

Internet and Organizing Student Protests in Iran

A talk for the seminar:

**Human rights, democracy
and the students struggle in Iran**

Nima Darabi
February 2012
Oslo

SAIH 1961-2011 Education for liberation
50 years

Demographics of Iran

Location: Central Eurasia, Middle East

Area: 1,648,195 km² (18th)

Population: 76 million (2012 estimate)

Government: Theocracy in a form of an Islamic Republic

Ethnicities: Persians (61%) / Azerbaijanis (16%)
Kurds (10%) / Lurs (6%) / Others (6%)

Contradictory historic eras:

- Pre historic and early history (3200 BC – 625 BC)
- Pre-Islamic era (625 BC – 651 AD)
- Middle Ages (652–1501)
- Early modern era (1501–1906)
- Recent history (1906–present)

Presidential Election 2009

- Iran's tenth presidential election was held on 12 June 2009.
- Hardliner candidate Ahmadinejad, who was in charge of running the election himself, surprisingly was announced as a winner.
- That was followed by arresting the campaigners for the reformist rival, Mir Hossein Mousavi.
- He is kept under house arrest for a year now.



Election 2009, Aftermath



Election 2009, Aftermath

The election was first followed by arresting thousands of people in the street, and later on activists. And killing dozens of protesters.

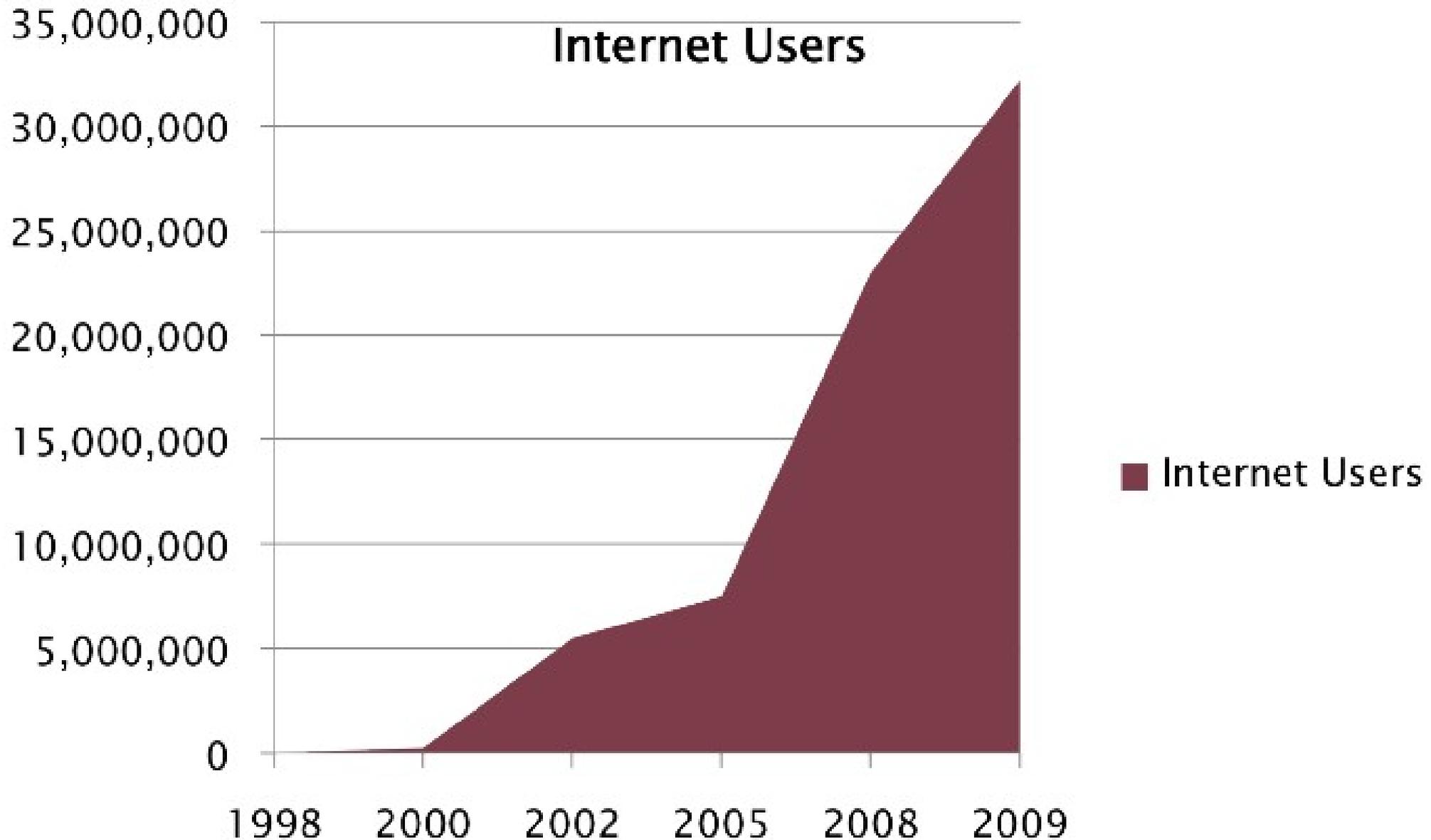
The people kept up the fight for more than a year and it was after all controlled again by the government.



