
Current Intelligence Report Circular

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Report Topic: Popular Unrest in Iran

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CMC Director: Liam Boyle

Report Author(s): Tyler Connolly and Liam Boyle

Iran's State Television Feed Hacked

On Saturday, 08 OCT Iran's state television broadcast was briefly interrupted. Footage of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei meeting state officials was replaced with images of Mahsa Amini, slain protestors, and an image showing the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in crosshairs and in flames. The messages "join us and rise up" and "The blood of our youth is dripping off your paws" were also displayed with the images. An anti-government song, which is also a common chant of the protestors, played in the background during the hack. END

CMCD Note

We assess with high confidence that this is likely to further enflame the ongoing protests in Iran. While only lasting for a period of 15 seconds, the hack may serve to showcase the growing lack of control the Iranian government has over the protests. Iranian security forces are likely to track down those responsible and make an example out of them. Additionally, as the Iranian government continues to limit internet access across Iran, this hacking incident helps to spread the protesters' message utilizing channels previously considered secure by the government. While this may be a futile gesture in its inability to fully circumspect the internet blackouts, it may also hinder the Iranian regime's efforts to curb the protests.

Sources

CNBC, Iranian state TV hacked for 15 seconds as deadly protests enter fourth week

<https://www.cnbcm.com/video/2022/10/10/iranian-state-tv-hacked-for-15-seconds-as-deadly-protests-enter-fourth-week.html>

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<https://www.cnn.com/2022/10/09/middleeast/iran-state-broadcaster-hacked-intl-hnk/index.html>

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<https://www.rferl.org/a/iranian-state-tv-hacked-khamenei-flames-protests/32072005.html>

NPR, Iranian protesters hack State TV with images of supreme leader surrounded by flames

<https://www.npr.org/2022/10/09/1127720476/iranian-hackers-state-tv-supreme-leader-flames>