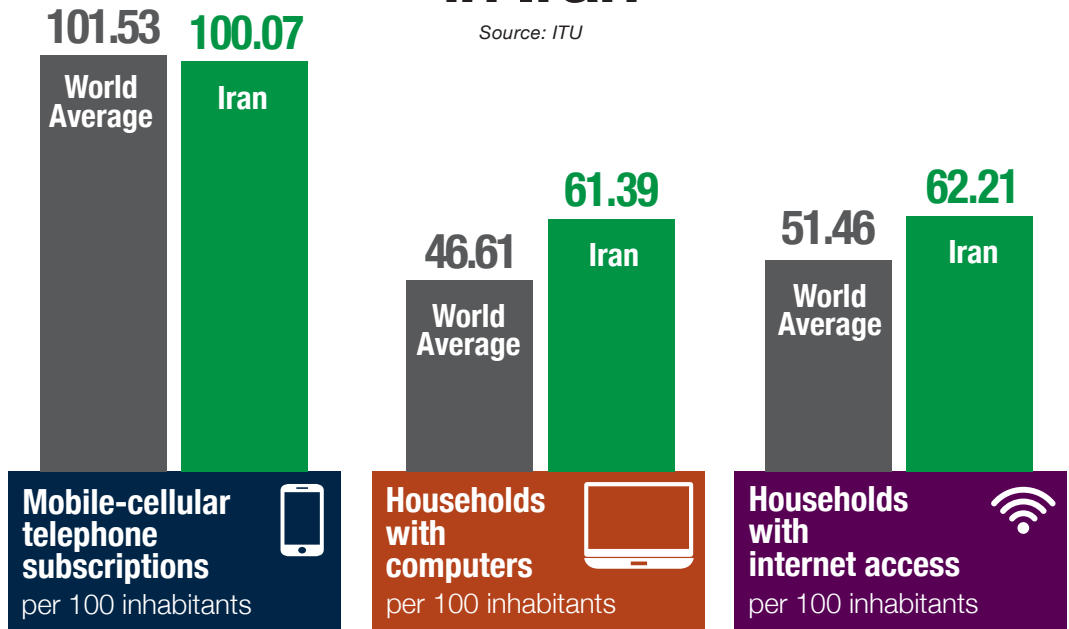


# Internet use in Iran

Source: ITU



## FACT Sheet

### INTERNET IN IRAN

March 2019



The internet is accessed primarily via phones

Iranians have

**3X**

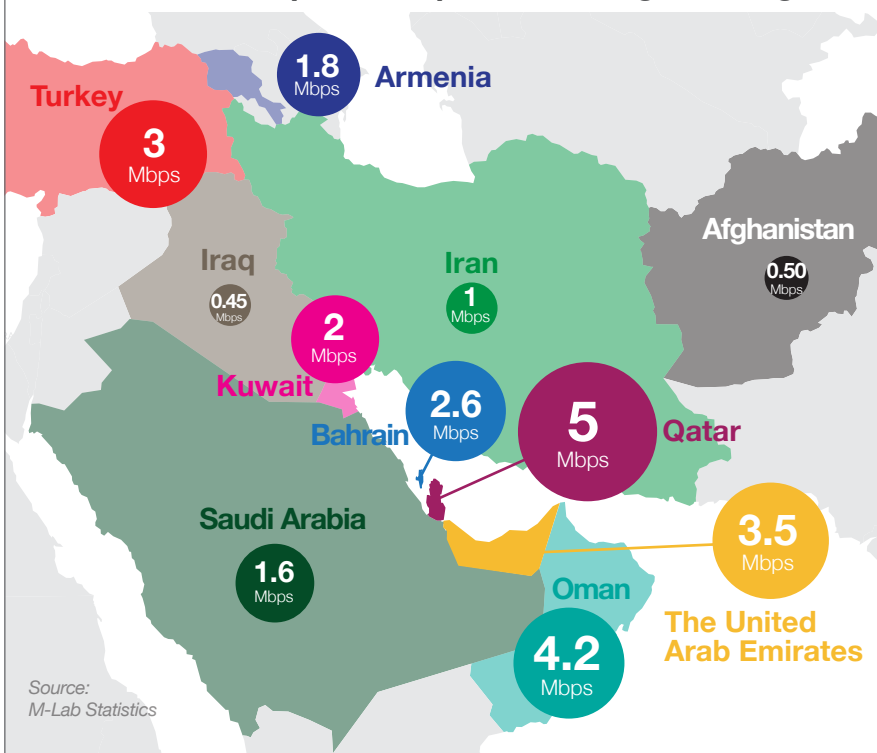
as many active mobile-broadband subscriptions as they do fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions

## Internet speed

### Why is SPEED important?

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

Iran's internet speed compared to its regional neighbors:



