

# OONI Report for Azerbaijan Internet Watch February 2021 Update

This report provides an update based on the analysis of [OONI measurements collected from Azerbaijan](#) between **December 2020 to February 2021**.

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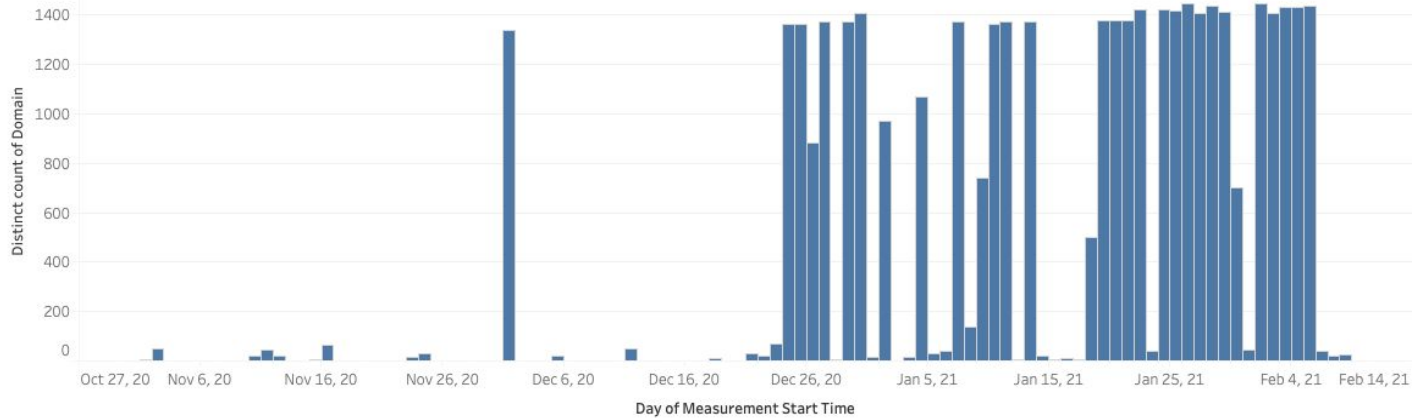
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## Testing coverage

Starting from 24th December 2020, OONI Probe testing coverage in Azerbaijan has significantly increased.

From the chart below, we can see that most domains in the [testing lists](#) have been tested at least once throughout the testing period (from 24th December 2020), while in many cases, around 1,400 domains were tested per day in Azerbaijan.

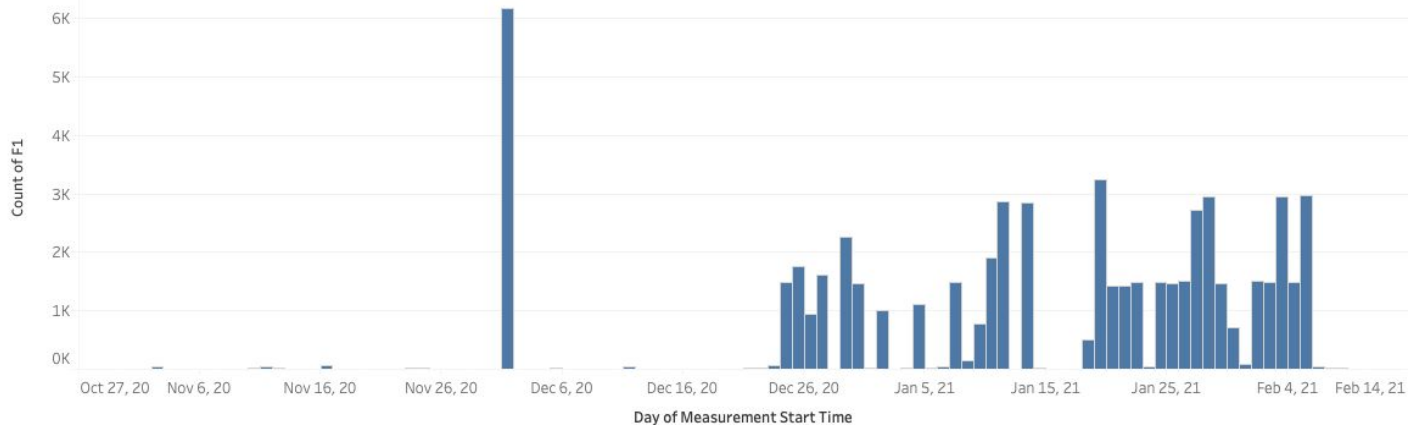
Testing coverage



**Chart:** Distinct count of tested domains in Azerbaijan between October 2020 to February 2021.

Moreover, we can see that the overall volume of OONI measurements gathered every day (particularly from December 2020 onwards) is very stable, as illustrated through the following chart.

Testing volume



**Chart:** Number of OONI measurements collected per day (on the testing of websites) from Azerbaijan between October 2020 to February 2021.

It's worth highlighting that, on average, more than 1,000 measurements were collected per day from January 2021 onwards. On several days (between January 2021 to February 2021), around 3,000 measurements were collected from Azerbaijan per day.

This significant expansion in OONI Probe testing coverage in Azerbaijan greatly increases our ability and confidence in detecting and confirming censorship events.

# Blocked websites

## News media

We continue to observe the blocking of media websites in Azerbaijan, as illustrated through the following chart.



