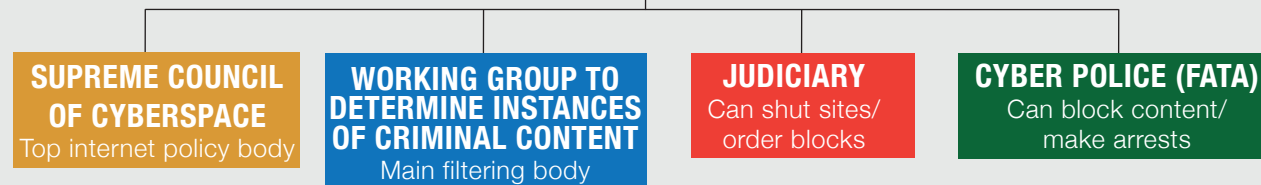


# Who controls internet policy in Iran?



**SUPREME LEADER**  
ALI KHAMENEI



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

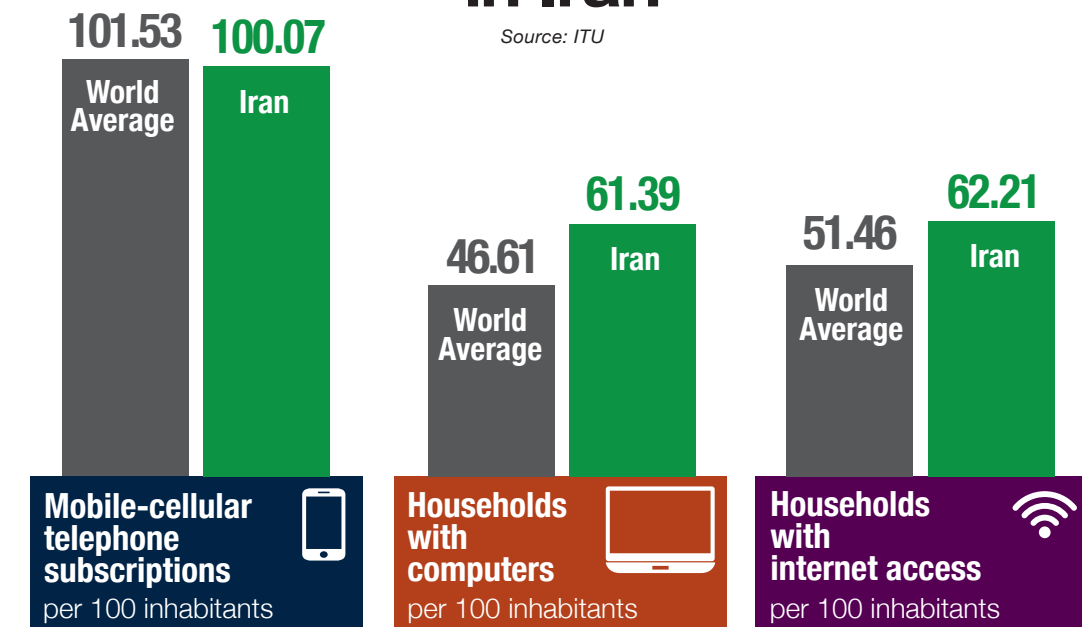
## FACT Sheet

### INTERNET IN IRAN

March 2019

## Internet use in Iran

Source: ITU



The internet is accessed primarily via phones

Iranians have

**3X**

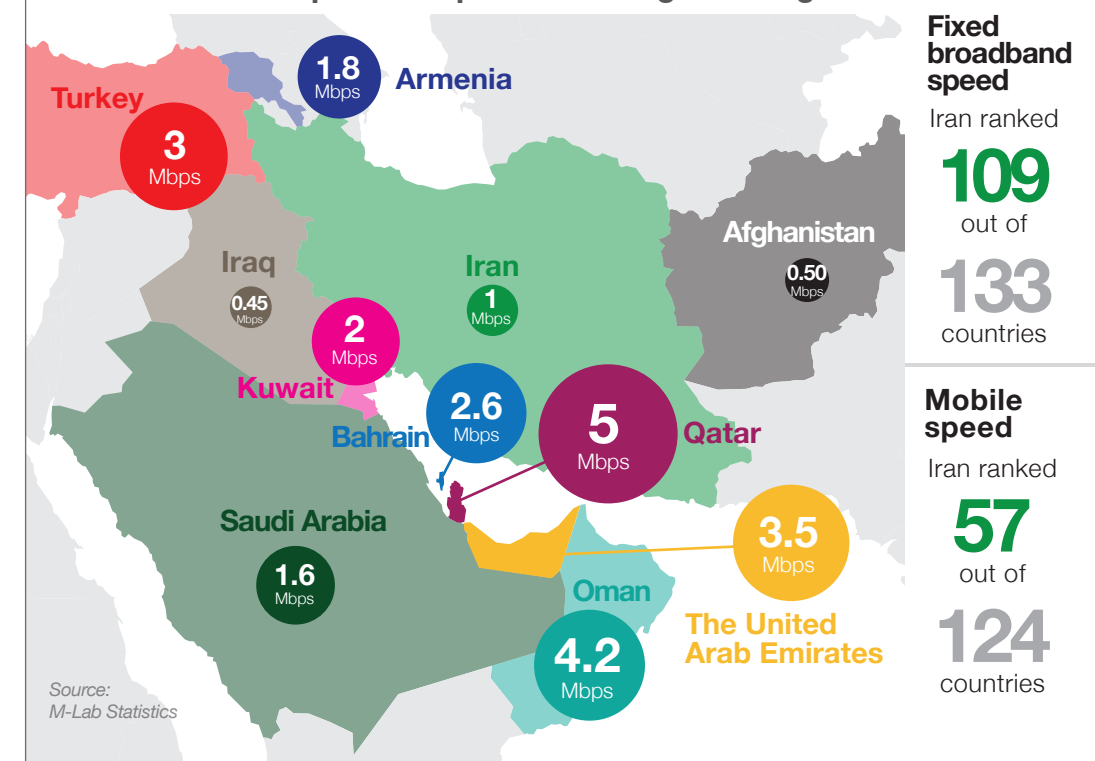
as many active mobile-broadband subscriptions as they do fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions

