

Moscow's AI Facial-Recognition Camera Network — From Traffic Safety Pitch to Dissident and Draft-Evader Tracking

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Russia

Quality score: 20/100

Evidence strength: Descriptive / self-reported

Summary

Moscow connected roughly 230,000 cameras to a citywide AI facial-recognition system pitched for public safety; leaked budget documents show over \$121m earmarked for 2024-2026, while Reuters and rights groups document its use to detain protesters and conscription objectors.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	0/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	0/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[City of Moscow Department of Information Technologies, with NtechLab](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[VSquare — Kremlin Leaks investigation](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[The Moscow Times — facial recognition used against draft evaders](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

[Biometric Update — researchers spotlight opaque system](#) — accessed 2026-07-30

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