JUNE 2015

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Iranian Internet Infrastructure and Policy Report

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A *Small Media* monthly report bringing you all the latest news on internet policy and online censorship direct from Iran.

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— Introduction —

This month's report looks at Iran's presentation at the recent WSIS forum, a UN-sponsored event which forms part of the preparatory process ahead of the World Summit on the Information Society's (WSIS) 10th anniversary review. In particular, we focus on a presentation by the Iranian delegation entitled "ethical dimensions of the Information Society" because it outlines Iran's position on three seminal internet-related issues: anonymity, privacy, and freedom of information. We'll take a look at what Iran's delegation said about each of these topics, and offer some analysis regarding what their statements might mean. We'll also provide some background information on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and global Internet governance processes more generally.

In addition, we've got a roundup of tweets containing the #filternet hashtag, in a segment we call Filterwatch, along with a look at what Iran's public figures are saying about ICT policy.

1
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Iran and the WSIS+10 Review
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BACKGROUND ON WSIS

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was a UN-sponsored conference aimed at "harness[ing] the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all."[1]

WSIS was spread over two phases, the first in Geneva in 2003, and the second in Tunis in 2005. The event was originally intended to focus on a wide range of issues relating to information and communication, with a particular focus on development. However, it soon became dominated by debates over the global regulation of the internet, which dominated the Tunis phase.

After grappling with these issues, the Tunis phase concluded with the production out a document known as the Tunis Agenda, which "set out a definition of internet governance, outlined the roles of different stakeholders, mandated the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and initiated the process towards enhanced cooperation." [2]

KEY ISSUES

The topic of internet governance subsumes a broad range of technical, legal, political, and cultural issues. Some of the most persistent and intractable global governance concerns include: debates over the administration of internet infrastructure and critical resources; questions regarding the roles of various stakeholders in the governance process; and the relationship between ICTs and development.

WSIS+10 REVIEW

It has now been a decade since the second phase of WSIS. Later this year, the UN will host the WSIS+10, an event aimed at examining what has

changed in the 10 years since the Tunis Agenda was drafted; the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain.

In terms of the issues likely to be addressed in WSIS+10 discussions, priority will be given to those unresolved by the original WSIS events. As such, we can expect the issues mentioned above to feature quite heavily.

The governance topics likely to receive attention include the IGF's mandate, which expires in 2015 and will need to be renewed if the forum is to continue, and the "enhanced cooperation" process. Article 69 of the Tunis Agenda underlines the need for enhanced cooperation "in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the internet." [3] This provision has led to considerable debate about the proper role of national governments in the internet governance process [4], a topic that is likely to feature prominently at WSIS+10.

However procedural questions are not the only game in town. Brown and Kaspar suggest that "the 10-year review could be an opportunity to refocus attention back to the development dimension of WSIS." [5] This is one of the issues that global South countries are unsurprisingly most keen to address.

IRAN'S PRIORITIES

We've taken a brief look at the history of WSIS and the issues that dominate its agenda. But where does Iran fit in? Generally speaking, Iran's engagement with internet governance questions tends to focus on two main policy areas. [6]

1. The role of the state. A contentious issue in internet governance debates since the first WSIS summit, Iran's has been a consistent and vocal member of the state-sovereignty camp, advocating for a strong role for the state in internet governance decision making.

2. Development. Iran has also demonstrated persistent support for ICT-related development initiatives, both at global forums and domestically. [7]

To summarise, Iran's previous contributions to internet governance events have tended to aim at shoring up the power of national governments in global internet policy making, and promoting the development objectives that formed the original impetus for the WSIS. These have been Iran's internet governance priorities in the past. But what are they up to now?

IRAN'S WSIS REVIEW COUNTRY PROFILE

To find out, we've watched and analysed Iran's recent presentation at the WSIS forum in Geneva, known as Iran's country profile. [8] This event, which for Iran took place on May 25, gives countries an opportunity to lay out their concerns, interests, and policy preferences to the Internet governance community ahead of the WSIS+10 review high-level event this december. After combing through Iran's presentation in forensic detail, we've pick out some of the most interesting and noteworthy highlights.