How to organize?



Internet Statistics in Iran



Journalism

According to the Committee to Protect Journalist:

- Iran was the worst place in the world for journalists in 2011. Journalism is known as an anti-state activity.
- Among 179 writers, editors, and photojournalists imprisoned around the world during this year, Iran is at the top of the list with 42 arrested journalists.

Blogging

- Iran is the third-largest country of bloggers in the world after the United States and China.
- Persian language is ranked as the second-most-popular language in the entire blogosphere.
- Link to video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MChIT0GvFPM>

Iranian Cyber Army

Iranian Cyber Army was made by the revolutionary guard.

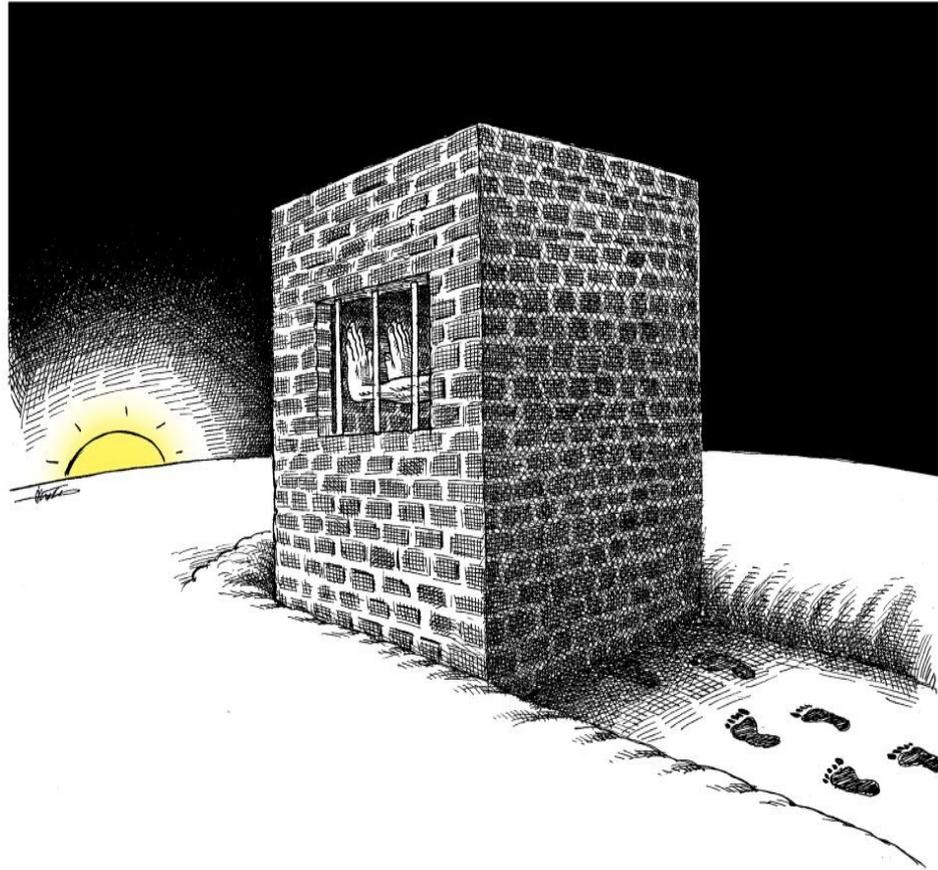
"Iranian Cyber Army has been established to fight back against Zionist and pro-democracy websites."

- After the 2009 Election They hacked some green websites belonging to the opposition.
- Facebook, twitter and other social networks have been filtered since the After election uprisings.
- The government has shut down Gmail , Google , Yahoo and all sites using “https” protocol
- We are facing a government that spends billions of dollars to control thousands of activists broad



Iranian “National” Internet

They have been increasingly restricting Internet access to keep citizens away from the outside country resources who helped them to get information/organize events.



We are going to be cut off the world.

“Internet in a Suitcase”



U.S. government is developing 'Internet in a Suitcase' to Outflank Repressive Governments

The “Tor” project is trying a new technology called "obfsproxy," or obfuscated proxy, to allow users to reach encrypted sites under the radar of government watchdogs.

Campaign 99



The idea is simple. We decided to talk with 99 people engaged in the Occupy Wall Street Movement around the world.

- We listen to each person's narrative of why s/he has joined the Movement.
- Then we narrate the life story of an Iranian prisoner of conscience for that person.

After this mutual exchange of stories, we ask the person to send a message to and make a poster for that Iranian prisoner. While s/he is holding the poster, we take a picture. If you like the idea, share it with your friends. This is for global solidarity.

Questions

