



photo: Jan Michael Ihl

# DPA

## Democratic Public Address System

*Fostering anonymous, public speech*

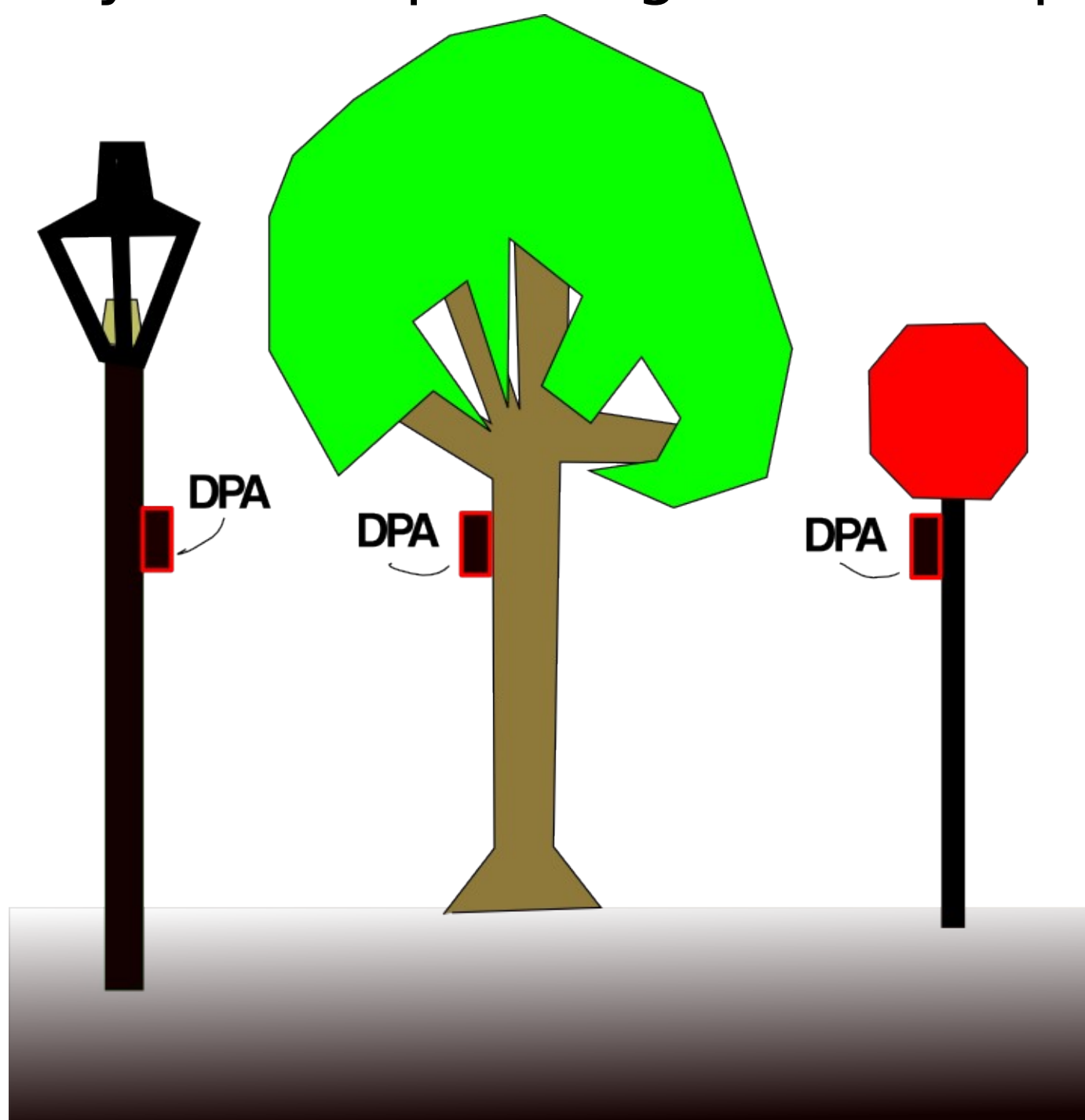
DPA is a distributed, democratic alternative which allows the broadcast of unapproved messages.

