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# Belarus Protesters, Directionless, Turn Into Herd

*Posted on*

3-4 minutes

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Dear Readers:

I have a big huge post coming out, probably tomorrow, also on the Belarus theme, but today just a super-quickie: I saw [this piece from KP](#) by Alexei Ovchinnikov, who was there in Minsk over the weekend, covering the ritualistic Sunday protest.

As usual the protest was massive, proving that the Belorussian Opps can really get out the crowd, all of their supporters in one massif. (Official Belorussian government estimates around 20,000 in all the regions, which is probably an underestimate, but who knows? it's hard to tell from the pictures, it sure looks like a lot of people to me.)

Anyhow, the key point here, aside from the fact that the stalemate continues (Opps can get out the crowd; but nobody in the government or security forces has flipped to their side) is that the success of the Opps marches relies on a piece of technology called [Telegram Channels](#). This open-source technology took the world by storm a few months ago, and has beat out Twitter, Facebook, and other forms of messaging.





Quoting the piece I just linked:

**No, these aren't TV channels. Telegram channels are somewhat different. Telegram is an open source app, which means that everyone can create content on it, and improve the platform. Channels aren't the same as groups on Telegram.**

**Groups are smaller and mostly invite only. A group has a limit, 200,000 people max. Channels can have infinite members worldwide. They usually revolve around bigger topics and notions, for example, horror flick lovers.**

Messages on Telegram channels are secure and encrypted end-to-end. It's a perfect tool for Color Revolutionaries!

Anyhow, what I am trying to get at, is that the organizers of the Belorussian Opp protests are heavily reliant on a [Polish Telegram channel called NEXTA](#), via which their foreign leaders issue them their instructions and tactical directions during the marches.

And, according to Ovchinnikov, the Belorussian government has learned to counter this weapon by a simple method, of bringing parts of the internet down, right in the middle of the march!

Proof of Concept occurred yesterday when the Russian reporter witnessed clueless **zmagary** checking their phones and asking each other: "Where are we supposed to go next?" Instead of following a pronounced route, the protesters ended up just

wandering around in circles, like a leaderless herd.

At a certain point they wandered towards the Patriotic War Museum, which was heavily guarded by security forces. Soldiers trolled the demonstrators by blasting out patriotic Soviet war songs from loudspeakers. Demonstrators responded by singing Ukrainian Banderite songs such as “Warriors of the Light”.

As time went on, the column of demonstrators grew quite huge, but, without their Polish minders, they still didn’t know where to go and just wandered around for hours, until evening came on, and then they dispersed.

Moral of the story: Without internet, it is hard to function, as a professional revolutionary. One is amazed how the Bolsheviks did it without internet.