## 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:






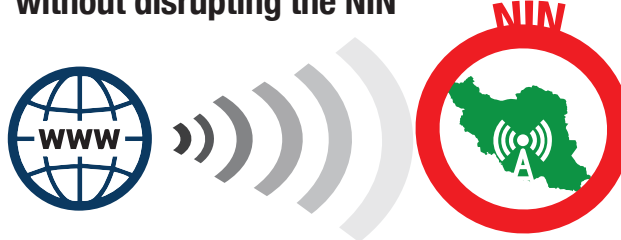



Fixed broadband speed

Iran ranked **109** out of **133** countries

Mobile speed

Iran ranked **57** out of **124** countries

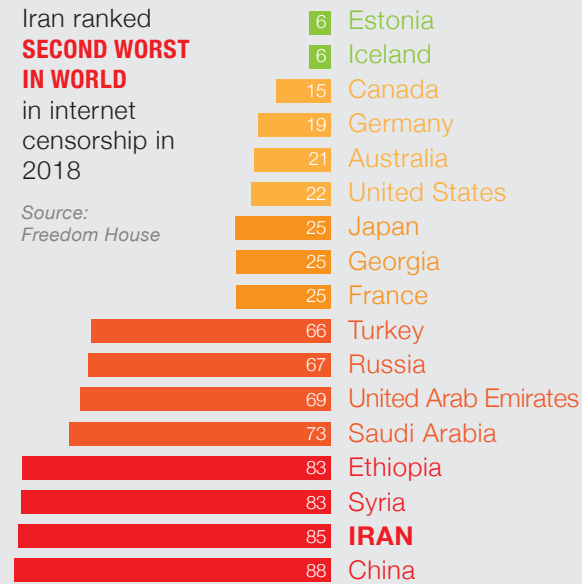
# 7 Things to know about Iran's National Information Network (NIN)

- 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 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**

News media

Human rights issues

Culture

Political criticism

Pornography

LGBT

Religion

Gambling

Alcohol & drugs

Hosting & blogging platforms

Search engines

Economics

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

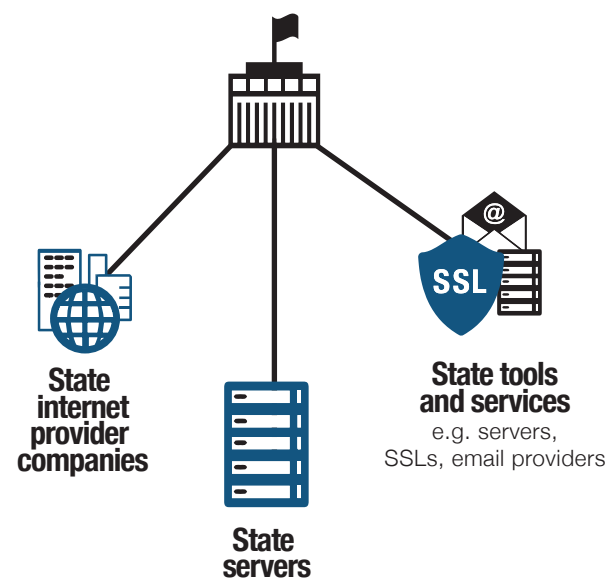


**ACCESS TO CIRCUMVENTION TOOLS BLOCKED** e.g. Psiphon, Outline and other VPNs

## State online surveillance & cyberattacks

How does the state access and monitor personal accounts?

The state's **ICT infrastructure**



**Cyber attacks**