WHO'S ATTENDING?

First things first: Who did Iran send to the WSIS forum? The chair of Iran's National Committee for WSIS was quick to point out that the Iranian delegation includes representatives from government, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Let's take a look at the breakdown.

WSIS+10 Iran Country Profile Delegation

Dr. Hadi Shahriar Shahhoseini
Iran University of Science and Technology
(chair)
Academia

Ahmad Bidabadi
Data Processing Company
Broadband-Enabled Innovation for Sustainable Development in Iran
Private Sector

Dr. Ali Taei Zadeh
Social Network for Women's Seminary (Hawzah)
Role of Information Technology in Highlighting Women's Role in Religious Society
Civil Society

Dr. Hamid Shahriari
Supreme Council of ICT
Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society
Goverment

Aliasghar Ansari
Vice Chairman of Iran Information Technology Organization
Iran National Broadband Plan
Goverment

Hamid Reza Ahmadian
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance
Integrated Platforms for Economic Data Exchanges in Iran
Goverment

Amir Hossein Mohebali
IT Strategic Monitoring and Planning Centre; ICT Measurement of Iran (IMI); Information Society Committee of Iran
Measuring the Information Society of Iran
Goverment

POINTS OF INTEREST

Now we'll take a look at some of the contributions that caught our attention. Again, this is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of Iran's country profile presentation. It is, rather, a look at some of the points we think are particularly noteworthy.

One of the most interesting presentations, delivered by Dr. Hamid Shahriari of the Supreme Council of ICT, concerned what he termed the ethical dimensions of the information society. This analysis will focus primarily on Dr. Shahriari's speech, because it outlined Iran's view on some core human rights issues such as anonymity, privacy, and freedom of information.[9] Iran's stated approach to each of these three issues will be presented in turn. Unless otherwise stated, all the information presented below (including direct quotations) were drawn from the slides of Dr. Shahriari's presentation.

A. Anonymity

STATEMENT

Dr. Shahriari takes a somewhat ambivalent view on anonymity, noting at the outset that it "may encourage those susceptible to ethical vices to make headway into immorality. On the other hand, it can also be a foundation for [the] development of virtues within people."

He then goes on to outline Iran's anonymity "vision statement," which consists of the following 6 parameters.

1. Anonymity must not encourage vice and crime;
2. Anonymity must not contribute to abuse of people's trust and thus spread mistrust and suspicion in the virtual world;
3. Anonymity must be an incentive for good works and for separation from dishonesty and hypocrisy;
4. Anonymity must facilitate development [sic] of lasting friendships in the framework of religious teachings and add depth to sympathy and empathy among friends;
5. Anonymity must not enable unethical friendship or communication, especially deceptive and fraudulent relations, and must not lead to distrust among virtual friends;
6. Anonymity must not dissociate individuals from their true identities, causing them to believe in their own fictitious identity and thereby bringing about an identity crisis.

ANALYSIS

What is presented as a vision statement reads more like a laundry list of prohibitions. Four of the six parameters cited above are negative - statements about what anonymity must not do. Moreover, in addition to predictable warnings about vice and crime, there appears to be substantial concern about how anonymity might impact trust, deception, and authenticity.

B. Privacy

STATEMENT

Iran's delegation gives an interesting rationale for the value of privacy. Privacy "is closely related not only to financial and health considerations, but also to the honour and reputations of persons and families. Protection of people's reputations is one of the most important objectives in the ethics and religious laws of Islam."

After anchoring privacy considerations in the principles of Islamic morality, Dr. Shahriari presented Iran's privacy mission statement.

