

RAWALPINDI: Despite the claim of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) that it has blocked the anti-Islam movie from the website YouTube.com, clips of the film are still available.

When The News contacted Deputy Director PR PTA Malahat Rab, she said PTA was trying its best to block the link of the anti-Islam movie but it kept being uploaded from different IP addresses.

When asked why PTA was not blocking YouTube.com she said PTA hadn't received any orders from the Ministry of Information Technology to block the website. "We have established a complaint centre and have requested everyone to send us the link of the website on which the anti-Islam movie is being aired. All complaints may be sent tocomplaint@pta.gov.pk," she added.

Youth have now started recording their protest against the non-blockade of the clips on social media and by sending SMSes to motivate their friends and families to stage protests so that the website may be blocked.

Many youngsters told The News that since the concerned department had failed to block the anti-Islam movie from YouTube.com and the authorities of the website were also not taking it down, the Ministry of Information Technology should block the website in Pakistan. They said if the authorities did not take notice of this complaint the youth would stage a protest outside the office of the PTA to force them to block the website. They said in this way YouTube.com would face losses and would be forced to unload the anti-Islam movie.

Muhammad Umair, a university student, said that the youth of Pakistan were really very angry against the airing of the anti-Islam movie. He said all university students had started a campaign to mobilise youngsters to stage a protest against the uploading of the anti-Islam movie.

Another student Yasir Ali said that Pakistani leaders and higher authorities of PTA should be ashamed for not wholly blocking the movie from being viewed. "If they are unable to stop the uploading of the anti-Islam movie clips then they should block the website itself as soon as possible," he added.

He said if PTA did not block the website all university students of the twin cities would stage a protest outside the PTA headquarter to force them to take strict action against the website.

(The News/Daily Jang)

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Russia backs ban of anti-Islam film

MOSCOW: The Russian prosecutor general's office on Monday backed a ban on the US-made anti-Islam film that has sparked deadly violence, saying it would seek to add it to a list of extremist material.

A spokeswoman said her office "has prepared a request to a court to recognise the film, which is posted on the Internet and is offensive to believers, as extremist material," Interfax reported.

The initially obscure "Innocence of Muslims," produced by a US religious group, has been cited as one of the main instigators of riots that have killed 17 people from North Africa to the Middle East and Afghanistan.

Those killed include the US envoy and three consulate staff workers in Libya. Russian prosecutors have also asked a government watchdog to prevent media from reporting on the content of the film, spokeswoman Marina Gridneva said, adding that the film "offended the religious feelings of believers and fomented ethnic hatred."

Prosecutors have contacted major Internet providers with a warning about showing the film, she said. Russia recently tightened a law on protecting minors from the Internet, allowing the government to draw up a blacklist of banned sites showing child pornography, promoting drug use and offering tips on suicide.

Under its extremism laws, any court can pronounce a material extremist, and the list includes issues of the Jehovah's Witnesses' "The Watchtower" magazine as well as videos posted on social network sites. Russia is fighting an Islamist insurgency in its mainly Muslim North Caucasus, where bombings and shootings targeted at the pro-Kremlin authorities are virtually a daily occurrence.

(The News/Daily Jang)

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PTA asks users to help identify anti-Islam sites our correspondent

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has requested people to bring it to its notice if any anti-Islamic video is available for viewing through any ISP or mobile operator in Pakistan.

According to a press release issued by the PTA on Monday night, the chief justice of Pakistan has ordered the PTA to block access of all anti-Islamic blasphemous videos on YouTube, including the recently launched anti-Islamic film that has sparked protests across the Muslim world.

The Pakistan Telecom Authority was summoned by the CJ to brief him about efforts made by the telecom regulator in blocking the anti-Islamic video, available for viewing in Pakistan. PTA apprised the court about the steps the Authority has been taking to vigorously monitor and block the anti-Islamic video placed on worldwide web.

The list provided to the Supreme Court was of 753 anti-Islamic websites (which has now jumped to 934 at the time of this press release) blocked on the Internet by PTA out of which over 650 URLs have been banned on YouTube. However, the surge of the anti-Islamic video's links is massive, and is causing unrest in the country. The apex court was also apprised that the PTA had sent a list of anti-Islamic Secured Links to Facebook, which have been blocked from viewing. Through this release, PTA has requested that all complaints be sent to complaint@pta.gov.pk so that PTA may take prompt action.