**Chart:** Blocking of news websites in Azerbaijan between December 2020 to February 2021.

The news websites that presented signs of blocking in Azerbaijan (between December 2020 to February 2021) include:

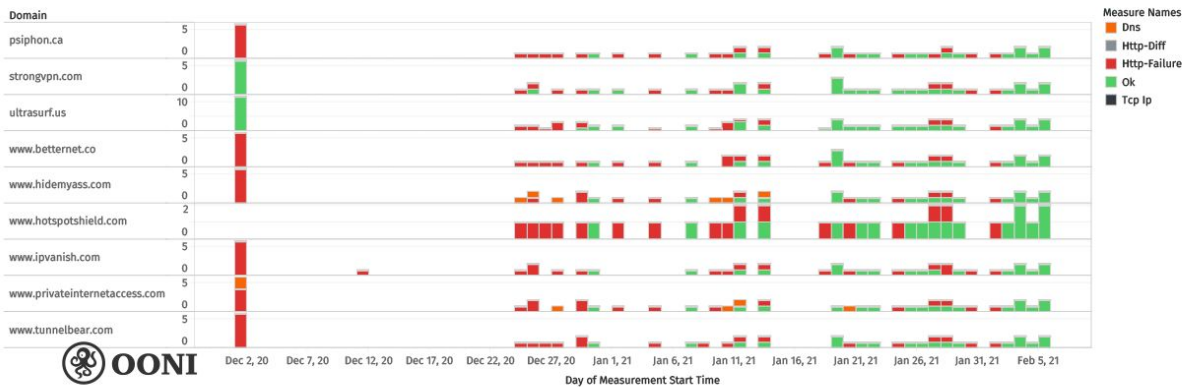
1. azerbaycansaatı.tv
2. www.24saat.org
3. www.abzas.net
4. www.azadliq.info
5. www.azadliq.org
6. www.gununesi.org
7. www.kanal13.tv
8. www.meydan.tv
9. www.occrp.org

The above 9 sites appear to have been blocked in Azerbaijan for at least 1 year, since their testing has consistently displayed signs of blocking since January 2020.

Throughout our analysis of OONI data between January 2020 to February 2021, these media sites have mainly presented HTTP failures. This means that [OONI Probe](#) was able to successfully resolve via DNS the IP addresses of these domains and successfully establish TCP connections to the resolved IP addresses, but when it attempted to retrieve the website



### Blocked circumvention tool sites in Azerbaijan



**Chart:** Blocking of circumvention tool websites in Azerbaijan between December 2020 to February 2021.

This is suggested by the fact that the methods by which the block is implemented (HTTP failures caused by connection timeouts) is similar to those seen in the testing of news websites.

However, it's worth highlighting that these circumvention tool sites did not display signs of blocking across all networks, suggesting that their potential blocking varies from ISP to ISP in Azerbaijan (as appears to be the case also for other sites). Furthermore, the most recent measurements collected in February 2021 from their testing showed that all of these circumvention tool sites were accessible on tested networks.

## Accessible platforms

### Social media websites

In our November 2020 report, we shared that (starting from early October 2020) several social media websites presented signs of blocking. This included [viber.com](https://viber.com), [facebook.com](https://facebook.com), [youtube.com](https://youtube.com), and [skype.com](https://skype.com).

However, all of these platforms now appear to be accessible in Azerbaijan, as suggested through OONI measurements collected from the testing of [viber.com](https://viber.com), [facebook.com](https://facebook.com), [youtube.com](https://youtube.com), and [skype.com](https://skype.com).

### Social media apps

Similarly, social media apps now appear to be accessible in Azerbaijan. Between September 2020 to November 2020, [WhatsApp](https://whatsapp.com) and [Telegram](https://telegram.com) presented signs of blocking in Azerbaijan, but recent measurements (collected from several networks between December 2020 to February 2021) show that they are now accessible.

The following chart shows that while WhatsApp and Telegram were blocked in November 2020, both apps (along with Facebook Messenger) have been accessible in recent months.



**Chart:** OONI Probe testing of social media apps in Azerbaijan between November 2020 to February 2021.

While a few measurements presented anomalies in recent months, those anomalies are likely false positives, given that the vast majority of measurements consistently showed that WhatsApp, Telegram, and Facebook Messenger were reachable in Azerbaijan.

## Conclusion

Social media censorship in Azerbaijan appears to have been lifted, but media censorship remains. Circumvention tool sites appear to have previously been blocked as well, though many now appear to be accessible.

To test the blocked media websites further, one easy way to do so (limiting the testing to those specific sites) is through the following steps:

1. Open the following OONI Run link with your OONI Probe mobile app:

[https://run.ooni.io/nettest?tn=web\\_connectivity&ta=%7B%22urls%22%3A%5B%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azerbaycansaati.tv%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.az24saat.org%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abzas.net%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azadliq.info%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azadliq.org%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gununsesi.info%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gununsesi.org%2F%22%2C%22http%3A%2F%2Fwww](https://run.ooni.io/nettest?tn=web_connectivity&ta=%7B%22urls%22%3A%5B%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azerbaycansaati.tv%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.az24saat.org%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abzas.net%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azadliq.info%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azadliq.org%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gununsesi.info%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gununsesi.org%2F%22%2C%22http%3A%2F%2Fwww)

[.kanal13.tv%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.meydan.tv%2Faz%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.occrp.org%2F%22%5D%7D&mv=1.2.0](https://www.kanal13.tv%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.meydan.tv%2Faz%2F%22%2C%22https%3A%2F%2Fwww.occrp.org%2F%22%5D%7D&mv=1.2.0)

2. Tap “Run” (to test the 9 media websites listed in the “News Media” section of this report)