### Fixed broadband speed

Iran ranked

**109**

out of

**133**

countries

### Mobile speed

Iran ranked

**57**

out of

**124**

countries

Source: M-Lab Statistics

7 Things  
to know about Iran's

# National Information Network (NIN)

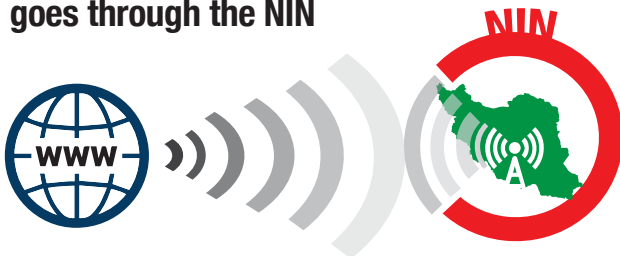
1 The NIN is Iran's **STATE-CONTROLLED** internet



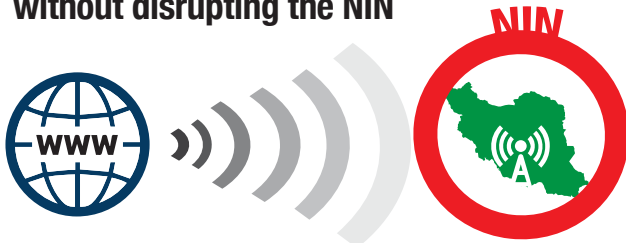
2 Only **STATE-APPROVED CONTENT** is on the NIN



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



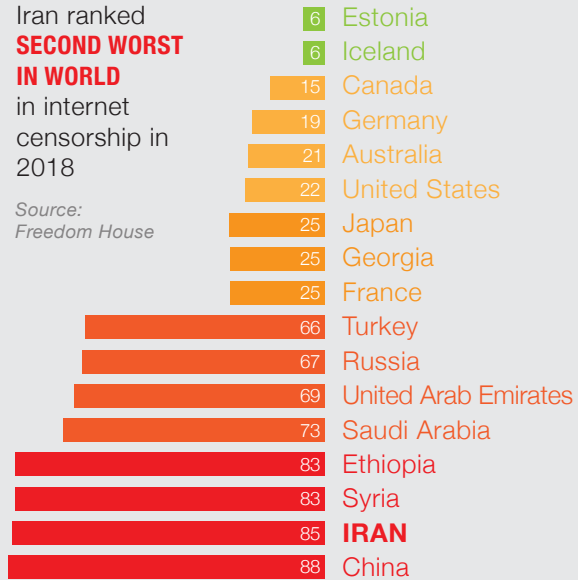
7 Development of the NIN has taken place under **PRESIDENT ROUHANI**