1. Clarify limits to the privacy of citizens in society;
2. Create the ethical and cultural infrastructure for the respect of privacy [sic] among citizens;
3. Create the ethical and legal infrastructure for protecting the privacy of citizens while also allowing principled and moral access in cases of exigency related to military and security concerns.[10]

ANALYSIS

This statement is slightly more balanced than the statement on anonymity, as points two and three offer at least rhetorical support for privacy protections. However, the first point mentioned relates to instances in which privacy rights can be circumscribed, and the third point offers an example: privacy rights may be abridged in cases "related to military and security concerns."

Such a broadly worded exemption is cause for concern, Iran's claim that any privacy invasions would be "principled and moral" notwithstanding. It is also worth mentioning that Dr. Shahriari stressed the importance of protecting privacy on social networks, as people often use them to share pictures of themselves and their families.

C. Free Flow of Information

STATEMENT

When it comes to Iran's internet policy, freedom of information is very much the elephant in the room. Given Iran's well known penchant for pervasive content filtering domestically, how would they discuss the issue in an international context? Here's what they said: "Anyone must be free to obtain, publish, and share information easily and without hindrance. However, necessity and public interests dictate that this free flow of information be subject to the following limitations."

1. Adhere to inviolable religious beliefs;
2. Respect ethnic and linguistic mores;
3. Comply with national interests;
4. Respect public decency and avoid pornography;
5. Honour privacy and intellectual property;
6. Protect children.

ANALYSIS

While most countries have some restrictions on freedom of information (e.g. for hate speech or credible threats), what's interesting in Iran's case is both the size of the list of formal prohibitions as well as the sweeping nature of the wording.

Perhaps the most striking is the requirement that information "comply with national interests," a nebulous standard which has an obvious potential for abuse. Moreover, terms like "public decency" and "inviolable religious beliefs" are not explicitly defined, and could thus be interpreted in a number of ways. Put another way, broad definitions of information that can be filtered could be seen to establish a basis Iran can use to justify censorship.

CONCLUSION

As the above analysis is based on a presentation rather than a legal document, the most important question concerns what Iran is trying to say to the international internet governance community about its approach to ICT policy.

