Who controls internet policy in Iran?

SUPREME LEADER
ALI KHAMENEI

- **SUPREME COUNCIL OF CYBERSPACE**
  - Top internet policy body
- **WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE INSTANCES OF CRIMINAL CONTENT**
  - Main filtering body
- **JUDICIARY**
  - Can shut sites/issue arrest
- **CYBER POLICE (FATA)**
  - Can block content/make arrests

Other sources of power:
- **ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS CORP (IRGC)**

FACT Sheet

**INTERNET IN IRAN**
March 2019

**INTERNET use in Iran**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants</th>
<th>World Average</th>
<th>Iran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>101.53</td>
<td>100.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households with computers per 100 inhabitants</th>
<th>World Average</th>
<th>Iran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>46.61</td>
<td>61.39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households with internet access per 100 inhabitants</th>
<th>World Average</th>
<th>Iran</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>51.46</td>
<td>62.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The internet is accessed primarily via phones

Iranians have 3X as many active mobile-broadband subscriptions as they do fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Fixed broadband speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkey</strong></td>
<td>10.3 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armenia</td>
<td>10.3 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iran</strong></td>
<td>1.6 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Afghanistan</strong></td>
<td>0.5 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Iraq</strong></td>
<td>0.4 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kuwait</strong></td>
<td>2.6 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bahrain</strong></td>
<td>2.6 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qatar</strong></td>
<td>3.5 Mbps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The United Arab Emirates</strong></td>
<td>5 Mbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Speed**

**Why is SPEED important?**

- Allows journalists, activists and others to share large multimedia files with graphics, audio, video, etc.

**Other sources of power**

- **ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS CORP (IRGC)**

**Rouhani’s record on internet freedom**

- Positive
- Improved and expanded ICT infrastructure
- Faster internet (removed limits on speeds over 128kbps)
- Expanded mobile phone use (introduced licensing for 3G and 4G services)
- Unblocked WhatsApp
- Strenthening censorship and surveillance via the NIN
- Millions of websites blocked
- Twitter, Facebook and YouTube stay blocked
- Blocked Telegram May 2018
- Circumvention tools blocked
- Encrypted apps blocked
- Silent on state-sponsored cyberattacks
- Violates net neutrality (higher prices for international internet traffic)
- Increased influence of intelligence organizations in ICT Ministry
- Negative

**Mobile**

- Fixed broadband speed
- 109 out of 133 countries
- Iran ranked
- 1.6 Mbps

- Mobile speed
- 57 out of 124 countries
- Iran ranked
- 4.2 Mbps

**The United for Rights in Iran**

The Center for Human Rights in Iran is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights in Iran.

For more information about any of these issues visit www.iranhumanrights.org
The state's ICT infrastructure

- State internet provider companies
- State servers
- State tools and services: e.g. servers, SSLs, email providers

State online surveillance & cyberattacks

- The state's ICT infrastructure
- Cyber attacks

Prosecutions for online content

Iranians are PROSECUTED for online content unlawfully obtained by intelligence and security agencies. For example:

- **SOHEIL ARABI**
  - Posting content challenging religious dogma
  - SENTENCE: 7.5 years in prison

- **SINA DEGHGHAN**
  - Posting content challenging religious dogma
  - SENTENCE: Death

- **SAEED MALEKPOUR**
  - Developing open source software for uploading photos
  - SENTENCE: Life in prison

- **HENGAMEH SHAHIDI**
  - Writing commentary critical of the state
  - SENTENCE: 12 years, 9 months in prison

What is Censored?

- Blocked websites
- Blocked social media platforms
- Blocked content
- Blocked encrypted messaging apps

Blocked domains in Iran (2014-2017)

- Freedom on the Net 2018 rankings (most free: 0; least free: 100)

- **Iran**
- **Estonia**
- **Iceland**
- **Canada**
- **Australia**
- **Germany**
- **Japan**
- **Georgia**
- **France**
- **Turkey**
- **Russia**
- **United Arab Emirates**
- **Saudi Arabia**
- **Ethiopia**
- **Syria**
- **IRAN**
- **China**

- Content filtered by keyword or phrases
- Encrypted messaging apps blocked e.g. Telegram, Signal, CryptoKat

7 Things to know about Iran’s National Information Network (NIN)

1. The NIN is Iran’s STATE-CONTROLLED internet
2. Only STATE-APPROVED CONTENT is on the NIN
3. All internet traffic goes through the NIN
4. The state can cut off access to the global internet without disrupting the NIN
5. The state steers Iranians onto the NIN via faster and cheaper service
6. The NIN helps the state SPY on its citizens online
7. Development of the NIN has taken place under President Rouhani