#KeepItOn

Fighting internet shutdowns around the world

Felicia Anthonio
Campaigner, KeepItOn Lead, Access Now
felicia@accessnow.org | @FelAnthonio

accessnow

What is the #KeepItOn campaign?

What do we stand for?

What have we been up to?

Where are we heading?

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What is the #KeepItOn campaign?

- A global campaign
- Launched at RightsCon Silicon Valley 2016 by Access Now
- 220 civil society organizations from 99 countries

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What do we stand for?

- Stopping internet shutdowns
- Advocacy against internet shutdowns
- Monitoring and Documentation of shutdowns
- Provide <u>digital security</u> support and circumvention tips
- Strategic Litigation
- Grants for grassroots advocacy

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Definition of Internet shutdown?

An <u>internet shutdown</u> can be defined as an "intentional disruption of internet or electronic communications, rendering them inaccessible or effectively unusable, for a specific population or within a location, often to exert control over the flow of information."...,

What have we been up to?

For more information, visit:
https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/

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What are some of the trends we have observed over the years?

The world map of internet shutdowns in 2019

213 documented shutdowns in 2019

33 countries

Worst internet shutdown offenders

121 India

12 Venezuela

11 Yemen

8 Iraq

6 Algeria

4 Ethiopia

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12 Venezuela
11 Yemen
1 Zimbabwe
3 Sri Lanka
3 Sudan
1 Liberia
1 Mauritania
2 Myanmar
1 Gabon
2 Turkey
1 Eritrea
1 Cameroon
1 Egypt
1 Chad
1 DRC
4 Ethiopia
1 UK
3 Iran
6 Algeria
3 Russia
8 Iraq
1 Jordan
3 Bangladesh
1 China
2 Benin
2 Ecuador
2 Tajikistan
2 Syria
3 Kazakhstan
1 Malawi
3 Indonesia
5 Pakistan
121 India

2019 number of internet shutdowns by country

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New trends observed in 2019
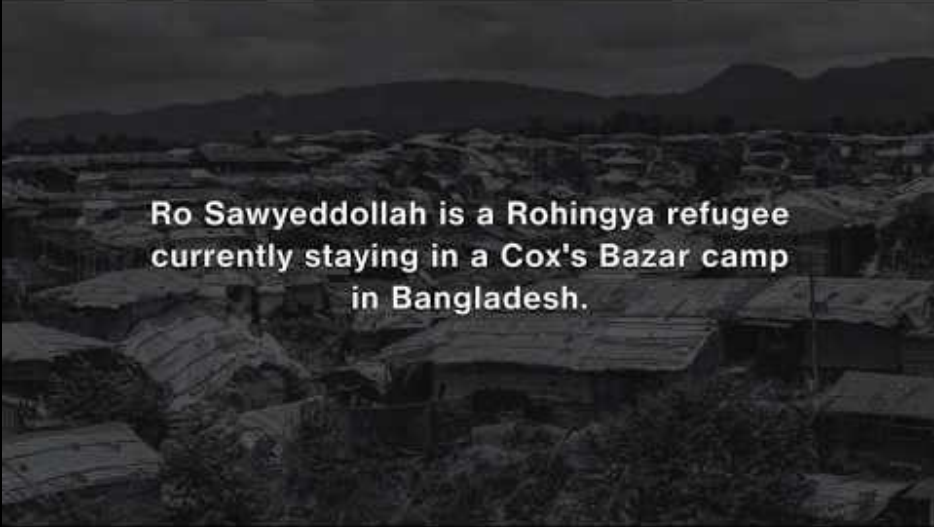
1. Longer shutdowns

- CHAD - a social media shutdown of 472 days between 2018 and 2019
- MYANMAR - Ongoing internet shutdowns in townships in Rakhine and Chin states
- INDIA - Jammu and Kashmir in blackout for 175 days
- BANGLADESH - Ongoing ban of refugees using SIM cards for 168+ days
- IRAQ - an internet shutdown of 50+ days during protests

2. More targeted geographical scope

- Targeting refugees, especially at the borders
- Targeting places where marginalized groups live

3. Affecting more people in Africa

- 23 out of 25 shutdowns across Africa in 2019 are national, affecting 14 countries
- 10 out of 20 shutdowns across Africa in 2018 are national, affecting eight countries

Ro Sawyeddollah is a Rohingya refugee currently staying in a Cox's Bazar camp in Bangladesh.

Internet shutdowns and COVID-19

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"It has affected my mental health, my work, and made my life follow a theme of 'waking up with no plans and sleeping with no plans.'"

Sara is a researcher living in Srinagar, the largest city in India's Jammu and Kashmir region/s. Since August 2019, the longest internet ban in the history of this region has deeply interfered with the life and work of local people like Sara. Even though the internet was intermittently restored in January 2020, the ban has created a desperate new norm for people in the region. As the COVID19 pandemic continues, local healthcare experts warn the situation will deteriorate without the reinstatement of internet access.

"All the other students in the country are getting an education, but we're only waiting for access … I don't see any progress in my future, because it's not just the internet, we're not even given access to other communication channels [during the lockdown]."

Like in many other countries, the Pakistani government has moved education online due to COVID-19. But students in Waziristan don't have the same access to education as the rest of the country, due to the lack of a basic internet connection. Shams-Uddin, a postgraduate student in Zoology, sees a gloomy future without the fundamental tools he needs to keep studying.

How about those disconnected during COVID-19

- Inability to access timely information about COVID-19
- Frontline workers unable to access COVID-19 related protocols on time
- Education put on hold
- Communication with families and loved ones disrupted
- Feeling hopeless and helpless

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APC ✓
@APC_News

The Jakarta State Administrative Court recently declared as illegal the internet shutdowns in Papua and West Papua enforced by the Indonesian government in 2019.

apc.org/en/node/36501/

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KENAPA JARINGAN INTERNET DI PUTUS

👤 EngageMedia and Coconet

6:56 AM · Jun 16, 2020 · Twitter Web App

How is the #KeepItOn hashtag fairing online?
- #KeepItOn Twemoji
- Used over 200,000 times on Twitter since we launched it in May 2020

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Where are we heading?
- Being Proactive
- Preventing shutdowns
- Circumventing shutdowns
- Measuring and monitoring shutdowns
- Assessing elections and shutdowns
- Telling the human impact of shutdowns
- Litigation

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QUESTIONS?

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How can I support the #KeepItOn campaign

-   Report any sign of internet shutdown to us via shutdownalert@accessnow.org.
-   Experienced a shutdown or social media blackout? Share your story with us via this form.
-   Use the **#KeepItOn** to reachout

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Resources:

- #KeepItOn 2019 report: https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton-2019-report

- Definition of Internet shutdown:
  https://www.accessnow.org/no-internet-shutdowns-lets-keepiton/

- #KeepItOn and #InternetShutdowns Twitter Emoji:
  https://twitter.com/accessnow/status/1265305089427804160?s=20

- For more information about our internet shutdowns work visit:
  https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/

- To know more about our digital rights works: https://www.accessnow.org/

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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