Russian citizens told “switch to Android” after Apple blocks key Russian apps

VK Group, the developers of VKontakte and related services, issued its own statement complaining that “Apple has removed VK apps from the App Store without warning or explanation… VK has never been subject to sanctions nor included on sanctions lists, a fact confirmed by numerous legal opinions from international and US counsel. Apple has long been in possession of these official legal opinions and all relevant information. Nevertheless, Apple unilaterally removed VK apps without prior notice… We consider these actions by Apple regarding Russian users to be unjustified and unacceptable.” (Translation from Russian through Google Translate.)

VK Group also stressed that its Android apps “remain fully functional—including updates, notifications, and other features—and are available via RuStore, Google Play, Huawei AppGallery, Samsung Store, Xiaomi Store, and official product websites.”

This appears to be the new line from the Kremlin, as well. A Russian Telegram channel that reports on Peskov’s comments quoted him yesterday as saying that Apple perhaps could not be “trusted as a commercial service provider” and that the blocks are part of a pattern of “decisions by Apple that are, to put it mildly, bizarre.” (Translation from Russian through Google Translate.)

Still, despite the posturing, Peskov knows the score; there’s little Russia can do about the situation. So instead, he ended with an appeal to users. “There is always an immediate

solution," he said, "switch to Android, switch to our systems, switch to our equivalent service, and continue using the services you love."

https://arstechnica.com/gadgets/2026/06/russian-citizens-told-switch-to-android-after-apple-blocks-key-russian-apps/