In the case of freedom of information, Iran's statement could be read as a rationale for its filtering regime; the censorship red lines are outlined and defended. Furthermore, while a cursory statement about the importance of freedom of expression at the outset, primary emphasis is placed on the limitations to which this right should be subject.
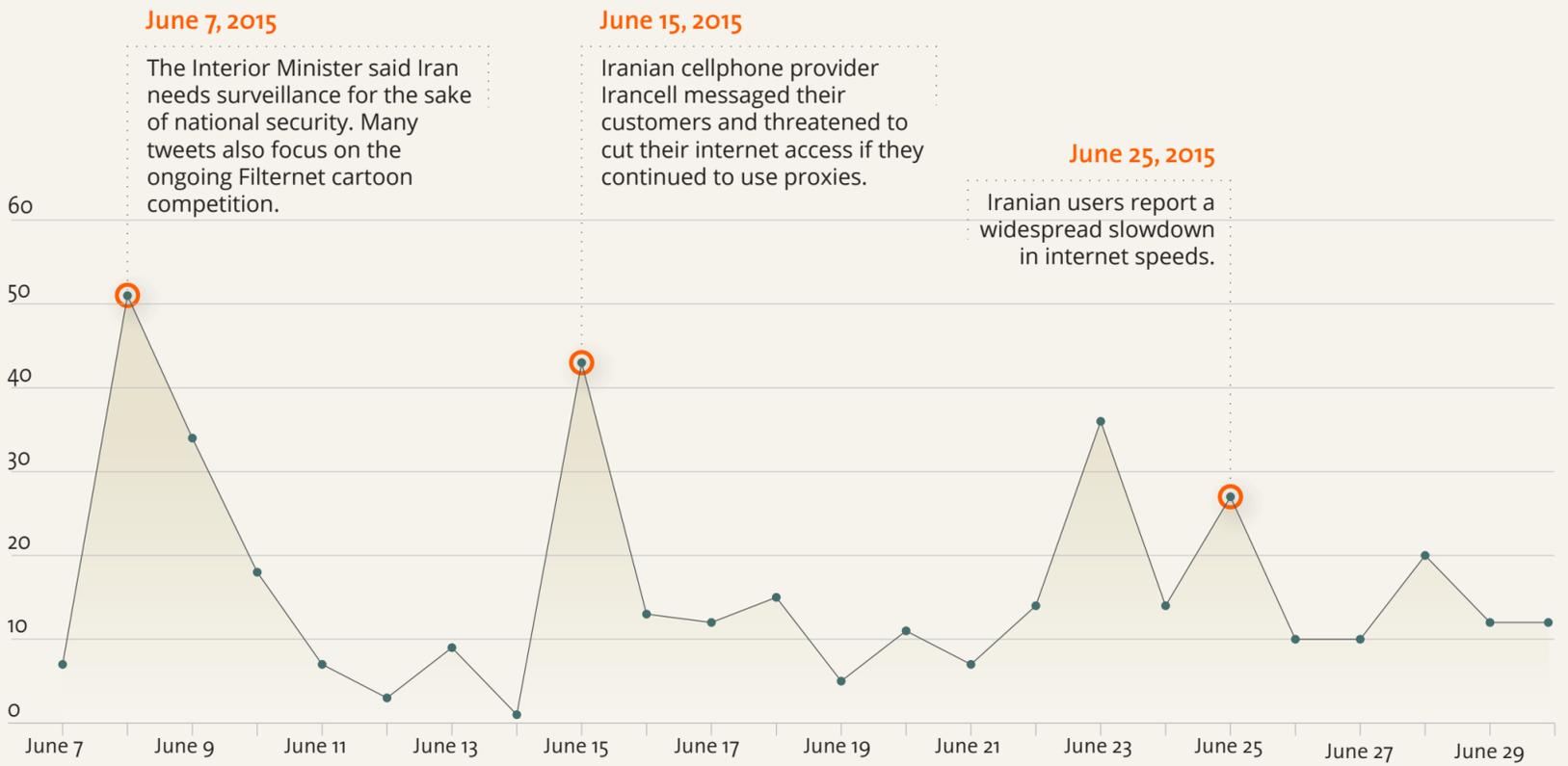
The discussion of anonymity follows a similar trajectory: its potential value is mentioned, followed by a list of regulations governing how it can (and cannot) be used. The balance tilts in favour of restrictions, but some positive uses of anonymity are mentioned, such as the possibility for it to serve as an incentive for "good works." Still, the value of anonymity is purely instrumental in Iran's presentation, at best serving as a means through which people can do the right thing.

Privacy is the only topic in the presentation treated as an intrinsic good. This framing can be seen in the objective to "create the ethical infrastructure for the respect for privacy among citizens," as well as the imperative to "protect people's privacy on social networks." In these statements, the value of privacy is taken for granted and does not need to be established. However, we still see limitations on privacy, notably "in cases of exigency related to military and security concerns." Iran is certainly not the only country to cite national security concerns to justify restrictions on privacy, but such a standard is always open to the potential for abuse.

Finally, it bears repeating that the preceding analysis only focused on a very small portion of Iran's country profile presentation at the WSIS forum. Iran discussed a wide range of topics, including ICTs and development, and the relationship between technology and the advancement of women. We opted to focus in detail on how Iran views anonymity, privacy, and freedom of information because these are fundamental rights highly relevant for the information society. Knowing where Iran stands on these points is crucial if these values are to be defended.

#Filterwatch
June 2015

No. of Filternet Tweets in June 2015

June 7, 2015
The Interior Minister said Iran needs surveillance for the sake of national security. Many tweets also focus on the ongoing Filternet cartoon competition.

June 15, 2015
Iranian cellphone provider Irancell messaged their customers and threatened to cut their internet access if they continued to use proxies.

June 25, 2015
Iranian users report a widespread slowdown in internet speeds.

