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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE


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Eurasia Intelligence Digest



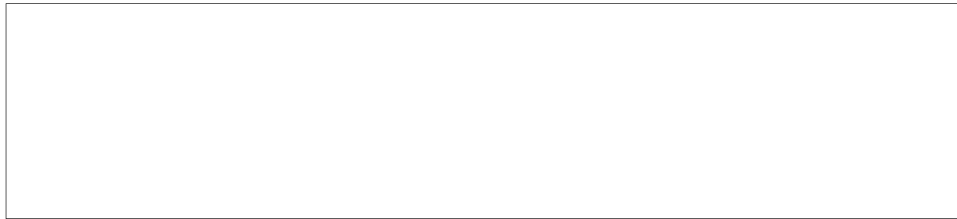
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An intelligence support message
for key policymakers

- The Russian Government is taking advantage of last week's hostage crisis to call on media--including state-owned media outlets--to self-censor. 

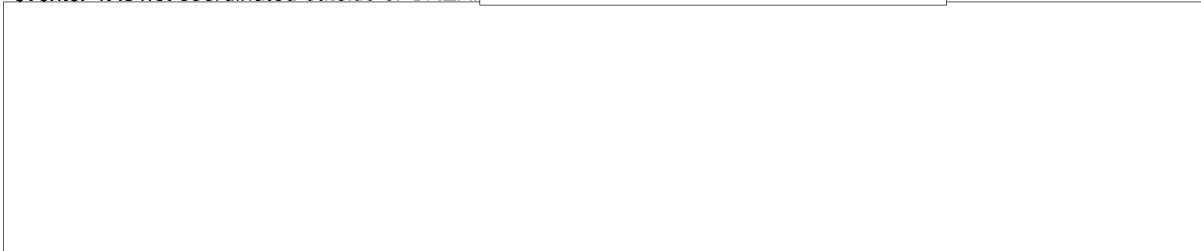
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The EID is prepared by analysts in the Office of Russian and European Analysis and features a first look at developing events. It is not coordinated outside of OREA.  Comments are welcome

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1. Russian Government Calling on Journalists To Self-Censor. The Russian Government is taking advantage of last week's hostage crisis to call on media--including state-owned media outlets--to self-censor. Press Minister Lesin and Presidential Aide Yastrzhembskiy have warned the media this week that the state will enforce laws on the books prohibiting the media from broadcasting or publishing quotations from terrorists or material that might be construed to justify terrorist activity.

- Executives at state-owned Pervyy Kanal (First Channel, formerly known as ORT), Russia's most watched television network, announced on Wednesday that they will implement a policy of "strict self-censorship." The network's director general publicly stated that freedom of speech and the war against terrorism were incompatible.

- On Tuesday, Yastrzhembskiy called on the journalistic community to develop a code of behavior for extreme situations. Although he said that journalists--rather than the state--should regulate what they report, he asserted that most of the criticism that the media leveled at the security services after the crisis had violated the federal terrorism law, according to press reports.

- Last Friday, the Kremlin took privately owned *Moskoviya* off the air after it allegedly violated Russian counterterrorism and media laws. Officials on Friday also threatened to shut down the Web site of independent radio station *Ekho Moskvy* and to punish state-owned radio station *Mayak* for violating counterterrorism legislation and licensing requirements. [Redacted]

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Officials' calls for self-censorship reinforce a trend toward tightly regulating media in Russia, particularly in areas affecting national security. Even as the hostage crisis unfolded, relevant ministries and agencies closely monitored and regulated the media, a trend that seems to be strengthening in the aftermath of the crisis. [Redacted]

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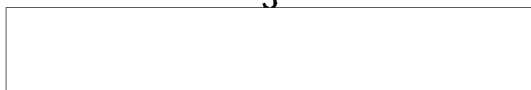
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