Non-democratic, authoritarian regimes seek to control the public transmission of messages. In public, only sanitized messages which promote the existing hierarchy are allowed. The tools for public address traditionally available to the public – bullhorns and small speaker systems – require the speaker to risk his or her life by identifying with the message. People may be afraid to speak their minds openly, as those who do are arrested or killed.

### Key features:

- Very low cost, simple design
- Decentralized, self correcting
- Programmable by anyone
- Anonymizes speaker to promote use even in the face of oppression

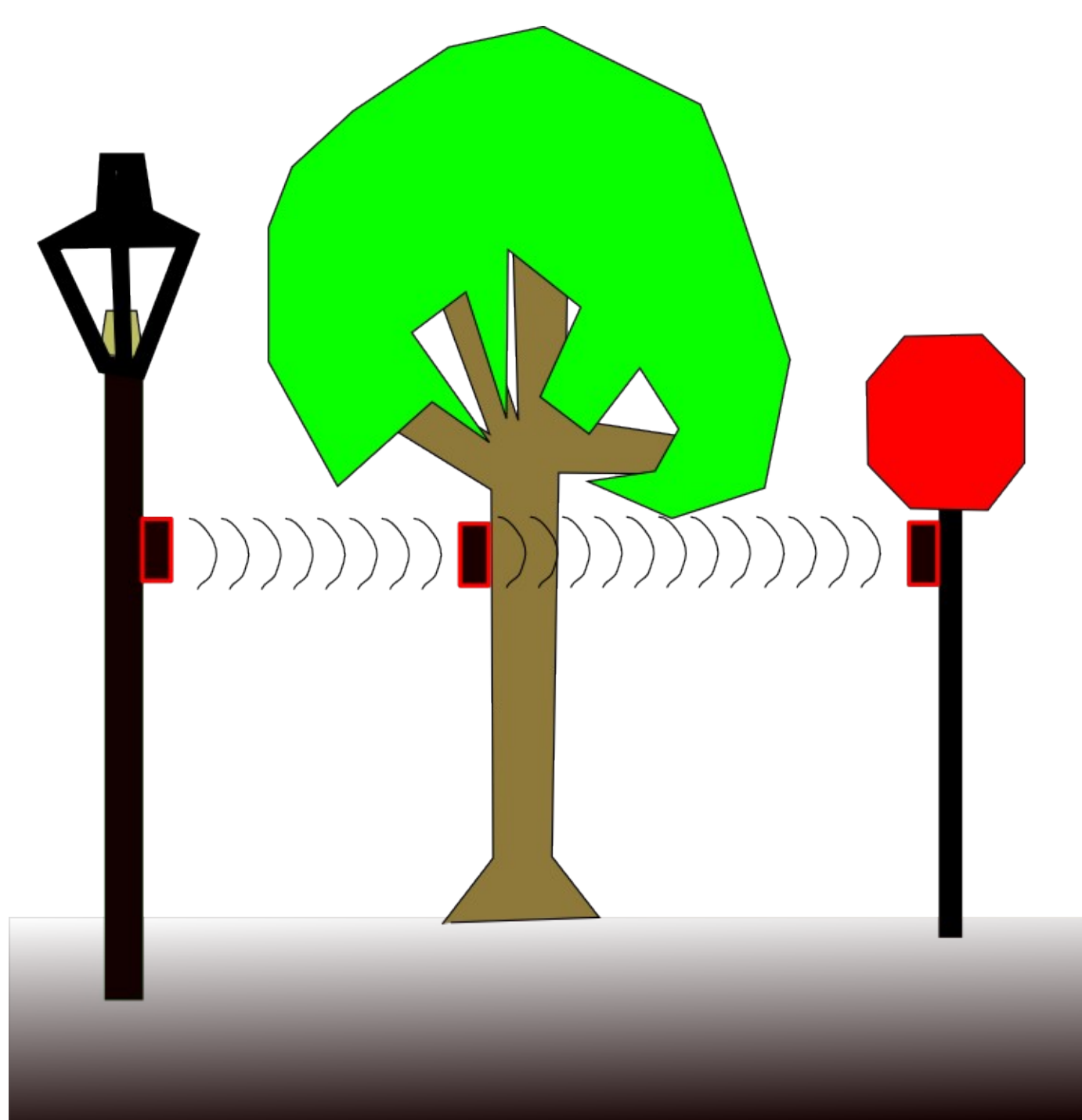
1. Deploy DPA nodes. Don't worry, they're cheap enough to be disposable.