Top Tweets

1 @jadi
Iranian cellphone provider @irancell SMSing customers and threatening to cut their #filternet if they continue using proxies (ant...
24 Retweets

2 @jadi
Again #Filternet is VERY slow in #Iran. Dear @hassanrouhani , you still remember your promises about #internet , right?
20 Retweets

3 @ListenToUs:
Send a tweet by email https://t.co/hGabw8NcuK #filtering #retweet
17 Retweets

4 @ListenToUs:
New and updated version of Filtershekan
Mac https://t.co/c98pk3Cfcy
Windows https://t.co/Vk3UT6ywOo
Debian https://t.co/IozBX5...
14 Retweets

5 @jadi
Got a message from @telegram giving me a password to "Login into Telegram website". Looks like #BigBrother activity #filternet
11 Retweets

Top Tweeters

User	Count
@khodnevis_org	54
@Toonistans	27
@Filternetoons	22
@filbaan	16
@ListenToUs	13

Most Mentioned Users

User	Count
@jadi	52
@ListenToUs	42
@Filternetoons	41
@irancell	24
@nikahang	23

SMALL MEDIA

2
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Content Filtering and
Blocked Sites
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- **June 8:** Mobile users reported huge disruptions with the Telegram app in Iran. In response, ICT Minister Mahmood Vaezi claimed his ministry was not filtering the app. (Source)

- **June 10:** Gholam Hossein Mohseni Eje'i, Attorney-General of Iran, announced five people in were arrested in Tehran and Kerman provinces for social media activity related to protests in the Kurdish-majority city of Mahabad in the North West of Iran. Social media activity was said to include encouraging people to come to the street for protest against the regime. Mohseni Eje'i warned people about the use of social media, adding that authorities are watching social networks very carefully. (Source)

- **June 15:** MTN Irancell sent a text explaining how customers could set up 3G on their phones. Many users mistakenly believed MTN Irancell was telling them not to use proxies or VPNs. (Source I, Source II).

3
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Statements from Ministries and Politicians
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- **June 1:** Mahmoud Khosravi of the ICT Ministry announced that they will increase the internet bandwidth by up to three time current levels by the end of this Iranian year (March 2016). (Source)
- Instagram removed an account belong to Ayatollah Khomeini (the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran). According to Mehr News Agency, the account was active over past two years and had more than 100,000 followers. Instagram later released an official statement in which they apologised for removing Ayatollah Khomeini's account. They reactivated the account a few days after. (Source 1) (Source 2)
- Iran's Cyber Police (FATA) announced that they will run a workshop and lecture for over 3,000 school teachers. The workshop aims to instruct teachers about opportunities and threats on social media and the internet. (Source)

- **June 2:** Vaezi will be questioned in Iran's Parliament over delays in the implementation of Iran's National Internet (SHOMA). Vaezi has to appear in parliament on Tuesday, June 9. (Source)

- **June 7:** Iran announced the launch of SYNA, a new mobile communication app. SYNA is similar to apps such as Viber and Telegram, and was developed by a mobile network operator on September 2014. One of SYNA's main features enables users to make international calls without paying roaming rates. The app is available in both Persian and English. Previously, the ICT Ministry pledged to help Iranian private sector developers create mobile communication apps. In the past year, Iran has tried to block various mobile communication apps such as WeChat. (Source)

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

14

- Iran announced the development of Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM) technology. According to Mehr News Agency, DWDM is currently being installed between Tehran and Esfahan, as well as in Karaj and Qazvin. (Source)

- **June 8:** Vaezi and a group of businessmen, including the Directors of: the Mobile Telecommunication Company of Iran, MTN Irancell, Rightel, and Iranian Net, traveled to China to attend a meeting with China's Communications Minister. According to reports, Iran aims to get help from China to finish its National Information Network (SHOMA). Following the meeting, Vaezi announced on June 12th that China will help Iran to develop a National Data Network. Also the Iranian and Chinese governments signed a deal to helping each other fight cyber attacks.(Source 1) (Source 2)

