

*NBC Nightly News With Lester Holt*

03/04/22

7:01:06 p.m. [TEASE]

8 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Putin's Media Crackdown]

LESTER HOLT: And Vladimir Putin's crackdown on the media in Russia as Facebook and Twitter are banned. Our team inside Moscow.

(...)

7:09:42 p.m.

14 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Putin's Media Crackdown]

HOLT: For their part, Russia and Vladimir — President Vladimir Putin are taking harsh new steps tonight to control messaging about the war, including a press crackdown that has prompted some international news organizations to suspend operations there.

(...)

7:10:35 p.m.

41 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Breaking News; Putin's Media Crackdown Inside Russia]

KEIR SIMMONS: And, tonight, inside Russia, the president signing new law passed by parliament making it illegal to distribute so-called "false information" about the military operation: calling the operation in Ukraine an invasion or a war could be illegal. Breaking the law could result up to 15 years in prison. Meanwhile, Facebook was officially blocked by Russia's internet regulator, and Twitter has been restricted, according to state media. And tonight, more independent news organizations have been taken off line here, including the BBC's Russian service, a state-funded German channel, and Radio Free Europe. Lester?

HOLT: All very chilling.