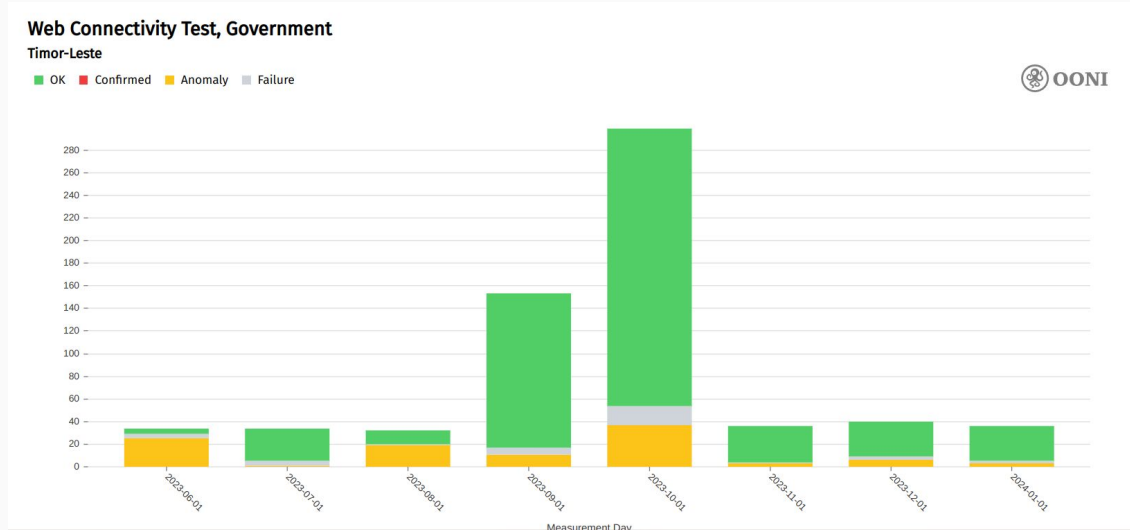
Response Body

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<header><title>404 Page</title></header>
<body>
<font size="6"><b>We're sorry but the page you're looking for could not be found!!!!</b></font>
</body>
</html>
```

Poor connectivity

No censorship, only poor connectivity especially to GOVT websites

Countries:
TL




Conclusion & recommendations

To call for governments in the region to be transparent in implementing internet censorship

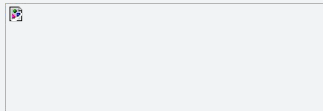
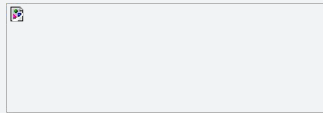
To call for volunteers to contribute to the project

Interested to contribute?

- Install the OONI Probe App 
- Contribute to OONI's GitHub at github.com/ooni
- Contribute to the test lists at github.com/citizenlab/test-lists



OOONI | Probe



You can install **OOONI Probe** on:

- iOS
- Android (and F-Droid)

OOONI Probe Desktop available for:

- Windows
- macOS
- Linux

<https://ooni.org/install/>
<https://github.com/ooni/>



Thank you!

Visit our website at imap.sinarproject.org

Email address: siti.nurliza@sinarproject.org

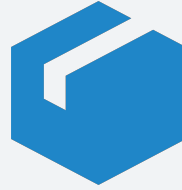
Appendix



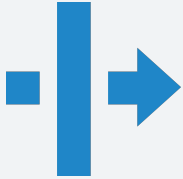
Blocking of
websites



Blocking of instant
messaging apps



Detection of
middle boxes



Blocking of censorship
circumvention tools



Measure network
speed & performance

OOONI Software Tests

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



How OONI data is collected

1. Input websites in the test lists + custom test lists

 citizenlab / test-lists Public



OONI | Run

Coordinate website censorship testing

2. Run tests using OONI Probe on Mobile/ Desktop



OONI | Probe

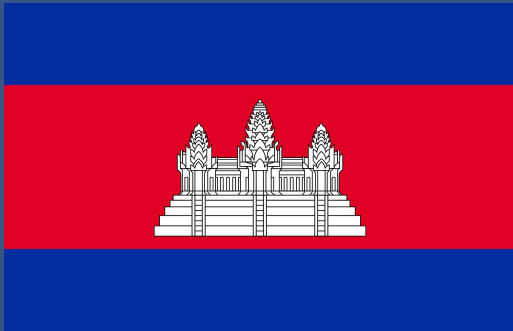
3. Analyse data on OONI Explorer



OONI | Explorer

Significant blocking events

New blockings



Cambodia

In February 2022, independent news media VOD was shut down by the government, followed by the blocking of their websites together with other independent news websites. The media outlets are:

VOD

Cambodia Daily

Radio Free Asia (RFA)

New blockings

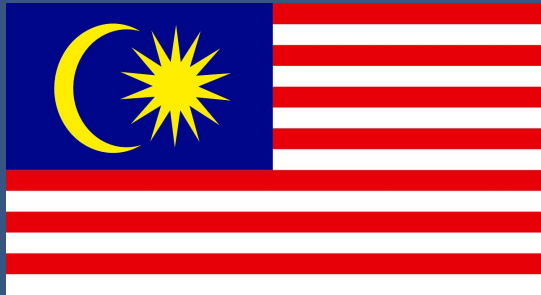


India

In May 2023, news reports indicated that 14 instant messaging applications were blocked in Jammu and Kashmir on grounds of national security under Section 69A of the IT Act, including:

Crypviser, Enigma, Safeswiss, Wickrme, Mediafire, Briar, BChat, Nandbox, Conion, IMO, Element, Second Line, Zangi, and Threema

New blockings

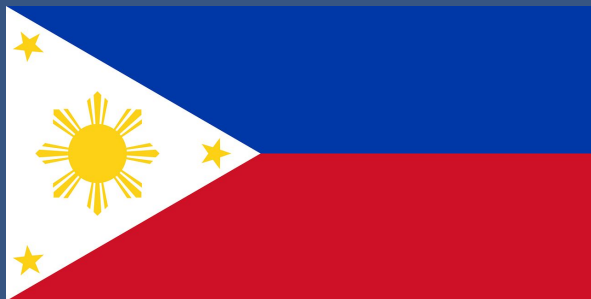


Malaysia

Since late 2022, the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) has been blocking independent news and political blogs including:

malaysia-today.net
malaysianow.com

New blockings



Philippines

In June 2022, the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has ordered internet service providers (ISP) to **block 26 websites with ties to communist terrorist groups (CTG).**