# Internet Censorship

Iran ranked **SECOND WORST IN WORLD** in internet censorship in 2018

Source: Freedom House



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

# 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



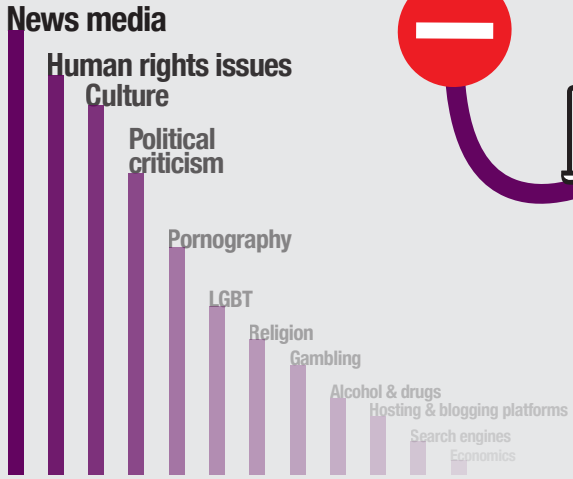
## HENGAMEH SHAHIDI

Writing commentary critical of the state

**SENTENCE:**  
12 years, 9 months in prison

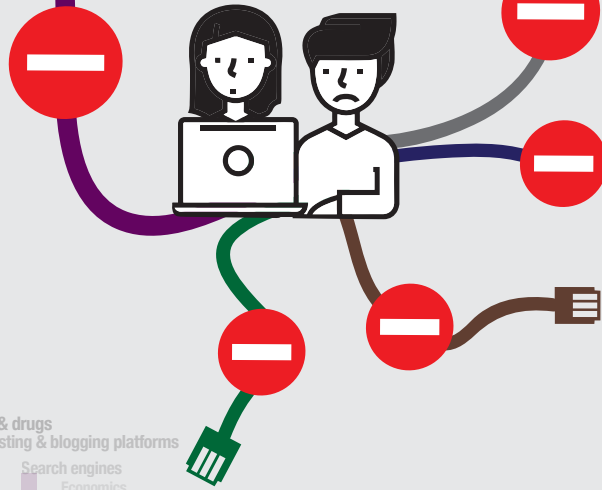


**MILLIONS OF WEBSITES BLOCKED**



Blocked domains in Iran (2014-2017)  
Source: OONI

**WHAT IS CENSORED?**



**MAJOR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS BLOCKED**



**CONTENT FILTERED**

by key word or phrases

**ENCRYPTED MESSAGING APPS BLOCKED**

e.g. Telegram, Signal, CryptoKat



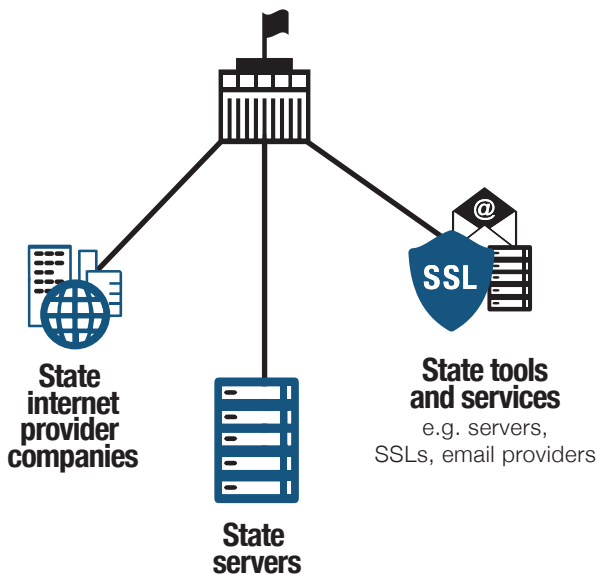
**ACCESS TO CIRCUMVENTION TOOLS**

**BLOCKED** e.g. Psiphon, Outline and other VPNs

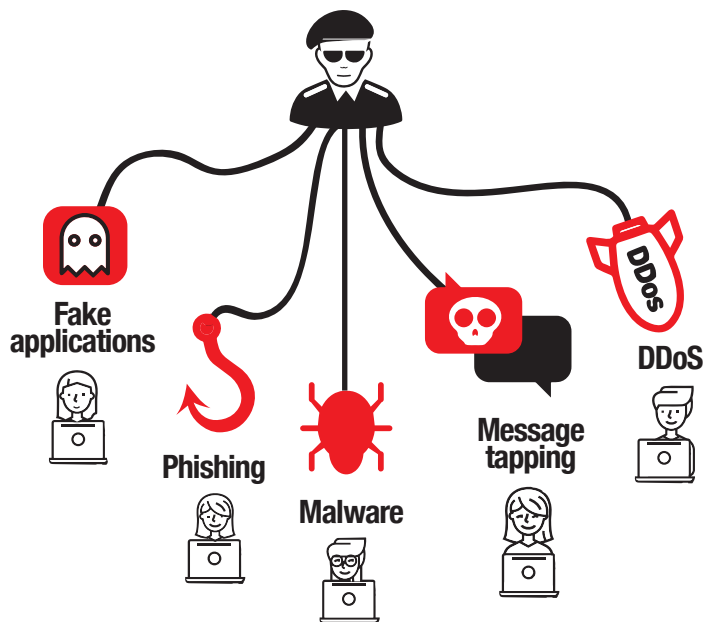
**State online surveillance & cyberattacks**

How does the state access and monitor personal accounts?

**The state's ICT infrastructure**



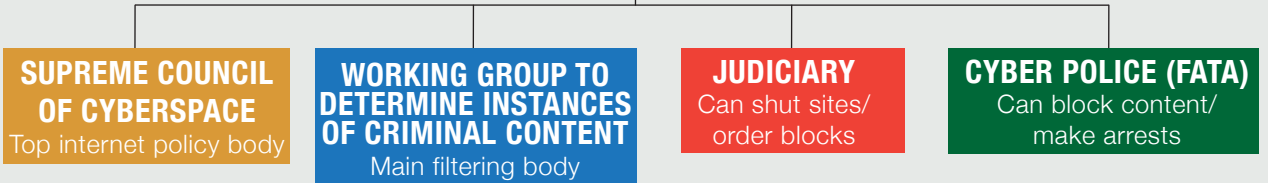
**Cyber attacks**



# 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/  
order blocks

**CYBER POLICE (FATA)**  
Can block content/  
make arrests

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

- INFLUENCES policies
- TARGETS sites & users for censorship/surveillance
- HACKS private accounts
- INTIMIDATES users
- COLLUDES with judiciary to investigate, arrest & prosecute

# Rouhani's record on internet freedom

**Positive**

- ✓ Improved and expanded ICT infrastructure
- ✓ Faster internet (removed limits on speeds over 128kbps)
- ✓ Expanded mobile phone use (opened licensing for 3G and 4G services)
- ✓ Unblocked WhatsApp

**Negative**

- ✗ Strengthening 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