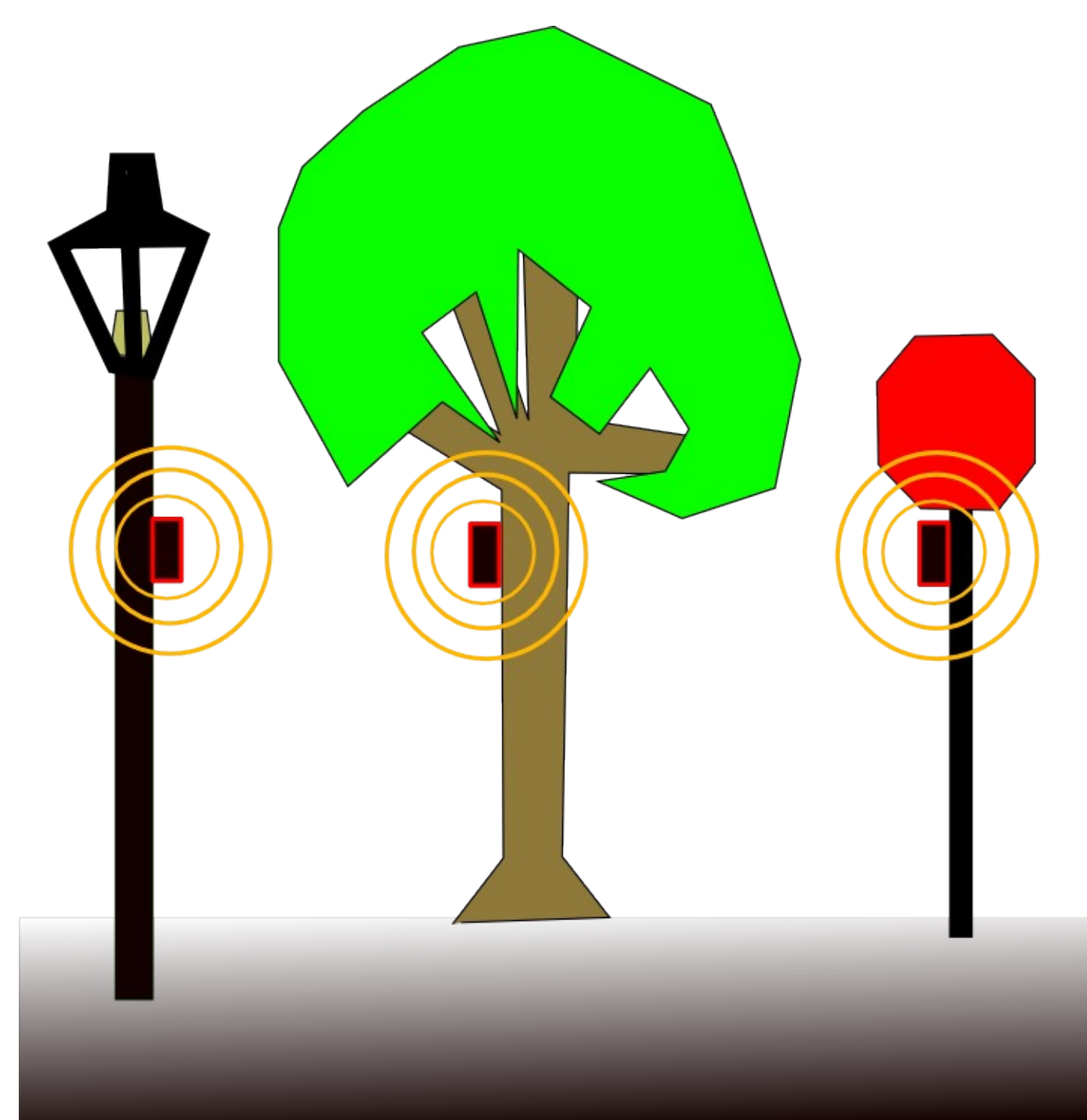
2. Record message into one node.



3. The DPAs transmit the recorded message to each other digitally.



4. The DPAs speak the message simultaneously.



A Burmese Monk stands before soldiers issuing government approved messages during a recent protest.

### Technical Challenges:

1. Digital transmission
2. Anonymization
3. Synchronization