- **June 10:** Barat Ghanbari, of the ICT Ministry, said that increasing bandwidth nationally is an obligation and necessity for the country. Ghanbari added that to date over 22 million smartphones have been imported to Iran. He also claimed that 1.4 trillion dollars will be invested on bandwidth in Iran by 2020. Ghanbari was speaking at the third national conference on IT managers of academic institutes. (Source)
- The University of Tehran will host Iran's first app development competition on June 25 2015. The competition, called AppTalent, will consist of four different categories: Open source software, communication, mobile and businesses, and "The idea." The organizers are hoping to find talented app developers to work on useful farsi-language applications. (Source)
- Khosro Ghobadi, Head of the Humanities and Social Studies Research Center at The Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research (ACECR), announced that 20 million Iranians are using smartphones and the number of smartphone users could increase to up to 40 million by the end of this year. Ghobadi added that Mobile phones has strong influence in Iranian communities. He was speaking at the first national conference of Smartphone and Lifestyle. (Source)

- **June 14**: Vaezi announced that the number of internet users in the country has tripled (from 3 million to 9 million) since Rouhani's government took the office. He added that before Rouhani's tenure only 200,000 mobile users had internet access, but now the number has grown to 11 million users. Vaezi mentioned that over last year, the government has delivered 3rd generation (3G)

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

15

mobile telecommunications technology to 220 cities, and it hope to introduce 4G by the end of the current year. He went on to add that in the last government, Iran's bandwidth stood at 700 MB/s, but now it has increased to 2400 Mb/s. ([Source](#))

- **June 15:** Masoumeh Zahiri, Head of Women and Family Affairs in Qom, said Iran should use cyberspace and social media to deepen the culture of the hijab and chastity. She added that the internet should be used as a tool to promote Islam, and that religious teachers should be required to use social media and the internet. ([Source](#))
- Justice Minister Mostafa Pour Mohammadi said Iranian authorities should not be worried about controlling social media and cyberspace. Mohammadi added that we should let ordinary people use social media, and that we cannot stop people from using technology. He also mentioned that Iran should have more national search engines and social media platforms, an objective he asked the media to get behind. ([Source](#))
- Iran's cyber police (FATA) opened a new unit for monitoring computer games. This unit will aim to keep computer games "clean," and crack down on illegal gaming. ([Source](#))

- **June 17:** The Islamic Development Organisation (IDO) in Hormozgan province plans to share Islamic content during Ramadan on social media and mobile apps such WhatsApp and Viber. Popular social media such as Twitter and Facebook and some mobile apps such as WeChat are filtered in Iran. ([Source](#))
- Hassan Karimi Ghodousi, Deputy Director of the National Foundation of Computer Games, said there are over 20 million computer game players in Iran. He also noted that the gaming industry is worth around 340 million dollars, but that Iranian games only account for %1 of the global market. Karimi was speaking at the launch of the E.T. Armies game. ([Source](#))
- Khosro Saljoughi, Head of the Strategic Council of National Search Engines (CNSE) said Iranian search engines are not going to be able to compete with Google. According to Saljoughi, these search engines will focus instead on areas in which Google and non-Iranian search engines are not active, such as local services. In addition, he asked [Parsijoo and Yooz](#) to send their business plans to the CNSE. ([Source](#))
- Iran's Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli announced that candidates for Iran's next Parliamentary Election will not be allowed to use social media or mobile apps such as Facebook and Telegram during their campaigns. ([Source](#))

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

16

- **June 18:** Hojjatoleslam Mahmood Reza Jamshidi, Director of Hawza, a religious seminary for Women, said that female Hawza students must join or be on social media or cyberspace to answer religious questions. In addition, Jamshidi added that there are more than 6000 women students from Hawza who are bloggers and their blogs had 12 million visitors in the last Iranian year. (Source)

