



Freedom of Expression, Digital Rights, and Access to Information in Iran

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Uproar is a programme championing digital rights in over 36 countries across Africa, MENA region and Central Asia through the Universal Periodic Review, a mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council.

Transparency Lab is a research and advocacy project focusing on state-related transparency, corruption and accountability in Iran.

BACKGROUND

- **Since the last UPR, Iran has experienced two significant civil uprisings, in 2019 and 2022, during and after which the state has intensified restrictions on freedoms of expression, association, and assembly, as well as tightened control over digital spaces.**
- **New suppressive measures are multifaceted, ranging from the introduction of restrictive legislation that fails to meet international standards and obligations to the intensification of repressive practices targeting dissidents, minorities, and marginalized populations.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 1: Freedom of Expression Online and Offline and Executions related to Freedom of Expression

Recommendations:

- 1. Impose a moratorium on the death penalty and release all individuals detained solely for exercising their right to free expression.**
 - a. In the meantime, publish the names of all detainees sentenced to death for blasphemy, corruption on earth, or similar charges linked to expression. Permit independent legal representation in line with Article 35 of the Constitution.**
- 2. Repeal or amend legislation that infringes upon Iranians' rights to freely express themselves online and offline, and to ensure they are clear, precise and in full compliance with international human rights standards. Amend Article 13 and Article 24 of the Constitution.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 2: Internet Shutdowns, Censorship, and Filtering

Recommendations:

- 3. Halt the practice of shutting down the internet, blocking social media platforms and media outlets and implementing digital curfews, particularly during protests, in- line with international standards.**
- 4. Amend sections of the Computer Crimes Law that undermine citizens' rights to free expression and privacy. Fully repeal the "Chastity and Hijab" Law and the "Internet User Protection" Bill.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Issue 3: Developing a Closed National 'Intranet' Infrastructure

Recommendations:

5. **Halt the development of the National Information Network (NIN) and any initiatives that disconnect Iran's domestic network from the global web and revoke the quasi-judicial powers and accountability exemptions currently granted to the SCC to ensure public access to information regarding these proceedings.**

Thank You!

Contact Us

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