

WEIGHING THE IMPACT OF NETWORK SHUTDOWNS AND SERVICE RESTRICTIONS

SHUTDOWNS...



VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS.

Access to information, freedom of expression and association are [internationally recognized rights](#) that states are obligated to protect.



RISK THE SAFETY OF CITIZENS.

Disrupting the operations of emergency services risks lives. A 2015 shutdown in an Asian country affected a [hospital](#) and the airport.



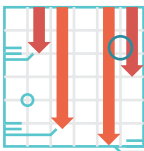
SEPARATE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES.

Families and loved ones cut off from each other add to distress, anger and social unrest.



IMPEDE THE MEDIA.

[Blocking access to news](#) can fuel public unrest and undermine accurate reporting.



CONFLICT WITH THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

The SDGs [require countries](#) to “significantly increase access to information and communications

technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet.”



DISRUPT FINANCIAL SERVICES.

Without online and mobile payments, the digital economy grinds to a halt, preventing payments for salaries, utilities, health, and education.



CAUSE GDP LOSS.

High connectivity-countries lose at least [1.9% of daily GDP](#) each day that services are blocked. A 2011 shutdown in an African country that lasted five days cost an estimated USD \$90M.



HARM TOURISM.

Governments are beginning to include network shutdowns in [travel warnings](#) they provide to their citizens.



RISK FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT.

Companies use anti-corruption indices when deciding how to allocate foreign direct investment. These tools use [“access to information”](#) as an indicator.



CREATE TRADE BARRIERS.

Disruptions interfere with the ability of local businesses to competitively export goods and services to global markets. Shutdowns may also trigger sanctions from trading partners.



HURT LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Businesses of all sizes use communications technologies for market information, online stores, transactions, and customer relations.



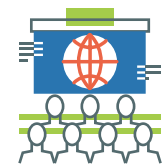
INTERFERE WITH GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Cutting communications access can adversely affect the ability of officials to communicate with one another, with the public and impede critical government functions such as tax collection.



DRAW GLOBAL AND LOCAL SCRUTINY.

Shutdowns receive widespread [media attention](#), which can increase attention to issues the shutdown may have aimed to obscure.



TRIGGER WIDESPREAD CONDEMNATION.

A growing coalition of [civil society organizations](#) (#KeepItOn), [industry associations](#), [multi-stakeholder initiatives](#), and governments have spoken out against shutdowns, including a [joint statement](#) by the 30 Freedom Online Coalition governments.



GLOBAL NETWORK
INITIATIVE

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