- **June 19:** Mohammad Reza Rostami, Deputy of Organising Youth Affairs in the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports announced his ministry will launch a new social media platform for Iranian mothers. The platform aims to give mothers a place to share their experiences with each other as well as to provide consultation to families who need help. (Source)

- **June 20:** Fanous (Lantern), a new Android mobile app allowing users to send text messages, voice messages, and pictures was launched. According to Mehr News Agency, the app's servers are located in Iran and the app has been developed by a private sector Iranian company. Mehr notes that one of the benefits of Fanous is that users can send Islamic and Iranian stickers (see image below). In recent years, Iran has tried to create copies of popular Western communication apps such as WeChat, Viber, etc. (Source)

A screenshot from chat app Fanous

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

17

- **June 21:** The United Nations (UN) has joined Aparat, the Iranian version of YouTube. According to Small Media research, the UN is the first non-Iranian organisation to join an Iranian service. (Source)

- **June 23:** Gholamreza Dadashzadeh, Deputy Head of the Communication Regulatory Authority of Iran (CRA), announced that his organisation will expand its control over internet service providers (ISPs). Dadashzadeh added that they are not happy with some ISPs due to the poor quality of their internet connections. (Source)
- Alireza Seyedi, CEO of the Telecommunications Company of Tehran (TCT), denied that his organisation was responsible for any disruptions on Telegram. In recent weeks, users in Iran have reported disruption on Telegram and Viber, however the authorities have denied any involvement. (Source)
- Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Rezaie Birjandi, the Friday Prayer for the city of Birjand, asked Iranians to use social media and cyberspace to promote Islam. Birjandi added that what people are doing to promote Islam in the community is not enough. (Source)

- **June 24:** Ayatollah Seyed Hashem Hosseini Bushehri, Director of Hawza in Iran, warned that Hawza students are overusing social media. He added that the use of social media should be regulated and limited. (Source)
- Keyvan Ranji, Director of Planning for Fiber Optic Operator, said 6.8 million new fiber optic ports will be available in the next eight years. According to Ranji, the plan has three phases. In the first phase, fiber optic connections with be introduced in big cities such as Tehran, Karaj, Qom, Mashhad, Shiraz and Tabriz. He did not mention more details about the second and third phases. (Source)
- Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Reza Agha Miri, Head of the Women's Hawza in Tehran denied reports that smartphones were prohibited in the Hawza. Agha Miri added that such a policy would constitute a breach of privacy, and that people cannot be stopped from using new technologies. On June 24, Ayatollah Bushehri, the Director of Iran's Hawzas asked all Hawza students to stop using social media in Hawzas. (Source)

- **June 26:** Mohammad Javad Zadeh Kamand, Deputy Chief of Iran's National Police said he would consider banning smartphones in the National Police. Previously, Gholamreza Jalali, Head of Iran's Passive Defense Organisation (IPDO) requested a ban on the use of smartphones by staff in state organisations with access to classified

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

18

information. According to official statistics there are over 30 million iOS or Android smartphones in use in Iran.(Source)

- **June 27:** Mohammad Khansari, Head of the Information Technology Research Centre (ITRC) announced that the 5th generation of mobile networks (5G) will be built and localised for the country within ten years. Given that 5G has not yet been made available anywhere else in the world, it is unclear how Iran will achieve this. (Source)
- Naser Ali Saadat, Head of Iran's Computer Guild announced that 40 IT companies have received funding from the ICT Ministry. The total fund was around 120 billion IRR (4 million USD). (Source)
- Nasrollah Jahangard, Deputy ICT Minister, said it is unclear whether Iran will be able to launch SHOMA by end of the current Iranian year (March 2016). Jahangard mentioned that under the last government, only 10% of data was stored in Iran, increasing to 40% at present, with an ultimate figure of 70-80% the ultimate target. He added that Iran aims to possess a network that could be managed by Iran, with the ability to monitor all data transfers. (Source)

