

Religious Laws



Internet freedoms

Iran's internet remains among the most restricted in the world: authorities block thousands of sites and major social platforms, throttle or shut down connectivity during unrest, and steer users onto a state-controlled domestic network where surveillance and filtering are easier. During the 2022 "Woman, Life, Freedom" protests after Mahsa Amini's death, Iran repeatedly disrupted mobile data and restricted Instagram and WhatsApp; independent network measurements and contemporaneous reporting documented the scale and consistency of the blocks. [1][2][3] In 2025, press accounts described a nationwide blackout that left foreign services largely unreachable while the state's National Information Network kept domestic services alive; an illustration of how the system can isolate the country at will. [4] Iran's 2009 Computer Crimes Law and the Supreme Council of Cyberspace (SCC) underpin this architecture: the law compels filtering and penalizes providers that fail to comply, while the SCC, created by the Supreme Leader, centralizes control over online policy outside normal legislative checks. [5][6][7] Human-rights groups continue to record arrests, intimidation and prosecutions of users, journalists and activists for online speech; even a newspaper faced legal action in 2024 over a cartoon mocking internet restrictions. [8][9]

Read more:

[1][Freedom House | Freedom of the Net 2024](#)

[2]<https://netblocks.org/reports/internet-disrupted-in-iran-amid-protests-over-death-of-mahsa-amini-X8qVEwAD>

[3]<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/9/22/iran-restricts-whatsapp-instagram-as-mahsa-amini-protests-grow>



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[4]https://www.lemonde.fr/en/international/article/2025/06/20/iran-s-leaders-cut-internet-access-to-outside-world_67425444.html

[5]<https://wilmap.stanford.edu/entries/computer-crimes-law-june-2009>

[6]<https://www.article19.org/data/files/medialibrary/2921/12-01-30-FINAL-iran-WEB%5B4%5D.pdf>

[7]https://www.article19.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Supreme-Council-of-Cyberspace_final-2.pdf

[8]<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/iran/report-iran/>

[9]<https://apnews.com/article/fe9d7b705e1595744ed0dfd476439a2>

