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# Conflicts & Connectivity

## The problem Internet shutdowns in Africa

By Nelson J Kwaje  
ICANN 59 NextGen Fellow  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
24-28 June 2017

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# What is an internet shutdown?

An internet shutdown happens when someone — usually a government — intentionally disrupts the internet or mobile apps to control what people say or do. Shutdowns are also sometimes called “blackouts” or “kill switches”. A more technical definition developed by experts defines it 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.”



# 15

DOCUMENTED  
SHUTDOWNS IN 2015

Democratic Republic of Congo Niger Togo

Nauru Yemen Algeria Iraq Turkey

Democratic People's Republic of Korea Brazil

Congo-Brazzaville India Ecuador

Malaysia Burundi

# 56

DOCUMENTED  
SHUTDOWNS IN 2016

Malaysia Chad Uganda India Syria

Ethiopia Pakistan Brazil Iraq Jordan

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Vietnam Algeria Libya Bahrain Turkey

Zimbabwe Bangladesh

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# South Sudan



# Why is it Happening

1. To stop students from cheating in school exams.
2. Punishing certain companies, such as messaging app makers.
3. Preventing attacks during public holidays.
4. Protecting national security.
5. Some governments also shut down social media and the internet during elections - the most critical moment in a democracy - in order to shape the outcome or hide fraud.

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# How does it happen

Ultimately, the decision to take drastic repressive measures on a country's internet traffic rests with its government.

- Motive
- Capability
- Deterrent



# What is at stake

List potential impacts of internet shut downs

- Economy
- Our Livelihood
- Freedom , Trust , Democracy
- The Free Press
- The Internet module



Personal Story



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# Can we avoid it

Awareness  
Advocacy  
Activism

Better  
Technology  
Standards

Multi Stakeholder  
Policy  
discussions