- **June 29:** According to Mehr News Iranian users have been looking for new mobile communications apps since Viber and Telegram started to face huge services disruptions. Mehr News said that the disruption might be due to new stickers added to Telegram that violate Islamic culture. According to this report almost 10% of Viber users are Iranian. In its report, Mehr News referred to a number of Iranian made mobile apps such as SYNA, Fanoos or Bisphone. The ICT Ministry has not yet confirmed whether filters were imposed on mobile communications apps. (Source)
- Iran plans to increase the capacity of its infrastructure network to three times its current extent. Previously, Deputy ICT Minister Mahmoud Khosravi announced an increase of bandwidth from 4 Tbps to 10 Tbps within the year. (Source)

- **June 30:** Jahangard announced that there are up to eight Iranian search engines in operation, and that the government is happy to provide help and support to the private sector in order to encourage them to develop national search engines. He said that national search engines have to be different from other search engines like Google in order to meet all Iranians' needs. Jahangard added that there are over 2 billion Persian-language web pages. (Source)

Iranian Internet
Infrastructure and
Policy Report

Statement from
Ministries and
Politicians

19

- According to the latest official statistics from Iran, the country has 25,017,850 internet users. The hile 15 provinces continue to suffer from poor quality communications. The report says that 44.73% of Iranian families have access to the internet and that Iran's internet penetration rate is 39.35%, with just 52.47% of families having access to computers.

  99.6% of people in Tehran have access to a landline, 99.3% have TV access, 51.3% have internet access, 58.9% have access to a computer and 69.2% to radio. The research conducted by the IT Organization of Iran said that Tehran has the highest rate of mobile users in the country. The provinces with the lowest rate of internet access are North Khorasan and Sistan and Baluchestan. The report shows that only 18.9% of people in Sistan and Baluchestan province have access to the internet, and only 22.8% access to a computer. According to indicators of the International Telecommunication Union only 4 provinces are rated as having 'good' communications, 12 are classed as 'average', and 15 are deemed 'poor'. (Source)

- Vaezi claimed that the ICT Ministry is not responsible for any disruption or filtering of the Telegram mobile app. Also, Vazei said that there is no plan from the ICT Ministry to block any social media platforms, and his ministry believes that they can't stop people from using them. Lots of Iranian users have reported problems using Viber and Telegram due to censorship. (Source)

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Notes
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1   UN Resolution 56/183, World Summit on the Information Society, 2002. Available from: https://www.itu.int/wsis/docs/background/ resolutions/56_183_unga_2002.pdf

2   Brown and Kaspar, "Everything you need to know about WSIS+10," APC, 2015. available from: https://www.apc.org/en/news/everything-you- need-know-about-wsis10-review

3   Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, 2005. Available from: http:// www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html

4   "The Enhanced Cooperation Process," World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum, 2013. Available from: https://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/ Documents/backgrounder-wtpf-13-enhanced-cooperation-en.pdf

5   Brown and Kaspar, "Everything you need to know about WSIS+10," APC, 2015. Available from: https://www.apc.org/en/news/everything-you- need-know-about-wsis10-review

6   For a comprehensive look at Iran's approach to internet governance, see: http://globalnetpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Chaos- and-Control.pdf

7   For elaboration on Iran's engagement with these two policy areas, see: http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/mediapolicyproject/2015/02/23/chaos-and- control-the-competing-tensions-of-internet-governance-in-iran/

8   Video available here: https://connect.itu.int/ p4zd1anm6ov/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal

9   The rights to privacy and freedom of expression are codified by articles 12 and 19 (respectively) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Full text available here: http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/. Meanwhile, UN special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression David Kaye recently noted that encryption and anonymity deserve strong protections because they are "at the heart of opinion and expression in a digital age." http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HRencryptionanonymityinadigitalage.aspx#sthash.CeKrrOl2.dpuf

10   After reading point three off the slide, Dr. Shahriari added "security is much more important than privacy for every country."